
Independent Study

Biology 5199-001

Fall 2026

Instructor: Matthew Greenwold, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology

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Office hours: Monday 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and Tues/Thur 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM or by appointment.

Course Objectives

Independent study in specific areas of biology not covered by organized graduate courses. A maximum of six credit hours for independent study courses may be applied toward a graduate degree.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Read and process scientific literature.
- Learn the basics of scientific writing.
- Learn to conduct independent research.

Required Textbook and Other Materials: The instructor will determine the texts and journal articles required for the class. Students will work with faculty mentors on an independent study.

Assignments and Grading:

- Regular meetings/progress updates: 75%
- Submitted work product (e.g., presentation, paper, completed analyses) determined in consultation with mentor: 25%

Academic Misconduct: Submitting plagiarized work to meet academic requirements, including the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; the unacknowledged word-for-word use of another person's ideas; and/or the falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in reporting research results, shall be grounds for charges of academic misconduct. Any form of cheating or academic misconduct will be reported to the university administration and, at a minimum, will result in the automatic failure of the course.

Tentative Class Schedule: Class meeting time TBD. We will meet once per week for 3 hours (3 hours for each 1 hour of independent study). A weekly schedule will be set between the instructor and the student on an individual basis.