Instructor:  TBA
Office Location:  TBA
Phone Number:  TBA
Email Address:  TBA
Office Hours:  TBA

Course Description: Directed research for students approved as candidates for the “With Distinction” degree.

Course Prerequisites:  3 credits of BIOL 496.

Purpose of Course: The Senior Thesis is the development of an independent, original scholarly or creative topic of interest to the student in the major. This course offers guidance in doing research for students writing senior theses in biology. The course prepares the student for the completion of a written thesis that is fully and properly documented and provides structure to the thesis-writing process by giving students the opportunity to discuss their work and receive feedback. To be eligible for registration in BIOL 496, students must have completed either BIOL 491 or BIOL 492.

Course Objectives:
This course aims to satisfy Core Objective 14 (Application) of the Silver Core Curriculum:

“Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge and skills developed in previous Core and major classes by completing a project or structured experience of practical significance.”

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students should be able to articulate an original research question to pursue in a research project
2. Students should be able to implement their study design using the technology and tools available to them
3. Students should be able to communicate the results of a research study in a written format appropriate for biological research

Requirements:  Students must
- submit a written research proposal
- set up regular meeting times with a faculty mentor
- submit a draft thesis by a deadline to be set by the faculty mentor
- submit a final written thesis by the last day of instruction

Suggested Readings (available in the Honors Program library):
Grading Criteria:
If a student does not submit the final thesis to the faculty mentor by the last day of instruction, the student fails the class.

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>95-100 A</td>
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<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>90-94 A-</td>
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<td>Submission of Thesis Draft</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>87-89 B+</td>
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<td>Final Submission of Thesis</td>
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Course Schedule: The course schedule customized for each student enrolling in BIOL 497. The details of the schedule will depend on the nature of the research being conducted by the student. The course schedule will made clear by the instructor when he/she agrees to supervise a student in this class.

Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty is a serious offense. All work that you submit in this class must be your own. Each student is responsible for being familiar with UNR’s policies on academic dishonesty. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty in this course will receive an F. The case may be turned over for prosecution by the proper university authorities.

Equal Opportunity In Education Statement:
The Department of Biology is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical disabilities or documented learning disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of each semester to discuss appropriate accommodations for ensuring equity in grading, classroom experiences and outside assignments. The instructor will meet with the student and staff members of the Student Services Center to formulate a written plan for appropriate accommodations, if necessary. Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Audio And Video Recording:
Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may have been given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.
**Academic Success Services:**
Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-4433 or www.unr.edu/mathcenter/), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring/), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing-center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.