WFSC 491W: Research

Spring 2016

WFSC 491W. Research. A supervised research experience conducted in an area directly relevant to the student’s field of specialization. Prerequisite: approval of WFSC department. Writing-Intensive (3 cr.)

Course Objectives. Laboratory and/or field research supervised by a faculty member in wildlife and fisheries sciences. Prior approval from the department will be required.

WFSC Advising Office Contact Information
Advisor: Adrea Dottavio, Senior Academic Advisor
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Instructor: PENDING- Students must get a professor to agree to work with them for WFSC 491.

Attendance and Participation
If you have any questions about course assignments, feel free to contact the WFSC Academic Advising Office by email, telephone, or stop by our office. We normally will reply to e-mail within 24-48 hours.

Ethics and Professionalism
It is expected that students will help provide a good environment for learning and be open to diverse ideas during the internship. Students represent the WFSC Program and department and will be expected to act in a professional manner during the experience and throughout all writing assignments.

Reading and Writing (Expected Outcome)
Writing is a process of practice and editing. Formal writing of >2,000 words will be required during the research course. The intent of the writing component of this professional experience is to facilitate and improve your ability to:
• Communicate clearly and effectively
• Demonstrate competence in use of English grammar and the language of biologists, conservationists, and natural resource professionals
• Write in a scientifically correct manner, including citations

Writing workshops
Throughout the school year, students will be required to attend writing workshops that deal with the following topics: thesis formatting, the writing process, and avoiding plagiarism. If the
student is doing research in-abstentia, than the student will be required to watch videos of these workshops.

**Assignments (Deadlines, Format, Rules)**

Each assignment is due by email no later than 11:55 PM on the date indicated on the syllabus. Late assignments will not be graded.

Use the following format for all documents: 1” margins, Times New Roman, 12-point font. Memos and resumes are single-spaced. Progress reports, the preliminary outline, annotated bibliography, and final report are double-spaced. If you prepare figures or tables for your progress reports or final report, insert them at the end of the document. Submit all work as a word document or word file

**Grading**

A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-70; F= less than 60.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>(Points)</th>
<th>(Total = 120)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XX Jan</td>
<td>Report about possible research ideas</td>
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<td>XX Mar</td>
<td>Report about research concerns</td>
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<td>XX Mar</td>
<td>Objective</td>
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<td>XX April</td>
<td>Report on procedures and research</td>
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<tr>
<td>XX April</td>
<td>Results, conclusions, and discussion</td>
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-Dates for writing workshops will vary

1. **Report on possible research ideas (1-2 pages) (10 points)**

A report about what kinds of research you want to do and it affects your personal & professional goals. This report can be broad in concerns to what you wish to do.

2. **Report about research concerns (1-2 pages) (10 points)**

This narrows down what you specifically want to do. It gives a quick summary of what you wish to do, what you need, and what you hope to accomplish.

3. **Objective (1-2 pages) (20 points)**

This report states how your research answers your research concerns that you stated in previous assignments. In addition, you need to state how your research affects society in terms of one or more of the following: commercial, medical, conservation, environmental, etc. A rough draft of the objective must be turned in a week before the final draft is turned in in order to allow for appropriate feedback.

4. **Methods (2-3 pages) (20 points)**

This report states how you will go about answering the objectives that you stated in a previous report. All procedures of the research need to be discussed. A rough draft of the objective must be turned in a week before the final draft is turned in in order to allow for appropriate feedback.

5. **Results, conclusions, and discussion (2-3 pages) (40 points)**

This will state the results of your research. Graphs and charts are highly recommended, but are not part of the word count. In addition, the conclusion will need to state what we can gain from
the results. The discussion will talk about the impact that the results will have on future research and other issues relating to medical & commercial applications along with impact on conservation and the environment. A rough draft of the objective must be turned in a week before the final draft is turned in in order to allow for appropriate feedback.

7. Participation (20 points)
Includes field based work, going to workshops, and other things relating to research

8. Student’s Final Grade. The final grade will be based on the quality of all of the reports along with participation in research

The University Writing Center (writingcenter.tamu.edu)
Individual consultation: face-to-face or online help with your writing (2nd floor Evans Library).

Academic Integrity Statement (aggiehonor.tamu.edu)
Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is defined as theft or inadequate citation of other work, including (but not limited to) primary and secondary literature and internet sources. Plagiarism will result in a grade of ‘zero’ for the assignment AND a deduction of the equivalent amount of points from the grade. For example, a score of minus 10 points (−10) would be the penalty per writing assignment if plagiarism occurs. Most instructors use turnitin.com to monitor plagiarism.

Disability Services (disability.tamu.edu)
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Disability Services Office, Rm. B116 Cain Hall, or call (979) 845-1637.