Department: Molecular and Cell Biology

Course No:3996W

Credits:3

Title: Research Thesis in Molecular and Cell Biology

Contact: Kenneth M. Noll

W/Q: W

Catalog Copy:MCB3996W. Research Thesis in Molecular and Cell Biology
Either semester. Three credits. Hours by arrangement. Prerequisite: At least three credits of MCB3989 or MCB4989, which may be taken concurrently. Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250. Open with consent of instructor. Course cannot be repeated for W credit.

Writing of a thesis based upon the student's independent laboratory research project.

JUSTIFICATION
a) reason for adding/dropping/changing the course: This course will provide an opportunity for non-honors students to write about their independent study laboratory research results. We have changed our old thesis course, MCB292W, to an honors-only course to reflect long-standing departmental practices. This non-honors course is in reality a new course.

A thesis is typically well over the 15 page requirement for W courses and drafts are reviewed several times by the faculty research mentor. The thesis is the only component of the grade in this course. Credits for research are taken through another course.

The students will be notified that if they fail the "W" component requirements of the course, they will receive a failing grade for the course.
b) why course is appropriate for inclusion at 1000 or 2000 level: n/a

c) effect on department's curriculum: This course will provide a much needed "200's-level" W course for MCB majors.
d) effect on other departments: none
e) amount of overlap with existing courses: none
f) other departments consulted: none
g) effects on regional campuses: none
h) specific costs approved by dean: none
i) if course is to be cross listed supply reason for cross-listing and approval from all departments affected: none

SYLLABUS: One cannot write a single syllabus to describe the content of this course since it is based upon the research conducted by individual students. Each thesis will follow the guidelines provided by the Honors program (though this is not an honors course, those guidelines are

simply general guidance for writing a thesis). Theses typically are thirty or more pages long and include an introduction to the research topic, a description of the methods used in the research, a description of the results of the work (including illustrations, graphs, tables, and appropriate presentation of data), a comprehensive discussion of the significance of the data, and a reference section. The research mentor works with the student one-on-one to revise drafts of the sections of the thesis throughout the semester. The students will be notified that if they fail the "W" component requirements of the course, they will receive a failing grade for the course.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: **MCB3996W Research Thesis in Molecular and Cell Biology**

W Criteria:

1. Describe how the writing assignments will enable and enhance learning the content of the course. Describe the page requirements of the assignments, and the relative weighting of the "W" component of the course for the course grade.

This course will be taken by students who have completed independent laboratory research under the guidance of an MCB faculty member. The course is intended for non-Honors students since a parallel honors course is also now available. A thesis is typically well over the 15 page requirement for W courses and drafts are reviewed several times by the faculty research mentor. The thesis is the only component of the grade in this course. Credits for research are taken through another course.

The students will be notified that if they fail the "W" component requirements of the course, they will receive a failing grade for the course.

2. Describe the primary modes of writing instruction in the course (e.g. individual conferences, written commentary, formal instruction to the class, and so on.

Writing instruction is done on a one-to-one basis with the student.

3. Explain how opportunities for revision will be structured into the writing assignments in the course.

Revisions are frequent and on-going through the semester.

Separately Scheduled Course Components (Choose all that apply, but at least one):

Component Categories	Choose all that apply	Hours (list number for each component)	Primary Component (select only one)	Graded Component (Y/N)	Section Size (Enrollment)
Ind. Study	X	variable	X	Y	limit of 19