BIOL 4389-130, CRN 80683, Independent Study: Special Topics in Migration Ecology of the Monarch Butterfly
Fall 2019 rev. 07.30.2019
Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION
Mode of instruction and course access:
This will be a 16 week course and will be taught face to face in the classroom.

**Time/Day:** Lecture: TBA  
**Where:** TBA

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [https://tamuct.instructure.com].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION
**Instructor:** Dr. Weiser Erlandson  
**Office:** 302H Beck Family Heritage Hall  
**Phone:** 254-519-5723  
**Email:** CANVAS or laura.erlandson@tamuct.edu

**Office Hours:** Monday 1:00 - 3:00, Thursday 10:00 - 12:00, by appt.

**Student-instructor interaction:**
You may contact me through email, CANVAS, or stop by my office hours. Expect me to respond back to any emails within 24 hours (business days only). If I do not, please check back with me to be sure that your email was not lost in transit.

WARRIOR SHIELD
**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**
Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.
Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Overview and description:** Capstone seminar focusing on life science research conducted by seniors and faculty. Prerequisite(s): BIOL 3380 and senior standing
Course Objective:
Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Students will:

a. understand the procedures of scientific research
b. be able to formulate a question based on observations
c. design and implement an experiment to test a hypothesis
d. be able to disseminate research data orally and/or through a written report

Required Reading and Textbook(s):
1. You will be required to read several peer reviewed research papers that will be assigned during the semester

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Assessments:
Written proposal 30% (SLO a-d)
Final thesis report 70% (SLO a-d)

Thesis report
During this semester, you are required to design and conduct an original experiment and submit a thesis report based on your experiment. You will be working on this over the duration of the semester and turning in sections of your paper several times for both instructor feedback and peer review. This will be an iterative process requiring you to take advantage of the TAMUCT Writing Center (4th Floor, Warrior Hall). Detailed instructions and assessment rubric are attached to the end of this syllabus. **While Dr. Erlandson is happy to help out in an emergency, it is your responsibility to ensure that you can take care of your experiment including set up, taking data, and care of any research animals/plants you have for the duration of the semester.**

Grading scheme
A 4.00 (90 +) Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B 3.00 (80-89%) Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
C 2.00 (70–79%) Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
D 1.00 (60–69%) Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully course requirements.
F 0.00 (<60%) Represents failure and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “I” (incomplete).
I (Incomplete) The “I” shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to
extraordinary circumstances, the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an “I” requires a written agreement between the instructor and student specifying the time and manner in which the student will complete the course requirements. In no event may any such written agreement allow a period of longer than one year to complete the course requirements. For graduate and professional students, an “I” is to remain on the transcript until changed by the instructor or department. For all other students, work to make up an I must be submitted within one year of the last day of final examinations of the term in which the “I” was given; if not submitted by that time, then the “I” will automatically change to an F. 

To obtain an incomplete you must have been doing passing work in the course.

Posting of Grades
- Grades will be posted on CANVAS as I am finished with my evaluation of your work.

WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR (subject to change)

Complete Course Calendar
Weekly meetings will consist of student research discussions, experimental design/execution.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26, 2019</td>
<td>Classes Begin for Fall Semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 26, 2019</td>
<td>Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for 16- and First 8-week Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$25 Fee assessed for late registrants</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 28, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-week</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2, 2019</td>
<td>Labor Day (University Closed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 3, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with No Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 11, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Teacher Education and Professional Certification Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 4, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Graduation Application for Ceremony Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Clinical Teaching/Practicum Applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18, 2018</td>
<td>Classes End for First 8-week Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to Withdraw from University for First 8-Week Classes (WF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21, 2019</td>
<td>Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8-Week Classes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$25 Fee assessed for late registrants</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21, 2019</td>
<td>Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21, 2019</td>
<td>Class Schedule Published for Spring Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 22, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Class Final Grades (due by 3pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 28, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4, 2019</td>
<td>Registration Opens for Spring Semester</td>
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<td>November 8, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)</td>
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<td>November 11, 2019</td>
<td>Veteran's Day (University Closed)</td>
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<td>November 28-29, 2019</td>
<td>Thanksgiving (University Closed)</td>
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<td>November 29, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)</td>
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<td>December 13, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Applications for Tuition Rebate for Fall Graduation (5pm)</td>
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<td>December 13, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Degree Conferral Applications to the Registrar's Office $20 Late Application Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 13, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to Withdraw from University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes</td>
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<td>December 13, 2019</td>
<td>Fall Semester Ends</td>
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<td>December 13, 2019</td>
<td>Fall Commencement Ceremony</td>
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<td>December 17, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for Faculty Submission of 16-Week and Second 8-Week Final Class Grades (due by 3pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 23, 2019 - January 1, 2020</td>
<td>Winter Break (University Closed)</td>
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**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

**Technology Requirements**
This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [https://tamuct.onecampus.com/]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

**Canvas Support**
Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.
For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

**Other Technology Support**
For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy
If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a Drop Request Form [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf]. Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity
Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. **Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course.** Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more information regarding the Student Conduct process, [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html]. If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may submit a report, [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations
At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university’s programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a
disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students
Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs’ Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit Student Affairs [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring
Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring will not offer writing support beginning August 1, 2019.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center
Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–
Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students’ ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students’ texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via WConline (https://tamuct.mywconline.com/). In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library
The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our Library website [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].
OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas
Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).
Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don’t agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don’t be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the Title IX webpage [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Behavioral Intervention
Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting behaviors that pose a threat to safety, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. You can complete the referral online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2]. Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person’s behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.
Read these carefully as I am strict with my policies.
Grading Policy and Point Breakdown. Grades in this course will be criteria-based on a number of activities including exams, discussion, and projects. This means that grades will not be curved and anyone achieving a 90% or above will receive an A in this course.
Grade Dispute Policy. Grading disputes must be put in writing (with justification such as supporting statements from the text or another credible source) and given to me no earlier than 24 hours after the assignment has been returned. I will consider your request carefully, but reserve the right to adjust your grade up or down.
Late Assignments. I expect all assignments to be turned in on time. Late assignments interfere with my ability to provide timely, detailed feedback, as well as with your ability to learn and process new material. Accordingly, any unauthorized late assignment will receive a 5% reduction in grade for each day it is late. No assignments will be accepted after it has been graded and returned.
What I expect of you. To get the most out of this class, you are expected to conduct yourself in
a professional manner, which includes contributing to class discussions, being punctual, and notifying me of absences in advance. Any inappropriate or offensive behavior of any kind (in class/lab/office or on assignments/exams) will be subject to a penalty commensurate with behavior.

**Class Attendance.** I expect that you attend each class session and arrive on time. If an unavoidable situation arises that prevents you from attending class, I expect that you also promptly contact me to discuss the missed material and get the notes from a classmate. I will not distribute my notes to students as they are often abbreviated and do not contain the detail needed to sufficiently understand the material.

**What you can expect of me.** You can expect me to start and end class on time, be available through office hours, e-mail, and by appointment, be responsive to student suggestions for course improvement, answer questions to the fullest extent possible and/or direct you to appropriate resources, return graded assignments and exams within a reasonable time frame, and treat you with respect as future colleagues.

**Discussion.** The topics in this class may encompass a diversity of issues that merit in-depth thought and discussion. Since individuals will be expressing their opinions, I expect that you respect others’ contributions, as you would want them to do for you.

**Credits and Workload expectations.** For undergraduate courses, one credit is defined as equivalent to an average of two hours of learning effort per week (over a full semester) necessary for an average student to receive an average grade for the course. A student taking a four-credit class that meets for four hours a week should expect to spend an additional eight hours a week outside the classroom in order to earn an average grade.

**Class Structure.** Classes will involve a balance of engaging learning activities and discussion. In order for you to get the most out of this class, participation is mandatory.

**Copyright Notice.**
Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas’ Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Copyright. 2019 by Dr. Laura Weiser Erlandson at Texas A&M University-Central Texas, College of Arts and Sciences; 1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549; 254-519-5723; Fax 254-519-5781; lera.erlandson@tamuct.edu
We will use the general format for a scientific paper in this course; however as this is your capstone thesis report, I expect that you really explore the literature and develop your concluding ideas. *Expect this paper to be at least 20 pages long*. Scientific papers have an abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion and literature cited. Keep in mind that scientists often pay for a paper to be peer-reviewed and published (not the other way around). Peer-review means that all articles are read by other scientists (peers) who make editorial suggestions and ultimately decide whether a paper contains sound research and should be published.

**The Abstract section:**

Should be a brief summary of your entire paper. Use a little (1-2 sentences) from each section to make a clear, cohesive summary. Readers will decide from your abstract whether or not they will continue to read your entire research paper. This is typically around 250 words or so.

**The Introduction/Literature Review section:**

This section will be quite extensive as I expect that you will research your topic thoroughly using the library, the internet, your textbook and, especially, professional journals. Because this section is essentially a literature review paper, you are reviewing all that is currently known about your topic of interest. This includes past and present studies. Therefore, almost 100% of your sources will be peer reviewed. You are to examine the fundamental and applied research that has contributed to our knowledge of the subject. Be sure to introduce and define your topic broadly first, then give more detail and examples to demonstrate your points. This will lead the reader to a logical introduction of your main thesis or topic. You should clearly describe the specific questions you chose to study. State what you did in a general way, e.g., "We investigated the effect of obesity on heart rate by comparing heart rates of people with different Body Mass Indices after they climbed stairs", but do not give away the specific details of your methods or results. Finally, state your specific hypothesis at the end of this section.

**The Materials and Methods section:**

The experiment has been completed by the time you turn in your thesis, so use past tense. This section includes a brief outline of the methods used in the experiments. The purpose of this section is to allow other experimenters to duplicate the methods you used, so it should be detailed enough so that someone else could read your report and repeat the experiment. However, you should NOT include trivial details (i.e. "we used test tubes that were 10cm long").

**Good Example:**

“We exposed *E. coli* cells to 0, 15, 30, or 45 seconds of ultraviolet irradiation at a wavelength of 280nm. Cells from each irradiation treatment were diluted to 1:3 and 1:5 of their original concentration. One ml of each of these dilutions was plated on Luria broth nutrient agar and incubated overnight at 37°C. The number of colonies present in each plate was recorded.”
**Bad Example:**

“Our lab bench received cells from treatment #1, and these were serially diluted, so that there were 2 different concentrations of bacteria to count on the petri dishes. Lab bench 2 received cells from treatment 2. These were also serially diluted, resulting in 2 different concentrations of bacteria to count.”

**The Results section:**

The results section always starts with normal paragraph (text) format, NOT with tables or figures. You MUST first direct the reader's attention to EACH table and figure before they appear, indicate what they show, and summarize the important data in each.

**Good Example of How to Begin the Results:**

“The mean IQ of TAMUCT biology students was found to be higher than the mean IQ of Harvard students and of students from many colleges (Figure 1).”

As with all writing, the results should be organized into coherent logically organized paragraphs and sentences. Data are usually reported in paragraph form supplemented with visual figures and/or tables:

- **Figure:** a graph, picture, or diagram, and has a detailed legend at the top.
- **Table:** something that contains only numbers, and has a detailed legend at the top.

Do NOT discuss the implications of the results in this section, nor attempt to explain why various results occurred. Only the important points of each figure and table should be described paragraph format; do not reiterate the whole figure.

Figures are to be inserted at the end of the paper after the Literature Cited section but before any appendices. Do NOT embed them in the text of your paper.

Raw data is NOT reported in the Results. Readers are usually interested only in summarized data (means, standard deviations, totals, etc.).

**The Discussion section:**

This is usually the most important part of your paper. This is your chance to show your extensive knowledge and command of your topic. In this section I expect you to be original, cleverly interpret the results you obtained, and draw general conclusions from them. The discussion should be narrow in scope to begin and end broadly.

This is a typical order of topics which might occur in the Discussion:

Begin the discussion by briefly stating the major conclusions from the results. Explain what the results mean. Discuss whether the results SUPPORT or do NOT support your original hypothesis (es). Your experiment is really very limited in scope, so DO NOT claim that you have "proven" or "disproven" a hypothesis; you perhaps obtained some small bit of evidence to support a hypothesis, or you provided some evidence which contradicts a hypothesis.

In next paragraph(s) expand your discussion of these results. You will want to compare and contrast them to results from other studies, which you should cite properly.

You may discuss sources of error in the experiment, but your BEST guess is that the results reflect reality. Students often feel that their discussion should consist mainly of an analysis of all
the things that went wrong with the experiment. *I strongly discourage this approach*. Naturally all experiments have some weaknesses, but for the purposes of this exercise assume that your results are reasonable. It is OK to get negative results. You should, however, suggest additional experiments using better or different methods.

As the discussion continues it is important to offer some original ideas and interpretations. For example, discuss the implications or your results for the biology of the organism(s). For example, why did the behaviors you observe evolve? What does it mean ecologically? You may wish to suggest new experiments which would shed further light on the questions raised by your results.

**The Literature Cited section:**

This section should list all references mentioned in the text. Unlike English papers and other term papers, we do not use footnotes, we avoid direct quotations, and we do not include material from encyclopedic type resources (including websites). You will *mostly* rely on peer reviewed published scientific papers for your information. You should not have any books or journals listed in this section unless you have cited the author and year in the text of the paper. If you are unsure whether a source is legitimate, consult your instructor.

1. Citing within the text of the paper:
   a. One author: Smith (2009) reported ....
   b. Two authors: Smith and Jones (2003) observed ....
   c. More than 2 authors: Smith *et al.* (1990) examined...
   d. Stating a fact: Trees have leaves (Jones 1997).

2. In Literature Cited section: all citations used will be listed in alphabetical order
   a. Books: Author (s). Year. Title. Publisher.
   b. Internet: Author. Year. Title. HTTP address.

**The following hints will improve your writing:**

1. Use the first person (I or we) to write more concisely.
2. Avoid long run-on sentences. We are trying to write concisely and clearly. Don’t use twelve letter words when simpler ones will do just fine.
3. Be positive about your results. Say “the data show” instead of “the data suggest”.
4. Genus and species names in Latin are always italicized or underlined. Only the first letter of the genus is capitalized. Ex. *Homo sapiens, Danaus plexippus*, etc....
5. Number all pages and use the metric system. Write numbers as numerals when they are associated with measurement units (2 km), spell them out for numbers < 10 (five hamsters).

6. In general, DON'T use quotes. Instead, paraphrase the author and cite him/her. Quotes interrupt the flow of your text.

7. Scientific writing is formal communication. Don’t use conversational language, colloquialisms or slang.

8. Some frequently misused/misspelled words:
   a. affect/effect “Effect” is a noun (usually). “Affect” is always a verb. “The effect of their misuse will be that your grade will be affected by subtracting five points”.
   b. it’s/its "It’s" is the conjunction "it is". "Its" is the possessive form.
   c. their/there I assume this is just carelessness, proofread your paper.
   d. between/among Between refers to two things, while among refers to more than two.
   e. fewer/less Use "fewer" if you can count the items, "less" if you can’t. (less water, but fewer boats)
   f. amount/number Use 'amount" if you can’t count them, "number" if you can. (The amount of sand and the number of rocks)
   g. oftentimes Drop the "times"; it’s redundant.
   h. different from / different than: Different from is correct; different than is not.
   i. than/then “than” refers to a comparison – proofread your paper for mix-ups
   j. Always put a zero in front of a naked decimal point (0.12, not .12).
   k. The word data is plural and the word datum singular. The data show that ....
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Exceeds expectations</th>
<th>Meets expectations</th>
<th>Below expectations</th>
<th>Does not meet expectations</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Clearly and coherently states paper’s purpose and main results. Includes at least one sentence from each main section. Engaging and thought provoking.</td>
<td>Clearly and coherently states the paper’s purpose and main results. Missing 1 section.</td>
<td>States the paper’s purpose and main results. Missing 2 or more sections.</td>
<td>Absent, incomplete, or confusing.</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Thoroughly addresses the topic. Engages reader. Logical progression from broad to narrow topic. Clearly states main hypothesis.</td>
<td>The introduction states the main topic and states main hypothesis.</td>
<td>The introduction states the main topic but does not adequately state main hypothesis.</td>
<td>There is no clear introduction of main topic and hypothesis is missing.</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials &amp; Methods</td>
<td>Clear and detailed narrative of methods so reader can replicate study. Materials are included within text (not listed separately). Only essential information included. Mathematical analysis clearly stated.</td>
<td>Clear and detailed narrative of methods so reader can replicate study. Materials are included within text (not listed separately).</td>
<td>Mathematical analysis stated.</td>
<td>Narrative of methods not adequately clear so reader can replicate study. Materials are listed separately. Mathematical analysis stated.</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>Clearly and coherently states the results of the study including statistical analysis. Includes appropriate tables/figures to supplement statements. <em>Just the facts</em>; no interpretation or discussion of data.</td>
<td>Clearly and coherently states the results of the study including statistical analysis. Includes some tables/figures to supplement statements (may not be appropriate). May have little interpretation or discussion.</td>
<td>States some of the results of the study; missing some statistical analysis. Includes some tables/figures to supplement statements (may not be appropriate). May include interpretation or discussion of data.</td>
<td>Missing some results of the study; missing all statistical analysis. Tables/figures not included or no text included. May include interpretation or discussion of data.</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>The conclusion is engaging and restates the main results and thesis. In-depth discussion and elaboration of all sections of the paper. Relates topic back to ‘real world’ applications.</td>
<td>The conclusion restates the results. Cursory discussion and elaboration of all sections of the paper. Vaguely relates topic back to ‘real world’ applications.</td>
<td>The conclusion does not adequately restate results or the thesis. Brief discussion of the paper. May not relate topic back to ‘real world’ applications.</td>
<td>The conclusion does not adequately restate results or the thesis. Incomplete or confusing discussion of the paper. Does not relate topic back to ‘real world’ applications.</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization/Structural Development of Topic</td>
<td>Writer demonstrates logical and subtle sequencing of ideas through well-developed paragraphs; transitions are used to enhance organization.</td>
<td>Paragraph development present but not perfected.</td>
<td>Logical organization; organization of ideas not fully developed.</td>
<td>No evidence of structure or organization.</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling/Punctuation</td>
<td>No errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.</td>
<td>Almost no errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.</td>
<td>Many errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.</td>
<td>Numerous and distracting errors in punctuation, capitalization and spelling.</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>No errors sentence structure and word usage.</td>
<td>Almost no errors in sentence structure and word usage.</td>
<td>Many errors in sentence structure and word usage.</td>
<td>Numerous and distracting errors in sentence structure and word usage.</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-text citations</td>
<td>All facts are cited using primary literature or peer sources. Correct format with no errors.</td>
<td>Some facts are cited. Correct format, very few errors.</td>
<td>Few facts are cited. Correct format, few errors.</td>
<td>No in-text citations.</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature cited</td>
<td>Correct format with no errors. Includes more than 10 major references (e.g. peer reviewed science journal articles, books, and no more than two professional internet sites. No encyclopedic type references).</td>
<td>Correct format with few errors. Includes more than 5 major references (e.g. peer reviewed science journal articles, books, and no more than two professional internet sites. No encyclopedic type references).</td>
<td>Correct format with some errors. Includes more than 3 major references (e.g. peer reviewed science journal articles, books, and no more than two professional internet sites. No encyclopedic type references).</td>
<td>Not correct format and/or with many errors. Includes more than 0-3 major references (e.g. peer reviewed science journal articles, books, and no more than two professional internet sites. No encyclopedic type references).</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figures and tables</td>
<td>Tables/figures numbered consecutively in separate series. Title is complete enough to be understood without referring to text. Legend, headings, and units of measure are included. Footnotes used as necessary to provide clarity with respect to: units of measure that do not fit in the heading, explanations of abbreviations and symbols, statistical significance of entries.</td>
<td>Tables/figures numbered consecutively in separate series. Title is complete. Legend, headings, and units of measure are included. Footnotes used to provide clarity.</td>
<td>Tables/figures numbered, but not sequentially. Title is incomplete. Legend, headings, and units of measure are not fully included. Footnotes used but do not provide enough clarity</td>
<td>Tables/figures not numbered. No title. Legend, headings, and units of measure are not included. Footnotes are not used but are needed.</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BIOL 4389 – INDEPENDENT STUDY

Syllabus Contract

Directions:

• First, read the syllabus.
• Second, read the statement below to confirm your personal reading and understanding of the contents of the syllabus.
• Third, provide confirmation by printing the document and providing your signature and date of completion in the space provided below.
• Last, submit this contract to me. Note that your grade for the first assignment will not be calculated until this contract is received.

I have received a copy of the syllabus. I have read and understand the policies of this course as stated in the syllabus.

Print Name____________________________________

Signature____________________________________

Date____________________________________