

BIOLOGY (BIOL)

BIOL 801 - Plant Physiology

Credits: 5

Structure-function relationship of plants, internal and external factors regulating plant growth and development, plant hormones, plant metabolism, water relations, and mineral nutrition. Prereq: introductory botany or concepts of plant growth; one year of college chemistry (e.g., general chemistry); organic chemistry or basic chemistry; or permission.

BIOL 802 - Techniques in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry

Credits: 4

The course provides hands-on experience with instrumentation and experimental procedures for analysis of plant growth and metabolism. Experiments demonstrate the regulation of plant growth and development in response to environmental and chemical factors, analysis of cellular contents and processes, and use of modern instrumentation for physiological and biochemical studies. The experiments deal with plant water relations, photosynthesis, plant hormones, enzyme kinetics, using spectrophotometry, aseptic procedures, and liquid and thin-layer chromatography. Prereq: BIOL 411 and BIOL 412 or permission of instructor. Special fee.

BIOL 804 - Plant-Microbe Interactions

Credits: 3

This course provides an overview of the molecular, cellular and biochemical factors underlying the interactions of plants with various microbes, including bacterial fungal, oomycete and viral pathogens, and mutualistic symbionts, such as mycorrhizal fungi and rhizobium. Unifying themes underlying disease, resistance, and symbiosis are emphasized. Prereq: BIOL 411 and BIOL 412, BMS 503 and BMS 504 or GEN 604.

BIOL 805 - Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology

Credits: 4

The overarching goal of this course is to examine the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying neuronal function. This course builds on fundamental knowledge in neuroscience. Students will be exposed to primary literature regarding the most advanced techniques in neuroscience, with emphasis in cellular and molecular processes. Students will learn how different model organisms have been used to understand neurons. Prereq: Cell biology, chemistry, biochemistry.

BIOL 809 - Plant Stress Physiology

Credits: 3

Examines the physiological and biochemical mechanisms of plant response to abiotic stresses including drought, salt, high and low temperature, visible and ultraviolet radiation, heavy metals, and air pollutants. Discusses current hypotheses, agricultural and ecological implications. Prereq: plant physiology; biochemistry; or permission.

BIOL 811 - Applied Biostatistics II

Credits: 4

Design and analysis of biological and ecological research experiments. "Real world" studies used to discuss the identification of hypotheses, appropriate experimental design, and the application of statistical analyses including ANOVA, ANCOVA, correlation and regression, cluster analysis, classification and ordination techniques. Theoretical statistical concepts tailored to consider student's own thesis and dissertation research, allowing statistical problems to be addressed at various stages of the research process. Common computer packages used for analyses. Prereq: BIOL 528; permission.

BIOL 813 - Biochemistry of Photosynthesis

Credits: 4

The physiology and biochemistry of photosynthesis in higher plants and microorganisms: light reactions, electron transport, membrane structure and function, carbon assimilation pathways, energy conservation, and metabolic regulation. Agronomic and ecological aspects of photosynthesis are examined. Prereq: plant physiology or biochemistry. (Not offered every year.)

BIOL 820 - Plant-Animal Interactions

Credits: 4

This course will explore interactions between plants and animals and their evolutionary consequences on individual organisms as well as on ecological communities. Readings from the primary literature will serve as case studies to discuss hypotheses related to plant-animal interactions, the methods employed to test these hypotheses, and the conclusions drawn from these experiments. A weekly discussion session will be used as a grant-writing workshop, with activities designed to help students prepare an NSF-style grant as the culminating course project. Prereq: BIOL 411 and BIOL 412.

BIOL 827 - Animal Communication

Credits: 4

This course examines the principles underlying how animals communicate with each other and why they communicate the way they do by using perspectives drawn from a broad range of disciplines including physics, chemistry, ecology, psychology, economics, and behavioral ecology. Students will explore the primary literature, and work in teams to conduct independent research. The course is intended for advanced undergraduate or graduate students interested in neuroscience and behavior, evolution, wildlife and conservation biology, or zoology. Prereq: BIOL 412.

BIOL 829 - Agricultural Waste Management

Credits: 4

The management of agricultural wastes is crucial in the development of sustainable agricultural practices. This course covers principles of managing, handling, treating, and applying animal manures and organic byproducts from an agricultural system perspective. Topics include waste characterization, descriptions of systems and technology, utilization of wastes as resources (land application, composting electricity generation, fertilization, etc.), land application principles, preparations of waste management plans, and potential impacts to the environment. Prereq: SAFS 502 or permission of instructor.

BIOL 852 - Mycology

Credits: 4

Classification, identification, culturing, life histories, and ecology of fungi, from slime molds to hallucinogenic mushrooms; the significance of fungi in human history, from their contribution to the art of bread making and alcoholic fermentation to their destructiveness as agents of deadly diseases of plants and animals. Prereq: principles of biology I, II or introduction to botany, or equivalent. Special fee. Lab.

BIOL 858 - Plant Anatomy

Credits: 5

Anatomy of vascular plants from a functional/developmental point of view with emphasis on Angiosperms. Basic cell and tissue structure of plant organs will be covered as well as the importance of chaos, fractals, scaling, mechanical stress and environmental factors in determining the role anatomy plays in the biology of plants. Prereq: principles of biology or introductory botany. Lab. Special fee. (Not offered every year.)

BIOL 895 - Biology Special Investigations

Credits: 1-4

BIOL 899 - Master's Thesis

Credits: 1-10

Master's thesis research. May be repeated up to 10 credits. Cr/F.

BIOL 901 - Introductory Graduate Seminar

Credits: 2

This seminar provides an introduction to the Biological Sciences Graduate Program, offering students an overview of program structure and requirements, introducing faculty research and campus resources, and helping participants develop skills and strategies useful in graduate school. Requirements include preparation of a written research proposal and a brief oral presentation. Cr/F.

BIOL 902 - Writing and Publishing Science

Credits: 2

Participants in this seminar (1) make significant progress on one or more of their current academic writing projects; (2) increase their understanding of the genres, protocols, and mechanisms of scientific writing and publishing; and (3) develop strategies and skills for getting professional writing done efficiently and well, in graduate school and beyond. Cr/F.

BIOL 903 - Graduate Research Techniques

Credits: 2

Introduction to a range of research approaches in biology and to research skills needed for success in graduate school and beyond. Topics include scientific methods and experimental design, research techniques, and instrumentation available for graduate research. Cr/F. Offered every spring.

BIOL 933 - Design, Analysis, and Interpretation of Experiments

Credits: 4

Through in-depth consideration of common general linear models used in the analysis of variance, this course introduces graduate students to the fundamental concepts and statistical methods necessary to plan, conduct, and interpret effective experiments. The course provides an opportunity for graduate students to receive critical input on the experimental design and analysis of their individual graduate research projects. All analysis is conducted using the open-source package R; no previous coding experience is required.

BIOL 950 - Scientific Communication

Credits: 2

Professional success in science depends on the ability to communicate, both by publishing in professional journals and by explaining the implications of research to a broad audience. This course covers a wide range of topics related to scientific communication. Students work on multiple forms of communication, practice communicating science to the public, strengthen peer reviewing skills, explore online scientific communities, and enhance awareness of relevant economic, legal, and ethical issues.

BIOL 997 - Graduate Seminar in Biology

Credits: 1-2

Current topics in biological sciences; discussion of literature in the field, and student research. Topics span a wide range of biological disciplines (agricultural sciences, marine biology, integrative and organismal biology, etc.), and vary to reflect the faculty and student interests.

BIOL 999 - Doctoral Dissertation Research

Credits: 0

Doctoral dissertation research. Cr/F.