

Individualized Investigation 2018 Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number: VEM 5991
Course Title: Individualized Investigation
Terms offered: Fall 208
Course credit: 2 credit hours

General Information

Course Coordinator
Maureen Long DVM, PhD, DACVIM-LA
Office: VAB V3-105, office hours are variable, please call or email
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Course Description

This is a 2-credit elective course in which the student, having investigated a research topic to test a hypothesis under the guidance of a research advisor, will learn how to database, perform descriptive statistics, generate a manuscript and give a formal presentation to student peers. The data generated with a mentor can include bench or field research. Literature reviews are not acceptable. Each student will prepare a manuscript in the style of an appropriate scientific journal and present the results of the investigation in either as a poster presentation to peers and faculty. For those students and faculty that cannot meet the deadlines of VEM 5991 an alternative course such as VEM 5912 may be appropriate. Except for summer Merial scholars program, all data collection is to be completed before enrollment. If the student does not complete the requirements of the course within one semester upon receiving the "I", the grade will revert to an E consistent with UF grading guidelines.

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

By the end of the course:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret the results that is related to a discipline in veterinary medicine or an allied health science,
2. Students will be able to present scientific research in written and oral form.
3. Students will understand the process of peer review and learn how to edit and critically review a colleague's paper and presentation.
4. Students will understand the process of awarding authorship.

Prerequisites

Students must be currently enrolled in the professional veterinary medicine program leading to a DVM. Students shall have selected an advisor and be engaged in research the summer after their **freshman** year and not later than the summer after their **junior** year. The project data collection should be completed **before** the fall semester of their senior year. For the summer

Merrial scholars, they must be completing a project concurrent to the first summer enrollment where 75% of the data is expected to be collected if the current Merrial students desire to complete this course by the end of their first summer (between freshman and sophomore years).

Course Outline & Schedule

The students must satisfactorily complete each of the following to satisfy course requirements:

1. Select a topic, enlist the assistance of a project advisor from the CVM faculty, and perform the experiments required.
2. Enroll in the course the summer or fall as described in the "Prerequisites." After approval, conduct the research.
3. Write the manuscript in an appropriate scientific journal format as outlined in the course schedule.
4. Attendance at all lectures and contact hours is required. For missed class periods, the OSI form for attendance must be completed.
5. Upload the cover letter, final manuscript, and final poster to the e-learning course website for VEM 5991.
6. Each stage of the manuscript **MUST** be submitted on time. Upon submission, each student will receive one to two peer reviews to perform on the submissions of other students. These must be timely.
7. Present results in oral format as a poster to peers. The course will support all presentation materials needed

Details

Projects and Projects Advisor – *The research gathering period is not a graded part of this course, nor does this course provide oversight for the research portion of the student's project.* Each student is encouraged to have a project advisor from within the CVM faculty. However, faculty in other areas of the Health Science Center, the University of Florida can mentor this portion of the course. The project advisor must approve the proposal, indicate that the investigation is feasible with the resources and time available, and provide the student with assistance and supervision. At the end of the project and before enrollment into the class the mentor must indicate via course enrollment forms that the student performed the research under the guidance of the advisor. Retrospective studies are encouraged as long as the dataset is of sufficient power to be analyzed and is hypothesis based. **Prospective clinical studies are not acceptable.** ALL COMPLIANCE must conform to the University standards and student and the advisor must provide IRB, IACUC, EH&S approvals at the time of enrollment into the course.

Lectures and Laboratories – There are 14 contact hours built into the course, which the students must attend. Prior to each class students will be required to read the assigned material and listened to a short (15-20 minute) video. Students will come to class and be prepared to outline or write separate portions of the manuscript. The course coordinator

will be present during all of these sessions to assist students with each section assigned for that day.

Manuscript - Students must write their own version of the manuscript! Along with the manuscript a cover letter to the editor must also be included. The manuscript should be prepared in the format required by an appropriate scientific journal. The choice of this journal will be made between the student and the project advisor with assistance of the course coordinator. While some of these manuscripts will eventually be published, publication is not a requirement for successful completion of this course.

Presentation – At the end of each teaching period of the class each student will present their research in the form of a poster to the other members of the class and any mentors that are associated with students in the course.

Course Materials: Data from research project in the form of a laboratory notebook and spreadsheets

Evaluation/ Grading/ Testing:

The grade for this course will be based grades received for each section of the manuscript submitted throughout the term. Points are added back at the end of the semester if the student corrects each section of the manuscript. The poster and presentation will be graded and is 25% of the overall grade. Attendance is required for every contact hour unless excused by Dr. Long. The course is graded A through E.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
94-100	90-93	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points may be found at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Administrative Policies: see Student Handbook @

http://vetmed-education.sites.medinfo.ufl.edu/files/2011/11/student_handbook.pdf

Honesty Policy

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: "I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." To review the student honor code please visit:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Plagiarism includes any attempt to take credit for another person's work. This includes quoting directly from a paper, book, or website, without crediting the source. Sources should be noted, a link to the website added, or quotation marks placed around the material and attributed, even during online discussions. However, the instructor expects more than simply cutting and pasting in this graduate-level course. Students are expected to review, evaluate and comment on material they research, rather than simply copying relevant material. Work will be graded accordingly. **Student Evaluation of Instruction**

Evaluations are performed electronically at the end of the course. To evaluate the instructor, the mentor and the course, visit the UF Evaluation site at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office, Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565. Students may also apply on-line for accommodations. For more information, see the Disability Resource Center website at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

The Disability Resource Center will provide a letter to the student who must then meet with the course instructor to discuss the required accommodations. Once notification is complete, the instructor can work with the Disability Resource Center to provide the requested accommodations. To ensure that necessary accommodations are provided in a timely manner, it would expedite this process if any student who might need an accommodation would notify the course coordinator during registration.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

UF Counseling and Wellness Center

Many resources are available for students who need help with stress-related problems or emergencies. Assistance is available both by appointment and after hours by calling 352-392-1575 or visiting the website at <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

Grade Changes

Grades will be changed only when a grading error has been made.

Performance Expectations

Students are expected to produce quality work of a standard comparable to any graduate-level didactic and laboratory course. Postings, assignment submissions, and discussions must be legible, constructive and appropriate.

Make-Up Work, Late Assignments, and Due Dates

Students are expected to complete assignments according to the due dates given within the course. Once a due date is passed, there will be no opportunity for make-up or late submissions; the student will receive an "I" and will have one semester to finish the work.

If a student experiences a situation that is beyond their control and there is a possibility they will not meet a due date, the student should immediately notify the instructor and course coordinator to explain the situation.

8. FALL 2018 Schedule

Class Periods					
Date	Day	Location	Time	Topic	Instructor
31-Aug	Friday	Admin Conf Room VAB V1-100	1-3 pm	Journal Identification, Title Page, Introduction, Database searching and endnote setup	Long
6-Sep	Thursday	Admin Conf Room VAB V1-100	1-3 pm	Writing Materials and Methods	Long
13-Sep	Thursday	Education RM C	1-3 pm	Writing Results	Long
20-Sep	Thursday	VAB V3-157	3-Jan	Open Laboratory	Long
27-Sep	Thursday	Admin Conf Room VAB V1-100	1-3 pm	Writing Discussion, Abstract, and Letter to the Editor	Long
4-Oct	Thursday	Admin Conf Room VAB V1-100	8:30 10:20 10:30-12:20	Creating A Poster	Long
11-Oct	Thursday	Education RM C	To Be Decided	Poster Presentations	Long
25-Oct	Tuesday			Draft Due	Long

Writing Assignments Due Dates	
6-Sep	Journal Identification, Title Page, Introduction
13-Sep	Materials and Methods
20-Sep	Results
27-Sep	Discussion
4-Oct	Abstract, Letter to the Editor
25-Oct	Final Paper, If Needed