



Course Syllabus:, Thesis (MS) Research, Fall 2015
EEES 6960-009 [CRN: 50562]
Department of Environmental Sciences

Instructor: Dr. Scott Heckathorn
Office location: 3001F Bowman-Oddy (BO) Hall
Office hours: MW 10:00-12:00; T&TH 12:00-2:00; or by appointment
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Class location: 3000 Bowman-Oddy Hall
Class day/time: arranged
Credit hours: 1-12
Pre- or Co-requisites: none, but permission of the instructor required

Course Description:

Independent research (supervised by the instructor) on a particular problem, leading to a written MS thesis which must be presented and defended before a faculty committee.

General theme of research supervised by the instructor: Plant physiological ecology, stress and climate-change physiology, protein biochemistry; with research foci in: photosynthetic, root, and nutrient-relations responses/adaptations to heat stress and elevated CO₂; heat-shock and nutrient uptake proteins.

Course Format:

The course is instructor-guided independent research, typically involving multiple meetings each week with the instructor for teaching and training, and laboratory and/or field-based research.

Course Expectations:

It is expected that your effort in your research activity will be continuous and ongoing throughout the semester, leading to timely degree completion. As this is not a regularly-scheduled course, it is important to stay in communication regularly with your supervisor to maintain progress.

Course Schedule:

There is no set schedule. It is expected that students will work towards completion of their thesis at a time, place, and pace determined in consultation their supervisor and advisory committee. The schedule should be consistent with meeting deadlines for submitting and then defending the thesis proposal, meeting annually with the research committee, and completing the thesis and its defense within a 2-yr time period. Elaborations on these requirements are available at: <http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/envsciences/students/policies/index.html>

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) (from MS Biology Program Assessment SLOs):

Students will be able to analyze and solve relevant problems from the core areas of environmental biology at the MS-level.

Students will be able to design and conduct novel research using experimental, observational, analytical and/or theoretical techniques.

Required Textbook and Technology: None.

Course Website: None. Course correspondence and materials will be delivered via UT email.

Grading and Evaluation:

Grades will be based on adequate progress, as determined by the instructor and the student's research advisory committee, towards research goals outlined in the student's committee-approved thesis research proposal. Grades will follow the S/U format.

Academic Honesty Policy:

Students are expected to strictly adhere to principles of academic honesty in all aspects of this course, in accordance with UT policies (<http://www.utoledo.edu/dl/students/dishonesty.html>). Academic dishonesty of any kind by students in this course will not be tolerated. At the very least, students involved in academic dishonesty (including "copy & paste" plagiarism) will receive a grade of "0" on the specific assignment/exam involved. Following a second instance of academic dishonesty, you will receive an automatic "F" for the course, be expelled from the class, and you will be reported to UT administration for further disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy:

In accordance with UT policy (<http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate/>), I will provide opportunities to complete missed classes, provided such absences are justified. If you know ahead of time that you will miss a class, then you should communicate this information to me in advance by email or in writing.

Email Policy:

All correspondence regarding this course between students and instructor should be conducted via your UT email account. I will typically respond to student emails in less than 24 hours.

University Policies:

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read the University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability:
http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/administration/diversity/pdfs/3364_50_03_Nondiscrimination_o.pdf.

The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course, please contact the Student Disability Services Office.

For a complete listing of current UT undergraduate policies (including those pertaining to academic dishonesty, missed classes), please see:
<http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/academic/undergraduate/>.

Additional Student Learning and Support Services:

For additional out-of-class learning and support resources at UT (e.g., the UT Learning Enhancement Center, Writing Center, Library, Counseling), see:

<http://www.utoledo.edu/success>

<http://www.utoledo.edu/library/>

<http://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/counseling/>