

## Biology 210B – Honors Contract

Total Points 180 = ~30% of additional course workload

Honors contract will require the student to write and present three papers based on current scientific literature. Each presentation will be worth a total of 60 points.

This will require:

1. Extra Reading 10 points ea.
2. Oral Presentation 20 points ea.
3. Written Assignment 30 points ea.

### Contract Detail and Rubric

#### Extra Reading

Scoring:

- 10 points: read an exceptional quantity of literature/research so as to answer ancillary questions that arise during the initial literature review. This reading will support both the written and oral presentations,
- 9 points: read an adequate amount of literature, as evidenced by completeness of oral and written presentations,
- 8-5 points: enough material read to create written report and oral presentation; however, some gaps of information are evident,
- 4-0 points: insufficient amount of literature read, such that the written and oral presentations are missing large amounts of information and is not cohesive.

#### Oral Presentation

Must include: 1. requisite background information to the listeners enough information that the scientific portion will make sense – as this material will be beyond the expertise of the average student in the class, 2. summary of the research that was read, 3. conclusions regarding the research, how it was conducted, its validity (was there bias or not?) and, 4. personal reflection (if necessary).

Scoring:

- 20 points: all information presented was accurate, and presented in a professional manner, volume, pace and eye contact were excellent. Time of presentation was within the allotted 10-15 minutes,
- 19-0 points: deductions will occur for time (-1 point/minute over or under required time), quality of presentation as it relates to the delivery as well as content.

#### Written Assignment

Paper should be 5-7 pages in length, double spaced, 10 point font, standard margins. All literature read must be cited correctly (any of the current standards for citing work is acceptable). The written assignment will also include the background information as well as the research literature on the topic. The paper will be in a similar format (abstract/background, summary, conclusions/thoughts) as the presentation, but may go into more detail if needed.

Scoring:

- 30 points: Information written was accurate and up to date, grammatical and spelling errors are non-existent, format of paper was followed correctly.
- 29-0 points: Deductions will occur for:
  - grammatical and spelling errors (-1 point for each error), lack of relevant and accurate information (variable points deducted depending on importance of information), lack of proper citations of work (-1 point for each improper or missing citation, 0 points will be given on entire assignment if plagiarized material is found), insubstantial work – i.e. not enough written information to meet the requirements or too much work (excess number of written pages – evidencing a lack of understanding of the material) (-1 point for each page over or under the required amount).