BIOL-199: INDEPENDENT STUDIES IN BIOLOGY

Effective Term
Fall 2026

CC Approval
11/07/2025

AS Approval
11/13/2025

BOT Approval
11/20/2025

COCI Approval
02/26/2026

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status
Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Biological Sciences (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code
BIOL - Biology
Course Number
199

Department
Biology

Division
Science and Engineering (SE)

Full Course Title
Independent Studies in Biology

Short Title
Independent Studies in Biology

CB03 TOP Code
0401.00 - Biology, General

CB08 Basic Skills Status
NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code
E - Non-Occupational

Rationale
Updating SLO, methods of instruction, methods of evaluation, assignments, and DEI statement.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description
Study in an area of biology of special interest to the student. May include advanced studies and projects begun in other biology courses or biological studies not normally included in formal course work.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit
No

Repeatability
Not Repeatable

Grading Options
Pass/No Pass Only

Allow Audit
Yes

Requisites

Limitation on Enrollment
Submission of a written proposal to be reviewed and approved by two regular biology faculty members.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?
Yes

Units
1
Units Maximum
3

Lab Hours
54
Lab Hours Maximum
162

Outside of Class Hours
0
Outside of Class Hours Maximum
0

Total Contact Hours
54
Total Contact Hours Maximum
162

Total Student Hours
54
Total Student Hours Maximum
162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?
Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Hybrid	Emergency Only
Online with Proctored Exams	Emergency Only

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Demonstrate competence/knowledge in the area of interest.

Course Objectives

	Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:
1.	Select and investigate a specific biological topic through academic research.
2.	Demonstrate knowledge gained about the selected topic and/or technical skill by consultation with the instructor.

Course Content

1. Dependent on individual student interest and approved written proposal. For example:
   a. Research paper on pollution problems within the Napa Valley.
   b. Collection and identification of species within an ecological system (Bumpy Camp).
   c. Development of Technical skills to prepare microscope slides.
   d. Design and execution of relevant experiment or series of experiments demonstrating scientific method.
   e. Prepare research paper or seminar on a physiological topic (specific disease or nutritional requirement).

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Field Experience	Collection and identification of species within an ecological system.
Lab	Development of technical skills in the operation of microscopes in the laboratory.

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Directed Study	The student identifies and researches an area of interest, then communicates their knowledge through an oral presentation or a written report.
Other	Student regularly checks in with their advisor to keep them up to date on their progress in the area of study.

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
Chat Rooms
Discussion Boards
E-mail Communication
Telephone Conversations
Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Other	1. Demonstration of satisfactory work to be presented at weekly instructor-student consultation-depending on the selected topic. 2. Demonstration of completed study (or expected progress in study) at the end of the semester.

Essays/Papers	Written paper on an area of interest, such as the impact of climate change on the Napa Valley wine industry.
Oral Presentations	Oral presentation of the laboratory techniques, analysis, and conclusions drawn from a scientific study the student participated in.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

To be determined through consultation with the faculty member. For example, if the student is interested in learning about the application of PCR in identifying environmental pathogens in water samples, the faculty member can provide scientific readings covering this topic to provide relevant background.

Writing Assignments

Students will read the assigned texts, library materials, and scientific literature as assigned and agreed upon in the contract. Students will then write papers, laboratory reports, or take a written exam to complete the project as agreed upon in the specific contract.

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

How does your course and/or course outline of record reflect strategies for accommodating and engaging diverse student populations, advancing equitable outcomes, and fostering inclusion for all students?

The laboratory content is designed to broaden student engagement in science. These activities increase exposure to various research methodologies and technologies and promote collaborative problem-solving and critical evaluation of scientific literature and data.

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB00 State ID

CCC000440476

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Not Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

Yes