

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**  
**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE**  
Department of Biological Sciences

Course #:	BIOL 4198 CRN# depends on number of credit hours
Course Title:	Special Problems
Credit Hrs:	1–3
Term:	SPRING & FALL every semester
Course Meetings & Location:	Biology Building #329, time TBA
Prerequisite Courses:	BIOL 1305-1107; BIOL 1306-1108; BIOL 3320 (online version not acceptable). To qualify for this course, students generally need to have received a grade of A in the prerequisite courses.
Instructor:	Eli Greenbaum, Ph.D.
Office Location:	Biology 301 (between Classroom & Biosciences Buildings)
Contact Info:	Phone # 747-5553; Fax # 747-5808 E-mail address: egreenbaum2@utep.edu Emergency Contact: (Cell) 785-393-3583 <i>emergencies only please</i>
Office Hrs:	Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1–3 PM, email for other appointment times if necessary
Textbook(s), Materials:	Required: Greenbaum Laboratory Manual, available from Dr. Greenbaum
Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes):	At the end of this course, students will understand the nature and functions of scientific research from the most basic level to advanced techniques of morphological analyses and DNA sequence generation and analyses. Students are expected to generate novel data that can eventually be used for oral and/or poster presentations at professional scientific meetings, and to publish their findings in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
Course Activities/Assignments:	This course is limited to two or three students per semester, and involves scientific research in the laboratory of the professor. Because research projects involve a long-term time commitment, students should only consider this course if they are able to take it consecutively for at least three semesters. In general, students admitted to this course will be expected to participate in a research database project in their first semester. Duties involve organization and data entry for research publications into the computer program EndNote. If students demonstrate outstanding commitment and reliability during their first semester, they will be invited to participate in laboratory research in their second and subsequent semesters. Laboratory projects involve the generation and analysis of DNA sequence data to study the evolution and phylogenetic relationships of African amphibians and reptiles. Depending on the project, students may be involved in publications that name new species. Students will be expected to produce quantifiable data and research products throughout the semester, and the details of research goals will be determined in writing between the student and professor at the beginning of the semester.
Assessment of Course Objectives:	Students will be assessed on the course objectives from research products, attendance/punctuality and participation in research. Although the course will not have any exams or quizzes, students will be expected to produce research products over the entire course of the semester. The details of these research products will be determined as an agreement in writing between the student and professor at the beginning of the semester.
Grading Policy:	Grades will be determined by the quality of research products made by the student over the course of the semester. The details of these research products will be determined between the student and professor at the beginning of the semester as a written agreement. If all the goals of the agreement are met and the student had excellent attendance and participation, the student will receive a grade of A. If some, but not all of the goals of the agreement are met, the student will receive a grade ranging from B to D, depending on the quality of the work, attendance, and participation. If none of the goals are met, the student will receive a failing grade of F. Only students who receive a grade of A will be invited to take the course for a second semester.
Make-up Policy:	If the number of predetermined hours is not met in a given week (see Course Schedule below) because of a university-sponsored activity, vehicle breakdown, medical problem or death in the family, the student may provide written documentation for the absence(s) and make arrangements with the professor to make up those hours the following week. Failure to make up lost hours will negatively affect the student's grade.

- Attendance Policy: **Attendance and punctuality are a significant portion of your grade in this course.** Valid excuses for tardiness/missing class include illness, vehicle breakdown, death in the family, or university-sponsored activity, but **all valid excuses must be accompanied by written documentation** to receive credit. I will monitor attendance/punctuality on a regular basis throughout the semester.
- Academic Integrity Policy: The UTEP policy on academic honesty can be found at: <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>. All students will be expected to adhere to this policy.
- Civility Statement: I expect all students to be actively engaged in the required course activities during the scheduled meeting time. This means that students should not: (1) use cell phones during class (including texting); (2) use laptop computers for any purpose other than course objectives; or (3) otherwise disrupt your fellow students from learning and active participation.
- Disability Statement: If a student has or suspects he/she has a disability and needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at <dss@utep.edu> or go to Room 106 Union East Building. The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any DSS accommodation letters and instructions. Any student with a documented disability should inform Dr. Greenbaum of the details (including necessary accommodations) when discussing the course schedule at the beginning of the semester. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the student being dropped from the course.
- Military Statement: If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, please inform me of this possibility at the beginning of the semester when discussing the course schedule. Failure to meet this requirement will result in the student being dropped from the course.
- Course Schedule: The schedule of work will be determined as a written agreement between the student and professor at the beginning of the semester. Students will be expected to work 10 hours (1 credit), 15 hours (2 credits) or 20 hours (3 credits) per week, depending on the number of credits taken. The student will not be required to work when the university is closed in observance of holidays.