

This is the second sequenced course for students working on an independent research project. Independent research provides students with an opportunity to engage in scientific research with the guidance of a faculty member. In consultation with and approval of the faculty member, students select a research topic, perform a literature search, design and complete appropriate research. Students will be required to complete a formal paper detailing the research; including the purpose, methods, results and conclusions. Additional culminating experiences, as directed by the instructor, may include an oral presentation, a poster display at a local or regional conference, or submission of a research paper to a journal.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. The course provides an opportunity for students to continue to conduct independent scientific research on a topic of interest. It may strengthen their applications to transfer or graduate institutions.
- B. This is a lab course. A lab setting is required to conduct scientific research.
- C. This course is not designed for transfer.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course does not serve as a General Education course.
- C. This course is not a requirement for any programs.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Introduction to research.
- B. Literature research techniques.
- C. Introduction to scientific writing.
- D. Oral presentation of scientific research.

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Locate, review, interpret and analyze scientific information. (GE-IL*)
2. Apply fundamental concepts in engineering and science (GE-3*)
3. Demonstrate understanding of the scientific method to solve a problem (GE-3)
4. Analyze and interpret data (GE-1)
4. Write a formal research proposal and effectively communicate scientific research findings (GE-1)

B. Assessment Instruments

1. performance of laboratory techniques
2. presentation of research findings
3. analysis of reading assignments
4. other, as specified by instructor

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. performance of laboratory techniques
- B. presentation of research findings
- C. analysis of reading assignments
- D. other, as specified by instructor

Primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. laboratory
- B. presentations
- C. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. Lab notebook
- B. primary sources
- C. web sources
- D. other computer-based sources

The following statement should be included in the outline:

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

Students may need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments and/or computers.