

BIOL 6991 - Research Methods for Thesis

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 41072,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Michael Butcher

Email: mtbutcher@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor of Zoology

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Postdoctoral Fellow (Bone Biomechanics), Clemson University

Ph.D., Zoology (Muscle Biomechanics), University of Calgary/Florida State University

M.S., Biology (Functional Morphology), Wake Forest University

Instructor Office Location: 4013 Ward Beecher Science Hall; Laboratory 4011 WBSH

Instructor Office Phone: x2195

Course Description

6991. Research Methods for Thesis . Discussion and demonstration of current methods and concepts related to research in biological sciences and writing of a graduate thesis proposal. Not applicable for students enrolled in the nonthesis or biology education options. Prereq.: Permission of instructor. May be repeated once. 3 s.h.

Research Methods is an independent study course that is only for **Thesis** graduate students. This course is repeated once for a total of 6 s.h. During the two-semester sequence of Research Methods, the student will be required to write a complete Thesis Research Proposal (i.e., *Prospectus*: Introduction, Specific Aims, Hypotheses, and Material and Methods sections), obtain approval of the Thesis Research Proposal from all members of their Faculty Advisory Committee, and perform an oral presentation of this proposal to their Faculty Advisory Committee.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Optional			

There is no textbook for this course.

Research Methods requires graduate students to read primary literature. It is expected that a minimum of 20-25 research articles will be used to complete their Thesis Research Proposal.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Syllabus Review Course Expectations Deadlines Discussion	
8/31		Proposal Outline
9/14		Formatted References List
10/5	Course Meeting 2 First Draft Discussion	Complete First Draft of Proposal
10/12		Complete First Draft of Introduction

11/2	Course Meeting 3 Revised Proposal Discussion	Final Proposal: Approval By Advisor
11/9		Final Proposal: Submit To Committee
11/23		Oral Presentation
11/30	Course Meeting 4 Final Introduction Discussion	Final Approved Introduction

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.