BIOL 6994 - Research Methods for Nonthesis

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43329,

Credit hours: 2

Instructor

Michael Butcher

Email: mtbutcher@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor or 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

6994. Research Methods for Nonthesis. A course focused on reviewing current biological concepts as reported in the scientific literature. Not applicable for students enrolled in the thesis or biology education options. Prereq.: Permission of instructor. 2 s.h.
This is an independent study course that is only for Non-Thesis graduate students. The course is taken once for a total of 2 s.h. The course requires the writing of a substantial Research/Literature Review paper, approval of the final Review by the student's primary Faculty Advisor, and an oral presentation of this paper to Division of Biological Sciences as a Seminar.

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 Literature Review.

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	
10/12		Complete First Draft of Review To Advisor
11/2	Course Meeting 3 Revised Review Discussion	
11/9		Final Review: Submit To Advisor
11/16		Final Review: Submit To Advisor

11/30	Course Meeting 4 Final Review Discussion	Oral Presentation

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.