

SDSU Department of Biology Research & Special Studies Courses Contract

The following form (signed by both student and advisor) is *required* when students come to Medora/LS102 for all **Special Studies or Research course schedule numbers**. We have extra blank forms in the office if you need them.

Thank you, Medora Bratlien x 47429

Arlene Castillo, Eddie Lopez x 46442

STUDENTS: Complete *all* information. PRINT CLEARLY.

(Semester enrolled: **circle one**) FALL - SPRING - SUMMER Year : 20 _____

Name _____ RED ID _____

Home Phone # _____ Work Phone # _____

Email Address _____ Major/Emphasis _____

▶ **Are you required to have your Degree Audit Report initialed? Y / N**

(See item 3 on back of form. If "Yes", then turn in the initialed page with this form)

FACULTY: Circle course number & enter total number of approved units on line next to course(s)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PROJECTS

Biol. 291A or 291B or 291C 1 unit Biol. 299 _____ Biol. 490 _____ Biol. 498 _____
(for 201A) (for 201B) (for 215)

Biol. 497 Undergraduate Research _____ applies to independent research that will result in **required paper or presentation. A min 2.5 GPA in major required** (see reverse for details).

Biol. 499 Special Project _____ is for any other project (e.g., UG TA, internships developing skills such as preparing museum specimens, constructing web pages, assisting with field work or lab procedures). **Report is required. A min 2.5 GPA in major required** (see reverse for details).

GRADUATE STUDENT PROJECTS

Biol. 600 3 units (CMB Thesis Proposal)

Biol. 696 1 unit (EEB Seminar: 8 seminars must be attended to receive credit)

Biol. 797 _____ (M.S. Research)

Biol. 798 _____ (M.S. Special Study)

Biol. 799A & 799B **are added through the Graduate Division: Student Services East 1410**

Biol. 897 _____ (Ph.D. Research)

Biol. 899 _____ (Ph.D. Thesis)

GRADING

Letter grade _____ Credit/No Credit _____

FACULTY: Signature required below

Title of Project: _____

Note that all 497 and 499 projects require that a written report or presentation be graded by the faculty sponsor.

Date report or presentation is due to faculty sponsor: _____

▶ **Does project involve invertebrates? Y / N** **vertebrates? Y / N** **Animal Subjects forms complete? Y / N**
(circle one) (circle one) (circle one)

By signing below, I agree to adhere to the rules and conditions governing Special Studies courses.

Student _____ Date _____
(Signature) (Print)

Faculty _____ Date _____
(Signature) (Print)

Bio 497 and 499 forms are turned in to Arlene or Eddie, LS135. All others to Medora Bratlien, LS102

For Office Use only:

Dept. date stamp _____ Initials _____ Sched. # (s) _____

Add Code: _____

SDSU Biology 497 & 499 (299) Course Descriptions

Biology 497 and 499 requirements:

- 1) Admission into the Biology major.
- 2) A minimum 2.5 GPA in at least 9 units of courses for the major (~3 upper division courses),
- 3) If the GPA is between 2.5 and 2.7, the project supervisor must review the page of the student's degree audit that shows the upper division GPA. The advisor must initial, indicating that they see marginal GPA in the major. It is not necessary that the advisor review the entire degree audit. The student should turn in the initialed page to Arlene Castillo with this form.
- 4) If a student does not meet the above requirements, they may enroll in Biol. 299 Special Studies, but not 497/9 for a grade. Please see Biology advising office.
- 5) Maximum of 3 units per semester for any combination of 299/497/499.
- 6) For the biology major, the maximum permissible for any combination of Biol. and/or Chem. 497, 498, and 499 (all research and special studies-type courses) is 3-6 units, depending on the emphasis.
- 7) Forms for Biol. 497 and 499 should be turned in to Arlene Castillo or Eddie Lopez, LS 135, x 4-6442.

Course descriptions:

Biology 497 Undergraduate Research

Hours: 50 hr biology lab or field research/unit

Prerequisites: Upper division status in good standing and consent of instructor.

Individual laboratory or field research project, supervised by faculty. Research course with research paper or other presentation of results.

Biology students will earn academic credit for conducting independent field or laboratory research under supervision of faculty. This is an independent research program. The specific details of each student's research project will be determined by the faculty mentor and will produce a potentially publishable set of results suited to the individual student and the laboratory or field station where the work will be performed. Each student's research project will be conducted under the careful guidance of a faculty member.

Students will learn about experimental design, developing their own creative individual research project and completing it, and writing up the project and presenting the results in a professional manner.

Biology 499/299 Special Study

Hours: 50 hr biology lab or field research/unit

Prerequisites: Upper division status in good standing (for 499) and consent of instructor.

Individual study, internship, other supervised laboratory or field project or experience. Credit involves 50 hr. activity/unit/semester and a report.

Biology students will earn academic credit for conducting supervised field or laboratory studies, internships, other laboratory or field projects or experience. The special study activity will be supervised by faculty members. The specific details of each student's project will be determined by the faculty mentor and will produce a report suited to the individual student and the laboratory or field station activity in which the project is performed. Each student's project will be conducted under the careful guidance of the faculty mentor and assessed appropriately.

Students will learn practical biological skills and concepts by conducting a biology project or projects with professionals and completing it/them in a responsible and professional manner, and by writing up the project and their role in it. Special study units can be earned for learning and using several different skills while working on several larger projects. The paper should state what the student did in those studies and how they apply to their biology major.

OFF CAMPUS Biol 499 Students – You are required to submit a 5-10 page report of your activities. This should be reviewed and initialed by your project supervisor. If you participated in a large project please describe your role. Please include an explanation of the biological concepts you learned in your experience and how your new knowledge compliments your biology coursework. Your project report is due to the Biol. Advising Office (LS135) when your grades are due.

STUDENTS & SUPERVISORS – Please make copies of both sides of this form for your records.