



BIOL799

Advanced Research Topics in Biology

S2 Day 2015

Dept of Biological Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Grant Hose

grant.hose@mq.edu.au

E8B109

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The aim of this unit is to search, read and critically review the available scientific literature across a broad range of fields within biological sciences at an advanced level. The topics are to be decided by the student in consultation with a mentor from the Department of Biological Sciences. All students undertake independent literature research, with regular contact with their topic mentor either in person or via e-mail. Students will need to take responsibility for organising their workload throughout the semester. This unit encourages students to directly interact with research active academic staff, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students within the department and to explore the most current and controversial issues in biological sciences.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Develop skills in scientific writing

Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

Develop a working relationship with a research supervisor

Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Literature review outline</u>	10%	14/8/15
<u>Annotated bibliography</u>	10%	28/8/15
<u>Peer Review</u>	20%	11/9/15, 18/9/15
<u>Literature Review</u>	60%	28/9/15

Literature review outline

Due: **14/8/15**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will meet and discuss with their supervisor a structure and outline for their literature review. Students will provide a 1-2 page outline of their lit review, presented as a brief, annotated table of contents that lists the major sections for their review and the information covered.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop a working relationship with a research supervisor

Annotated bibliography

Due: **28/8/15**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will provide a bibliography including at least 30 relevant papers. The bibliography should be prepared using a referencing database program such as Endnote. For each paper in the database you should include a short description (up to 200 words) of the main points and relevance of the paper to your review. Endnote may be downloaded free from the library website. The bibliography must be submitted as a database file containing your annotated references.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

Peer Review

Due: **11/9/15, 18/9/15**

Weighting: **20%**

Copies of student draft literature reviews will be disseminated among the class. Students are to provide detailed written feedback and comments on the work of their peers.

Completed draft literature reviews are due 11 September 2015.

Comments on peer reviews are due 18 September 2015.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers

Literature Review

Due: **28/9/15**

Weighting: **60%**

Students are to complete a 2500 word literature review based on the topic that they expect to research in year 2 of the MRes. Students are to engage with their supervisor through regular meetings and explore the structure and content of the review.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

Delivery and Resources

This unit will run over the first half of semester. Hence you will be expected to spend approximately 16 hours on this unit per week from 3 August (week 2) to 28 September.

Unit Schedule

There are no centrally timetabled classes for this subject. Students are required to attend sessions throughout the semester.

Session 1. Introduction to 799

Thursday 30 July 1000-1200 Biology Tea Room – E8A Lvl 2.

Session 2. Writing workshop (optional) Drop-in

Friday 28 August 9 – 4 location TBC

Session 3. How to review a scientific paper

Thursday 3 September 1000-1100 Biology Tea Room – E8A Lvl 2.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy

applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers

Assessment task

- Peer Review

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

Assessment tasks

- Annotated bibliography
- Literature Review

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers

Assessment tasks

- Annotated bibliography
- Peer Review
- Literature Review

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Build on existing skills in the use of online databases and bibliographical software

Assessment tasks

- Annotated bibliography
- Literature Review

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop skills in scientific writing
- Develop a working relationship with a research supervisor
- Develop skills in the review of own written work and that of peers

Assessment tasks

- Literature review outline
- Annotated bibliography
- Peer Review
- Literature Review