

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE**  
**BMED 3224\_04: Independent Research IV**  
**Spring 2017, Time by arrangement, lab room BRHB 1.135**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Instructor: Dr. Andrea Schwarzbach**  
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**BRHB, room 1.121**

**Contact Methods:**

You may contact me using any of the information shown above, preferably email. Please feel free to reach me if you have any questions regarding content, if you need clarification, or would like assistance.

Office hours: Mondays 2-4pm and Tuesdays 10am-1pm or by appointment

**Format:** Active learning, conducting research, data analysis, project presentation.

**Textbook:** none required, published research paper reading required specific to project

**Course Description:** Conducting original research with the ultimate goal of a well-documented research study, collection, and analysis of original data and presentation of these findings in a research paper.

**Course Objectives met by students:** Students must conduct appropriate research with the supervision of the advisor. This includes conducting original research, data collection, and analysis of original data, and working toward a presentation of findings.

**Student learning outcomes:**

- Acquisition of critical thinking skills applied to biomedical research.
- Understand and apply scientific terminology in biomedicine.
- Read and understand scientific literature in the field
- Understand and apply the scientific method and recognize their application.
- Ability to understand, apply and communicate findings of conducted research

**Course Objectives met by the instructor:** The instructor will be available for discussion of research project and for training of methods needed to complete the research. The instructor will assist in guiding the preparation of a research report.

**Assessment:**

It is important that students regularly work on the project and meet with the instructor on a regular basis. All lab work needs to be documented in a lab report and discussed with instructor on regular meetings. At the end of the semester the findings need to be presented as a written paper. All lab reports, protocols and other documentation need to remain with the lab after the semester is finished. The deadline for the final lab paper is May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Grade will be composed as following:

500 points for attendance and participation, 500 points for final paper.

adding to a total of 1000 points.

Grades: up to 599 points: F, 600-699: D, 700-799: C, 800-899: B, 900-1000: A

**Attendance Policy:**

It is required that you attend all meetings and lab work for continued training and reporting. Alternative meeting times need to be arranged ahead of time. Student needs to conduct work for this project at a minimum of 2.5 hrs per credit hour per week to meet credit hour requirements, so that adds up to 5 hrs per week for this class. Sign-in/sign-out sheets need to be completed by student. Any work completed outside the lab for the project needs to be documented. Any required lab trainings need to be completed before any individual lab work can start.

**SYLLABUS ADDENDUM - UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Important dates:**

Jan 16	MLK Holiday and Day of Service
Jan 17	First day of class for full semester
Jan 30	Last day to add a class for spring 2017 semester
Mar 13 – 18	Spring Break, <b>no classes</b>
Apr 13	Last day to drop (DR grade) a class or withdraw (grade of W)
Apr 14 – 15	Easter holiday, <b>no classes</b>
May 3	Last day of classes for full semester
May 4	Study Day, <b>no classes</b>
May 5 - 11	Final Exams ( <a href="#">Schedule</a> )

**Other Course Information**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However,

accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu). **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu).

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<https://my.utrgv.edu/home>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

Feb 15 – Feb 21 for Module 1 courses  
Apr 12 – Apr 18 for Module 2 courses  
Apr 12 – May 3 for full spring semester courses

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.