

**Department of Biology – University of Mississippi  
BISC 493 Syllabus**

**Instructions:** Complete this form with your Directed Study supervisor and then submit it to the Biology office for approval by the department chair. Prior to final grade submission your supervisor must submit to the office a copy of the required final research paper and/or presentation. See the reverse side of this form for the course descriptions.

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Section** \_\_\_\_\_ **Semester** \_\_\_\_\_ **Credits** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student ID** \_\_\_\_\_ **Honors Project? Y / N**

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faculty Supervisor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Titles of Directed Study Project (please list previous titles, semester/year and instructor):**

**BISC 491** \_\_\_\_\_

**Semester/Year** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faculty Supervisor** \_\_\_\_\_

**BISC 492** \_\_\_\_\_

**Semester/Year** \_\_\_\_\_ **Faculty Supervisor** \_\_\_\_\_

**BISC 493** \_\_\_\_\_

**One paragraph description of project:**

**Grading Rubric:** Supervising faculty will fill in the percentages with which each of these components contribute to the student’s final course grade.

<b>Participation</b>	_____	
<b>Specific skills</b>	_____	(examples: _____ )
<b>Research presentation</b>	_____	
<b>Research paper</b>	_____	
<b>Other</b>	_____	

**Total: 100%**

Signatures

**Student** \_\_\_\_\_ **date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Faculty supervisor** \_\_\_\_\_ **date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department chair** \_\_\_\_\_ **date** \_\_\_\_\_

## *Catalog Description of Directed Study Courses*

**BISC 491 Directed Study in Biological Sciences I.** Independent research project of mutual student/faculty interest conducted under the supervision of biology faculty. Requirements include a research paper and/or presentation\*. Students must contact a faculty sponsor before enrollment. May be repeated for up to 3 hours of cumulative credit. (Two hours per week per credit hour attempted). (1-3).

**BISC 492 Directed Study in Biological Sciences II.** Similar to BISC 491 except that the credit hours cannot be applied to the degree requirements of a major or minor in biology. Prerequisite: BISC 491. (1-3).

**BISC 493 Capstone Directed Study.** An independent research project conducted under the supervision of a faculty member with whom the student has completed 6 hours of prior research work (BISC 491 and BISC 492). Results must be reported in a research paper and an oral presentation in a public forum. A maximum of 3 credit hours can be applied to the degree requirements for a major in biology. BISC 493 is not open to students who apply Honors 401 and 402 toward their degree. (1-3)

\* Note that the content and length of the final paper or presentation will vary depending on the number of course credits attempted and the grading rubric. Some Directed Study supervisors may require a summary data table with a brief written discussion, others might ask for a paper similar to a journal manuscript. Make sure that you know what is expected of you before you register for BISC 491/492/493!

For summer enrollment the requirement of hours of lab/field work per week will be adjusted upward to achieve the same total (a minimum of 28 hours of work per credit).