

Contracting BIO Courses for Honors

What are the requirements?

3 credit hours: From BIO 301, 305, 306W, 310, 311W, or 315

8 credit hours: From 300 or 400 level BIO courses (including BIO497/498/499, Independent studies)

What are the deadlines and how do I contract a course for Honors?

You must submit the completed paper work to the Honors College by **Oct 15 or Feb 15**. To do this, you need to allow time to discuss possible projects with the instructor of the course, draft a proposal for the project, and get approval from a Biology Honors Advisor (Dr. Liepman or Dr. Judd).

- **Contact your instructor** during the **first week of class** to let her/him know that you would like to contract the course for Honors credit.
- Drop by your instructor's office hours to discuss possible projects. We encourage you come equipped to this meeting with topics or ideas that interest you and are related to the course material (see below for some ideas). Your goal is to **identify a project by the second or third week** of class.
- Draft a brief proposal of the project, and get your instructor to sign the Contract.
- **Schedule a meeting with a Biology Honors Advisor** (or drop by during their office hours) to present your idea and request approval. This should be on or before **October 1 or February 1** – do not wait until the last minute to submit an Honors contract, as this may result in the deadline being missed.

What is the purpose of contracting a course?

The goal of contracting a course is to challenge yourself and delve into the course material more deeply. The contract is an agreement between you and the instructor on what type of project you will undertake.

What are some examples of examples of past Honors contract projects:

- Attend the Biology Department Seminars and write a report, or
- Develop a new lab or field activity related to the course, or
- Choose a research topic that interests you and create a website, poster, talk, or paper to the instructor, the class, or some other group. If possible, exploring a topic relevant to your Honors Thesis can be especially beneficial.