OPTI 492- Directed Research

Course Description:

As participants in an REU program, undergraduate students are matched with faculty mentors in the field of study that the students wish to pursue in graduate school. Under the directed supervision of their faculty mentor, the students conduct research for 10 weeks. Students either assist with on-going research that is being conducted by their faculty mentors or they create their own independent projects under their mentor’s guidance.

Grading Policy:

Final grades will be based on the letter grade that is provided by the faculty mentor. This is not a pass/fail course. Students will be issued a final letter grade. Students should discuss grading criteria with their mentors in order to assure themselves a satisfactory final grade. The REU program asks all mentors to use their typical grading standards when finalizing their students’ grades.

Please note that because this is a directed research class; each student’s full participation is essential. Failure to regularly conduct independent research will be reflected in the progress of the research and will negatively impact the quality of the final presentations.

As a community of engaged learners, all OPTI 492 students will:

- Conduct independent research regularly.
- Attend all meetings with their faculty mentor and the REU program staff.
- Listen actively to all faculty and staff instructions and participate fully in all research.
- Come to each individual meeting fully prepared
- Communicate their needs ahead of time and inform their faculty mentor and the program staff of any problems and/or absences as soon as possible.
- Treat their faculty mentor, the program staff, and all fellow REU scholars with respect at all times

Schedule

The following is required of OPTI 492 students remaining at UA for the summer:

- Complete 35 hours per week of independent research within their field of study.
- Attend all workshops and seminars.
- Complete a research plan, extended abstract, oral presentation, and present a symposia poster of their summer research.
- Complete the online Responsible Conduct of Research tutorials.