University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Curriculum Proposal Form #4A

# **Change in an Existing Course**

Type of Action (check all that apply)

Course Revision (*include course description & former and new syllabus)*  Grade Basis

Contact Hour Change and or Credit Change  Repeatability Change

Diversity Option  Other: Course Description & Prerequistite Changes

General Education Option

area:  **\***

\* Note: For the Gen Ed option, the proposal should address how this course relates to specific core courses, meets the goals of General Education in providing breadth, and incorporates scholarship in the appropriate field relating to women and gender.

**Effective Term**:

**Current Course Number** (*subject area and 3-digit course number*): Biology 498

**Current Course Title**: Independent Study

**Sponsor(s)**: Ellen Davis

**Department(s):** Biological Sciences

**College(s):**

**List all programs that are affected by this change:**

**NA**

If programs are listed above, will this change affect the Catalog and Advising Reports for those programs? If so, have Form 2's been submitted for each of those programs?

(Form 2 is necessary to provide updates to the Catalog and Advising Reports)

NA  Yes  They will be submitted in the future

Proposal Information: ([***Procedures for form #4A***](http://www.uww.edu/acadaff/ucc/Procedures_form4A.docx))

1. **Detailed explanation of changes** (use FROM/TO format)

***FROM:***

Course Description & repeatability: Repeatable for a maximum of 6 units in major. ~~One hour of discussion weekly plus laboratory hours by arrangement with instructor.~~

Prerequisite change: BIOLOGY 141, BIOLOGY 142, and a ~~2.75~~ grade point average

in biology.

Grade Basis: Conventional Letter

***TO:***

Course Description& repeatability: **Typical projects may include helping researchers in conducting research projects or helping instructors develop pedagogical tools for their courses. Eligible students who are conducting their own research projects should enroll in Biology 498R.** Repeatable for a maximum of 6 units in major **and degree** **or 2 in the minor**.

Prerequisite change: BIOLOGY 141, BIOLOGY 142, and a **2.0** grade point average

in biology.

Grade Basis: S/NC

## Justification for action Prior to the advent of 498R courses across the university, a very wide range of projects fell under the 498 umbrella. The Biology department seeks to clarify the distinction between 498 and 498R, making sure students enroll in the more appropriate course. Traditionally, most of the projects students conducted would fall under the new 498R, as they are usually conducting their own research projects. On the other hand, students may instead contribute to research by, for example helping to collect data, without conducting a project of their own, or they may conduct other non-research projects. Biology 498 rather than 498R should be used in these latter cases. Also, we wanted to bring this GPA requirement for this course in line with that of most of the other courses in the department.

## We request a change in the grade basis, as it was deemed that work of this sort id difficult to place a letter grade on, and to prevent 498 credits from contributing to the GPA. Finally, we wanted to ensure that students do not use 498 or 498R credits for all of their elective credit within the major and minor.

1. **Syllabus/outline** (if course revision, include former syllabus and new syllabus)