

Glassboro State College Senate Curriculum Committee



# Approval Form

Proposal Title: Special Topics in Biological Sciences 0401.440

Sponsor(s) J. Scott, R. Meagher Dept.: Biological Sciences Ext. 3571  
and P. Mosto

Check one:  Course  Specialization  Concentration  Minor  Achievement Certificate  
 Certification Program  Major Program  Minor Change  
(please name deletion or credit/title/catalog change)

Undergraduate  Graduate 2 Credit Hours

<p><b>Step 1 (Department)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <u>9/20/94</u> Date</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p><u>J. Scott</u> Dept. CC Chairperson</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed <u>10/11/94</u> Date</p> <p><u>P. Mosto</u> Dept. Chairperson (Vice Chair)</p>	<p><b>Step 2 (Receipt)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCC# <u>94-95-20</u></p> <p>Proposal Received <u>10/11/94</u> Date</p> <p>OCT 13 1994</p> <p><u>Ronald J. Gorham</u> SCC Chairperson</p>	<p><b>Step 3 (School CC)</b></p> <p>Reviewed <u>11/15/94</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p><u>Joanne Scott</u> School Curr. Comm. Chairperson</p>
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<p><b>Step 4 (Academic Dean)</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommend <input type="checkbox"/> Conditionally Recommend (see comments)</p> <p>Reviewed _____ Date</p>	<p>Comments:</p> <p>RECEIVED DEC 13 1994</p> <p>SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ROWAN COLLEGE OF NJ</p>	<p>SENATE</p> <p>DEC 14 1994</p> <p>RECEIVED</p> <p>Signature, Dean of School _____</p>
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**Step 5 (SCC)**

Open Hearing 2/4/95  Approved by Senate Curriculum Committee 2/2/95  
Date Date

Returned to sponsor(s) for the following reasons:  
Editing

**Step 6 (Senate)**

Presented to Senate 3/29/95  Approved  Not Approved  
Date

Notification to Executive Vice-President/Provost \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Ronald J. Gorham  
Signature, SCC Chairperson

**Step 7 (Executive V.P./Provost)**

Received 4/5/95  
Date

Approved  Yes  No

If no, reasons are as follows:

Student credit hours 2

Faculty load hours 2

Equalized credit hours \_\_\_\_\_

Official copy and approval sheet filed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Samuel Cephardt  
Signature, Executive Vice-President/Provost

**Registrar**

Approved course description received 25 Apr. 95  
Date

Hegis Taxonomy and Course Number assigned 0401.440

B. K. Kivney Signature, Registrar 25 Apr 95 Date

**Notification forwarded:**

- Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson
- Department Chairperson(s)
- Academic Dean(s)
- Registrar
- Sponsor(s)

## NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

### 1. Details:

a. **Course Title:** Special Topics in Biological Sciences

b. **Sponsors:** Department of Biological Sciences  
J. Scott, Undergraduate Academic Program Advisor  
R.J. Meagher, Chairperson  
P. Mosto, Assistant Professor

c. **Credit Hours:**

2 s.h. (1/2 of a semester, meeting twice weekly, 2 hours per class)

d. **Course Level:**

Undergraduate; 400-level HEGIS number requested. Limited to Juniors and Seniors; limited to Biological Sciences

e. **Curricular Effect:**

Effective for incoming Freshman, Fall '95 (and incoming transfer students, Fall '97), all Biological Sciences Majors will be required to take one Special Topics course (1/2 semester) prior to graduation. The 2 s.h. credit will come from the 30 s.h. of upper-level Biological Sciences electives from which they now choose. That is, the requirement for the Special Topics course will not add to the total number of s.h. required for the major. All courses in the major other than the Special Topics course are "electives" within the Major; thus the student will elect to take 1 fewer of the other Biology courses.

Note: Students may elect to enroll in more than one Special Topics course.

f. **Prerequisites:**

Biology I and II (0401.100 and 0401.101); Junior or Senior class standing; declared Biological Sciences Major

g. **Suggested Time and Scale of Implementation:**

Effective Fall 1995. The Department plans to offer at least 2 "Special Topics" courses each semester, assuming availability of faculty (1 course will meet during the first quarter; 1 course will meet during the second quarter).

h. **Adequacy of Present Staff, Resources, Library Facilities:**

Present Faculty are adequate. This course will be offered on a faculty-rotating basis. Since the topic will be chosen by the faculty member teaching the course, all faculty members have expertise in the topic offered.

The journal holdings of the Rowan Library are only minimally adequate for a course such as we propose. Initially, students will be expected to visit other university libraries in the region for some of their research. Over time, we hope that additional materials can be purchased for the Rowan College library.

i. **Short-term Evaluation:** N/A

2. **Rationale:**

The current trend in college education (and at Rowan) is to provide a seminar course that provides a "capstone" for the Majors within a department. The Biological Sciences Department currently does not have such a seminar course, and wishes to provide one to the Majors. Since a wide range of special topics will be offered in the proposed courses, students may choose a topic that particularly interests them.

The decision to offer each course as a 1/2-semester course was based on several considerations, among them:

- a. We are a small department -- 12 full-time faculty, yet we have more than 300 Majors in our Department; the 1/2-semester format will permit the maximum number of students to take the required course.
- b. Faculty who are currently teaching a busy load of classes might have the time to teach an additional course if it meets only 1/2 of the semester, whereas a full-semester course might be an added burden.

The class time of 2 hours (rather than 1 and 1/2 hours) twice a week was deemed more appropriate for pedagogical/academic reasons. We believe this time frame justifies 2 s.h. credit for the course.

3. **Essence of the Course:**

a. **Objectives:**

The "Special Topics" course is to serve as a "capstone" for the Major. The course will be taught in seminar format, with students doing most of the presenting, rather than the instructor. Students will be required to do a considerable amount of library research.

b. **Topical Outline/Content:**

As is typical for a course of this nature, the topical outline will be specific for the class taught during that quarter. The topic for each quarter, and the instructor for each quarter, will be announced within the Department prior to pre-registration.

Possible topics might include, but not be limited to:

- Membrane Physiology
- Reproductive Biology
- Mitochondrial Inheritance
- Immunogenetics & Disease Associations
- Clinical Pharmacology/Pharmacokinetics
- Biomedical Ethics
- Environmental Ethics

**c. Evaluation and Grading Procedure of Students:**

This will vary with the instructor, but the focus in all sections of the course will be on oral presentations by the students. In some sections, the instructor may grade on oral presentations only; in others, written papers may also be required, and class participation may be a factor for grading. In some sections, each student may be required to give 1 or 2 lengthy presentations; in others, each student may be required to give shorter, but more frequent, oral presentations.

**d. Course Evaluation:** The Biological Sciences Department, as a whole, routinely reviews the Department's courses to assess the courses' success in meeting the goals and objectives of the College and the Program.

**4. Results of Consultation:**

Since this is a Special Topics course, offered only to Biological Sciences Majors, no outside consultation was done. No other Rowan College department offers a course with similar content.

**5. Additional Information**

None.

**6. Catalog Description:**

See attached page.

## CATALOG DESCRIPTION

0401.4XX

2 s.h.

Special Topics in Biological Sciences

(Prerequisites: 0401.100 and 0401.101, and Senior or Junior standing. This course is not open to non-majors.)

This seminar course covers special topics in individual areas of the biological sciences. Students give oral reports on topics chosen from the current biological sciences literature. Students may be required to submit written reports as well. This course is required for all Biological Sciences Majors.