

Note: This course action form is incomplete. Some content is yet to be determined.

**North Carolina State University Course Action Form**

**ES 499 – Thesis**

**Proposal Type:** New Course

**Proposed Date:** Jan. 11, 2010

**Department/Program:** Environmental Sciences Academic Program

**Abbreviated Title:** Thesis

**Scheduling:** Fall / Spring, in Every Year

**Offerings:** On-Campus

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Contact Hours**

**Independent Study/Research:** 3

**Grading:** S/U

**Enrollment per Semester:** 10

**Enrollment Maximum per Section:** 10

**Multiple Sections:** TBD

**Repeatable:** No

**Catalog Description**

ES 499 Thesis provides academic credit for students who participate in original, inquiry-based learning and discovery in environmental sciences. Students present the thesis to a community of peers and experts for evaluation. ES 499 Thesis requires a Thesis Proposal signed by the student, and ES Advisor, a Thesis Host, and a supporting faculty member.

**Curriculum/Minors for Which Course is Designed**

Environmental Science B.S.

**Course Justification**

ES 499 Thesis provides academic credit for students who participate in original, inquiry-based learning and discovery in environmental sciences. Students present the thesis to a community of peers and experts for evaluation. The new course, ES 499 Thesis, will allow students in the ES Academic Program to earn 3 Cr for creating a thesis and thereby fulfill the required 3 Cr of “External Learning Experience” and the required capstone course. In addition, students will also gain valuable experience helping ensure success in the classroom and in the real world. ES 499 Thesis is one of a package of five courses designed to expand educational opportunities for ES students. The four other courses include: ES 495 Special Topics, ES 496 Internship, ES 497 Professional Development Workshop, and ES 498 Research. Students may earn 3 Cr of ES 498 Research and then earn 3 Cr of ES 499 Thesis to complete a two-semester project.

Students can earn 3 Cr in ES 499 Thesis by completing 150 hours of research activities that produces a thesis. A thesis for ES 499 is any product from a creative, inquiry-based activity that is communicated to peers and faculty members, and is evaluated. Typically, a thesis is a professional quality manuscript, but a thesis can also take other forms. A student in ES 499 Thesis must form a Thesis Committee that includes an ES Advisor, an NCSU faculty member who is the Thesis Host, and a supporting faculty member. The ES 499 Thesis Committee must evaluate a student product for ES 499 Thesis.

Thesis credit will not be awarded for traditional course work or for research projects not evaluated in the process of thesis review. Typically, the work for ES 499 Thesis will be completed in one semester. Credits earned in ES 499 Thesis count towards the ES degree for those majoring in ES, and will fully satisfy the requirements for 3 Cr of External Learning Experience. ES 499 will also satisfy the 3 Cr requirement for a capstone course. Students outside the ES Academic Program may also register for ES 499 Thesis.

ES 499 Thesis provides academic credit for students who explore the role of inquiry-based learning and discovery in environmental sciences, and the importance of communicating results to a community of peers and experts. The arrangement for ES 499 Thesis is a Thesis Proposal signed by the student, an ES Advisor, a Thesis Host, and a supporting faculty member. All parties must sign the Thesis Proposal before the student can register for ES 499 Thesis. A copy of a Thesis Proposal form is included with the attached course syllabus. Other Thesis Proposal forms can be used, but must be signed by the student and Thesis Committee. A student working on a thesis may be paid, or unpaid, depending on the Thesis Host. The key for the student is a meaningful research experience with learning at a rate similar to that occurring in a classroom. Students must not be used as a source of free, menial labor and educational objectives of the thesis activity must be articulated in the contract.

Grades for ES 499 Thesis are S/U. At mid-term, the Thesis Host meets with the student to review the work. The Host submits a written review of progress at mid-term to the Thesis Committee. At term end, the student must present an overview of the thesis activity in a forum open to students and faculty members. Following the open forum, the student presents the thesis to the Thesis Committee where it will be evaluated with the student in a closed meeting. The grade of S or U results from a vote of the Thesis Committee, with two "passing" votes needed for an S grade. The ES Advisor submits the grade.

---

**Previous Enrollment**

This course has never been offered, and therefore has no enrollment data.

---

**Resources Statement**

No additional resources are required.

---

**Consultation With Other Departments**

Materials describing the course are posted on the ESNR website, and notices inviting comments sent to all colleges.

---

**Prerequisites & Co-Requisites**

---

None.

---

**Instructors Responsible for Course**

---

William E. Winner

---

**Course Syllabus**

---

---

**ES 499 – Thesis**

---

**Section 001****SPRING 2010****3 Credit Hours**

---

**Course Description**

---

ES 499 Thesis provides academic credit for students who participate in original, inquiry-based learning and discovery in environmental sciences. Students present the thesis to a community of peers and experts for evaluation. ES 499 Thesis requires a Thesis Proposal signed by the student, an ES Advisor, a Thesis Host, and a supporting faculty member.

---

**Learning Outcomes**

---

1. Students will increase skills in inquiry-based learning, the behavior and conduct of professional environmental scientists engaged in research, and the outcome of being an environmental scientist engaged in research.
2. Students will see the process of transferring their academic knowledge into areas of uncertain understanding, and the need to prioritize areas for acquisition of new knowledge.
3. Students will create a thesis that is recognized, communicated to peers and experts, and evaluated for academic standards.
4. Students will become familiar with networking within and between the environmental research communities.

---

**Course Structure**

---

Students can register for ES 499 Thesis by preparing a Thesis Proposal signed by the student, the Thesis Host, a supporting faculty member, and the ES Advisor. Copies of the signed Thesis Proposal are submitted to the ES Advisor and given to each party. Any one of the signing parties can terminate the proposed thesis activity. If the Thesis Proposal is terminated prior to the last day to drop classes, the student will drop ES 498 Research and no credit is received. If the Thesis Proposal is terminated after the last day to drop the class, the student must earn an S or a U grade. Students can earn 3 Cr in ES 499 Thesis by completing 150 hours of research activities that result in producing a thesis. ES 499 Thesis provides academic credit for students who explore the role of inquiry-based learning and discovery in environmental sciences, and the importance of communicating results to a community of peers and experts.

## Instructors

**William E Winner** (wewinner) - *Instructor*

**Email:** [wewinner@ncsu.edu](mailto:wewinner@ncsu.edu)

**Web Page:** [www.ncsu.edu/esnr](http://www.ncsu.edu/esnr)

**Phone:** 919-515-5780

**Office Location:** 2231 Jordan Hall Addition

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

## Course Meetings

None.

## Course Materials

None.

## Requisites and Restrictions

None.

## General Education Program (GEP) Information

### GEP Category

This course does not fulfill a General Education Program category.

### GEP Co-requisites

This course does not fulfill a General Education Program co-requisite.

## Transportation

This course will not require students to provide their own transportation. Non-scheduled class time for field trips or out-of-class activities is NOT required for this class.

## Safety & Risk Assumptions

None.

## Grading

### Grade Components

#### Requirements for Credit-Only (S/U) Grading

S/U grading will be used for the course. To earn an S grade, students will complete 150 hours of research in a setting focused on environmental research and produce a defensible thesis. Typically, a thesis is a professional quality manuscript, but a thesis can also take other forms. At term end, the student must present an overview of the thesis activity in a forum open to students and faculty members. Following the open forum, the student presents the thesis to the Thesis Committee where it will be evaluated in discussions with the student and Thesis Committee in a closed meeting. The grade of S or U results from a vote of the Thesis Committee, with two "passing" votes needed for an S grade. The Thesis Host will evaluate students at mid-term and at end of term, and provide written evaluations of the research to

the ES Advisor, who submits the grade. For more details refer to [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/courses\\_undergrad/REG02.20.15.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.15.php).

### **Policies on Incomplete Grades**

If an extended deadline is not authorized by the instructor or department, an unfinished incomplete grade will automatically change to an F after either (a) the end of the next regular semester in which the student is enrolled (not including summer sessions), or (b) the end of 12 months if the student is not enrolled, whichever is shorter. Incompletes that change to F will count as an attempted course on transcripts. The burden of fulfilling an incomplete grade is the responsibility of the student. The university policy on incomplete grades is located at [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/grades\\_undergrad/REG02.50.3.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/grades_undergrad/REG02.50.3.php).

### **Late Assignments**

Students earning 3 Cr in ES 499 Thesis are expected to be complete the activity in one semester. Exceptions may result from unusual situations, beyond student control, and may result in an incomplete grade. Incomplete grades will only be given with prior arrangement with the ES Advisor and the Research Host. See the University Attendance Policy: [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/courses\\_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php)

### **Attendance Policy**

#### **Attendance**

Students will participate in the thesis activity by working according to the times agreed to in the Thesis Proposal. Deviations in the schedule of attendance are appropriate only if agree to in advance by the student and by the Thesis Host. Failure to comply with the work schedule may result in terminating the thesis activity and withdrawing from the course, or earning a U grade. This policy is based upon the NCSU Attendance Policy: [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/courses\\_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php)

#### **Absences**

In case of emergencies (serious illness, injury, death, or illness in the family, university duties, court attendance, or religious observance), please notify the Thesis Committee as soon as possible. This policy is based upon the NCSU Attendance Policy: [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/courses\\_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php)

#### **Makeup Work**

You are responsible for all work missed and for any assignment announced on the day you were absent. This policy is based upon the NCSU Attendance Policy: [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/courses\\_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php)

### **Academic Integrity**

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students are required to comply with the university policy on academic integrity found in the Code of Student Conduct found at [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student\\_services/student\\_discipline/POL11.35.1.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php)

Students are bound by the academic integrity policy as stated in the NCSU Code of Student Conduct.

### **Academic Honesty**

See [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student\\_services/student\\_discipline/POL11.35.1.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php) for a detailed explanation of academic honesty.

Students are required to uphold the University Pledge of Honor and exercise honesty in completing every assignment.

### **Honor Pledge**

Your signature on any test or assignment indicates "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment."

### **Electronically-Hosted Course Components**

Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course, via electronic tools like email or web-postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course.

**Electronically-hosted Components:** <http://vista.ncsu.edu>

### **Accommodations for Disabilities**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, student must register with the Disability Services Office (<http://www.ncsu.edu/dso>) located at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation at [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/courses\\_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php).

### **Policy on Discrimination**

NC State University provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. Accordingly, NC State affirms its commitment to maintain a work environment for all employees and an academic environment for all students that is free from all forms of discrimination. Discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment of any person (either in the form of quid pro quo or creation of a hostile environment) based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation also is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. NC State's policies and regulations covering discrimination, harassment, and retaliation may be accessed at [http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/campus\\_environ](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/campus_environ) or [http://www.ncsu.edu/equal\\_op](http://www.ncsu.edu/equal_op). Any person who feels that he or she has been the subject of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 515-3148.

---

**Course Schedule**

TBD

DRAFT

**THESIS PROPOSAL**

**1. Contacts:**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Host: \_\_\_\_\_

ES Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Member: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location of Thesis Activity: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Schedule of Thesis Work: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Student's Research Statement, Objectives, and Thesis Product: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Expected Learning Outcomes: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Thesis Host Commitments:** The Thesis Host acknowledges the requirement to meet at mid-term with the student to evaluate progress towards products and learning objectives. The Thesis Host acknowledges the requirement to meet at term end with the student to evaluate the final products and progress with learning objectives. The Thesis Host acknowledges the responsibility for attending the student's public thesis presentation, and for participating as a Thesis Committee member by discussing and evaluating, and then by voting on a grade for the thesis.

**7. ES Academic Advisor Commitments:** The ES Academic Advisor acknowledges the requirement to be available to the student throughout the thesis activity. The ES Advisor acknowledges the requirement to request delinquent mid-term evaluations, to attend the student's thesis presentation in the open forum, and to participate in discussions to evaluate the thesis. The ES Academic Advisor will also vote on a grade for the thesis and submit the grade for the work in a timely fashion.

**8. Supporting Faculty Member Commitments:** The Supporting Faculty Member acknowledges the requirement to be available to the student throughout the thesis activity. The Supporting Faculty Member understands the requirement to attend the student's thesis open forum presentation, to discuss and evaluate the thesis, and to vote for an S or U grade.

**9. ES Student Commitments:** The ES Student acknowledges responsibility for professional conduct in the thesis activity. The student recognizes responsibility for performing research related activities specified in this proposal, and producing a thesis product to be presented to an open forum of students and experts. The student acknowledges the responsibility for presenting the thesis to the Thesis Committee for discussion and evaluation resulting in either an S or a U grade. The student recognizes that failure to perform the elements of the thesis course can result in an unsatisfactory grade, or terminating the thesis activity resulting in no credits. The student acknowledges responsibility for effectively communicating with the Thesis Committee throughout the work period.

The student acknowledges that participation in the thesis activity is elected and not required. The student assumes full responsibility for any risk, damage, loss, or personal injury that may be sustained from the internship activity.

**10. Last day to drop classes in the semester:**

**11. Signatures:**

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ES Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis Host:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supporting Faculty Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

**COURSE ACTION FOR ES 499**

**Recommended By**

\_\_\_\_\_  
HEAD, DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Endorsed By**

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR, COLLEGE COURSES & CURRICULA COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
COLLEGE DEAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approved By**

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR, UNIVERSITY COURSES & CURRICULA COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR, COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved Effective Date