

Cold Spring Harbor High School Research Program

Philosophy of the Research Program

- To encourage the spirit of curiosity;
- To promote independent thought;
- To foster a nurturing environment;
- To provide a rich learning experience.

What can you research?

- Biological Science
- Environmental Science
- Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics)
- Engineering
- Behavioral Science
- Political Science
- Computer Science
- Mathematics

Introduction to Research I

This course is an exploratory course designed to nurture students who are motivated and intellectually curious about scientific processes and phenomena. You will be introduced to the skills essential to research. You will be encouraged to explore topics and ideas that interest you and focus on taking one project from inception to conclusion.

Topics covered in this course include:

- How to evaluate the validity of websites;
- How to access and utilize electronic databases;
- How to construct a bibliography;
- How to use basic statistical tools to evaluate data;
- How to write a research proposal;
- How to make an effective presentation.

This course meets every other day for one semester (Fall semester only).

How your quarterly grade will be determined

Tests

Tests in this course are infrequent. Tests will always be announced. If you miss a test you must take a make-up test. You must take the test on your first day back in school. Missed tests due to an illegal absence (i.e.: cutting class) will result in a zero.

Projects

There will be a number of projects that you will work on in class. In each case you will be asked to solve a problem or answer a question. Success is nice but effort is what matters.

Presentations

On several occasions you will make presentations to the class. The presentations will usually, but not exclusively, be based on your reading of journal articles.

Quarterly Grade Calculation

Your quarterly grade will be determined by the fraction:

$$\frac{\Sigma \text{ Earned Points}}{\Sigma \text{ Possible Points}} \times 100$$

Keep track of your grades and save all papers that are returned to you.