Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate: ___ NEW ___ MODIFY ___ DELETE

Local Unit: Molecular and Microbiology Department  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: BIOD  Course Number: 610

Full Course Title: Advanced Topics in Biodefense

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Advanced Topics

Credit hours: 1-4  Program of Record: Biodefense

Repeatable for Credit? ___ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to ___ hours

___ X_ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to 12 hours

___ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate): ___ X_ Lecture (LEC) ___ Lab (LAB) ___ Recitation (RCT)

___ Studio (STU) ___ Internship (INT) ___ Independent Study (IND) ___ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format 1-4 : 1-3 : 0-6  Course Level: GF(500-600) ___ X__ GA(700+)

Maximum Enrollment: 80  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: F04
Prerequisites or corequisites: Permission of instructor.

Catalog Description (35 words or less) Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.:
Different topics in different years, depending on instructor's specialty. Topics include legal, ethical, scientific and political aspects of biodefense, emphasizing current problems and research. May be repeated.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by: ________________________________ email: ________________

Department/Program: ________________________________ Date: ________________

College Committee: ________________________________ Date: ________________

Graduate Council Representative: ________________________________ Date: ________________
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
Course Coordination Form

Approval from other units: None. Since all BIOD courses are restricted to students within the BIOD program, there is little impact outside the program.

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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Graduate Council approval: ___________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ______________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: _______________________ Date: __________
COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED TOPICS IN BIODEFENSE: Non-proliferation
Date Offered: SPRING 2005

COURSE PROFESSOR: Christopher J. Davis OBE, MD, PhD

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:
A challenging course for the advanced student which is designed to nurture mentored in-depth exploration of complex subjects across the wide spectrum of biological weapons and biodefense issues. It is not didactic in nature and requires the student to explore, research and analyse information in collaboration with their fellows, form a well-rounded view of the topic and present the findings in a lucid manner to an audience under the guidance of the course tutor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
i. To gain in-depth knowledge of the designated topic consistent with the time available.
ii. To collaborate successfully with team members to allocate work tasks, coordinate information gathering, report writing and presentation of the results.
iii. To explore multiple information sources and be aware of their advantages and limitations.
iv. To write an effective and fully referenced paper on a complex topic and present the essential elements of the research in a public forum.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
The student must have completed the first year foundation courses for the masters/doctoral degree program in biodefense at GMU; BIOD 604 and 605

COURSE STRUCTURE:
i. The maximum number of students admitted to the course will be 20. Each intake of students will be divided on a random basis into groups of no more than six individuals. These individuals will work together as a team for the semester in addressing the topic allocated to them. Topics will be allocated to each team on a random basis.
ii. The course will begin with a series of presentations by the tutor which will outline the topics in such a way as to illustrate the scope of the subject and to highlight issues which the groups should address.
iii. The tutor will meet with the groups at intervals throughout the semester to monitor progress and give advice and guidance as necessary. The tutor will also be available for consultation with individuals or groups throughout the course. At the mid-term point all members of the class will meet with the tutor to review progress.
iv. The aim shall be for each group to produce a written thesis for review in class during the 10th week of the semester, allowing for further work and adjustments during the 11th week. The 12th week session will be used for a rehearsal of the presentations and the 13th week will be the occasion on which each group will present their findings in lecture form to the board of examiners and an open audience.

EXAMPLES OF TOPICS:
i. Decontamination of biologically contaminated public facilities in the US
ii. The biological weapons program of the former Soviet Union/Russia; 1989-2005.
iii. Security and biological research in the age of global terrorism – controls, classification and secrecy.
iv. Intelligence and its role in exposing biological weapons programs – 1900 to 2005.
vi. Iraqi biological weapons – “now you see them, now you don’t”.

ASSESSMENT
60% of the available marks will be allocated for the written thesis. 20% will be allocated for the oral presentation. 10% will be allocated individually as a result of a viva voce examination administered by the tutor and two other examiners to each student at the end the course. The thesis will be marked by the tutor with a second marking to be carried out by Dr. Van Hoek. The presentation will assessed by a board comprising the tutor, Professor Alibek, Professor Bailey, Dr Van Hoek and one external examiner. Throughout the examination process the student will be expected to display thorough knowledge of their topic, a critical approach to the research and acquisition of data underlying the thesis, the ability to work effectively as part of a team and good presentation skills.

Professor Christopher J. Davis OBE, MD, PhD
Course Tutor
1 April 2004