

Biology 4920F Seminar in Biology FALL 2023

Instructor Dr. Graeme M. Taylor gtaylor8@uwo.ca,

Zoom Time: Tuesday 2:30pm – 5:30 pm

Location:

Prerequisites: Restricted to Year 4 Honors Specialization in Biology and Scholars Electives.

If we go into another lockdown, zoom and OWL will be the primary **interface** and video recordings for assessments.

Mode	Dates	Time <i>EST – Eastern Standard Time</i>	Frequency**	Attendance
In person/zoom if needed			weekly	Mandatory

Course objectives: This course's primary focus is to develop further the skills necessary to search, understand, synthesize, discuss, and present (written and oral) on current biology topics. After completing this course, you should be able to speak more spontaneously, instinctively, and directly with an audience and learn how to adapt the presentation's complexity for different audiences. We will also take our skills to our community; this will be a core component of the course and facilitated by *Community Engaged Learning (CEL) at Western* (<http://experience.uwo.ca/index.html>).

Course website: An OWL website will be established for this course. Items posted to this website include required readings, videos, announcements, grades, useful URLs, and assignment instructions.

Evaluation and assessments:

10% - participation and leadership

15% - 10 minute talk in class and supportive 800 word essay

20% - 2000 word essay (research paper)

15% - research presentation based on your paper

40% - *CEL partner's evaluation, deliverables, reflective essay, exit talk

all final grades based on interviews with your instructor

Tentative Course Schedule:

Date	Scheduled Topics	Assignment Due	Assig. value
Sept 12	Introductions		
Sept 19	Community Engaged Learning (CEL)		
Sept 26	Essay and talk workshop	CEL partner assigned	
Oct 3	TBD		
Oct 10	10 min presentations	Short supportive essays	15% + talk
Oct 17	TBD		
Oct 24	Halfway review of CEL projects		
Oct 31	<i>Reading break</i>		
Nov 7	TBD		
Nov 14	Research Presentations	Research Paper & talk	20% & 15%

Nov 21	TBD		
Nov 28	TBD		
Dec 5	CEL presentations		40%

Please note the following instructions and regulations

Prerequisites

“Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.” (Western Academic Calendar).

Accessibility

Please contact Dr. Taylor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. For specific question regarding academic accommodations please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD): http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/index.html?academic_acc

Deadlines and submitting assignments

Your assignment is due on the day specified, ending at 10 pm; submit your video recording to a shared folder on Western OneDrive. Your writing, both in word and as a PDF, for this assignment will be forwarded to an OWL portal, and it will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day until the total value of the work is used up.

What to do if you miss a class

Unless academic consideration has been approved, missed classes will receive a grade of ‘0’. Zero for a missed class amounts to -3% of the participation grade – three classes missed will result in zero for participation. Those with the accommodation must still make up for the lost time by showing a higher level of engagement in remaining classes.

Please contact your Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the necessary documentation. It is your responsibility to then make alternative arrangements with your instructor once the accommodation has been approved and the instructor has been informed.

For policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences, see: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea (including an image) or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge using proper

referencing such as citations. Please ask Dr. Taylor if you are unsure how to do this! Please note: submitting two assignments on the same topic to two different courses falls within the realm of plagiarism.

Statement on Academic Offences

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.” (Western Academic Calendar).

Using Turnitin.com

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).” (Western Academic Calendar).

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

USC Support Services <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Success Centre <http://www.success.uwo.ca/careers/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.” (Western Academic Calendar)

Senate definition for meaning of letter grades.

A+ 90-100 One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level

A 80-89 Superior work which is clearly above average

B 70-79 Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory

C 60-69 Competent work, meeting requirements

D 50-59 Fair work, minimally acceptable

F below 50 Fail