

Biology 4920G Seminar in Biology FALL 2021

Instructor Dr. Graeme Taylor E-mail: gtaylor8@uwo.ca
Time: Tuesday 2:30pm – 5:30 pm
Location: Room NCB 293 (be prepared to use Zoom if necessary)
Prerequisites: Restricted to Year 4 Honors Specialization in Biology and Scholars Electives.
Required: We need to be flexible because of the Delta variant, so make sure you have:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

Zoom may be used if University guidelines change and we are not able to use an in-person **interface**. Zoom could also be used for video assessments.

Delivery mode:

This course will be delivered in person with the possibility to going completely online. If necessary, virtual sessions will be a combination of synchronous (live) and asynchronous (recorded).

Assessments: Written assessments (essay, journal, etc.), presentations in class (if we cannot be in-person these may be replaced with recorded videos, podcasts), participation.

Office hours: Send an e-mail to Dr. Taylor from your UWO account and we can arrange a mutually convenient time. We can meet in my office or on Zoom. Zoom meetings seemed to work well last year.

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*. Our CEL engagement might take the form of an online format, thereby maintaining a safe protocol in this ever-changing pandemic environment. The online medium may be challenging, but will also be fulfilling and will keep our community connections alive and thriving. In keeping with the above goals, if we go online, active and engaged participation via Zoom by all students is an essential part of this course.

Course OWL site: Items posted to this OWL site include required readings, videos, announcements, grades, useful URLs, and assignment instructions.

Course Assessment: Students will be evaluated on three ‘modules’: (i) Flame Challenge 30% (FC) (ii) Pamphlet 20%, and (iii) Community Engaged Learning (CEL) 40%. A further 10% of the course grade will be for weekly reports on your CEL development, Leadership and Participation.

Tentative Course Schedule: :

Date	Scheduled Topics	Assignment Due	Assignment value
Sep 14	Introductions & CEL		
Sep 21	Workshop on writing		
Sep 28	Workshop on public speaking		
Oct 5	Lobster challenge		
Oct 12	Student Presentations		
Oct 19	Student Presentations		
Oct 26	Student Presentations	Essay& Presentation	30%
Nov 2	Fall Reading Break		
Nov 9	Pamphlet talks		
Nov 16	Pamphlet talks	Pamphlet& Presentation	20%
Nov 23	Student CEL Presentations		
Nov 30	Student CEL Presentations		
Dec 7	Student CEL Presentations	CEL-Essays & Presentation	40%

*CEL = Community Engaged Learning

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

Assignments are due at the beginning of class (2:30 p.m. on the due date). Submissions after 2:30 p.m. are considered late. Each assignment must be submitted to OWL and will be checked

for plagiarism using Turnitin. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day until the total value of the assignment is used up.

What to do if you miss a class or a due date

When possible, notify Dr. Taylor in advance of the class or due date.

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the semester, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. You are not able to use the self-reporting option if you've already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year or the absence is more than 48 hours.

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are NOT met, you will need to seek accommodation through the Academic Counselling Office of your home Faculty and provide documentation (e.g., a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or other appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence). 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