

**Biology 4920F Seminar in Biology Fall 2022**

**Instructor** Dr. Graeme M. Taylor  
**Zoom Time:** Tuesday 2:30pm – 5:30 pm  
**Location:** PAB - 150

**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	Tuesday	[2:30-5:30PM]	weekly	Mandatory

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. G. M. Taylor	gtaylor8@uwo.ca	B&G 2066	81467	appointment

**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 (-3% for a single missed class) and leadership
- 10% - five minute (recorded) talk (directed towards introducing yourself and a topic) and a supportive 600 word essay (directed towards introducing yourself and a subject)
- 10% - three minute talk (video recorded) based on Three Minute Thesis (3MT) and a supportive 800 word essay
- 15% - 2000 word essay (research paper)
- 15% - 3MT video recorded talk on your research paper
- 40% - \*CEL partner’s evaluation, deliverables, reflective essay, exit talk (video recorded)

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

Date	Scheduled Topics	Assignment Due	Assig. value
Sep 13	Introductions & C.E.L		

Sep 20	Communication workshop		
Sep 27	Presentations	5 min in class talk & short essay	10%
Oct 4	TBD		
Oct 11	TBD	3MT Video/talk & short essay	10%
Oct 18	TBD		
Oct 25	<i>Reading break</i>		
Nov 1	Halfway review of CEL projects	2000 word research paper	15%
Nov 8	TBD	Short presentation on research	15%
Nov 15	TBD		
Nov 22	TBD		
Nov 29	TBD	CEL content as above*	40%
Dec 6	TBD		

**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](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 or a 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](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](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](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