

# Biology 4920F Section 002 Course Outline

*Draft: September 9, 2022*

## 1. Course Information

### Course Information

Course name: Biology 4920F Section 002.

Location: WIRB 1170; Time: Tuesdays, 2:30-5:30 pm

### List of Prerequisites

Completion of the 2000-level 'core' courses in Biology modules (Biochemistry 2280A, Biology 2244A/B or Statistical Sciences 2244A/B, Biology 2290F/G, Biology 2382A/B, Biology 2483A/B, Biology 2581A/B, Biology 2601A/B, Chemistry 2210A/B or Chemistry 2213A/B); at least 1.5 Biology courses at the 3000-level or above; and registration in Year 4 of an Honours Specialization module offered by the Department of Biology.

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.

## 2. Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Prof. Yolanda Morbey	<a href="mailto:ymorbey@uwo.ca">ymorbey@uwo.ca</a>	BGS 2074	X80116	By appointment

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

## 3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Course description: Current research in biology critically reviewed and discussed through a combination of student presentations and written assignments.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Critically evaluate media through the lens of biological science.
- Independently collect and synthesize information on a biological topic that is presented in the media.
- Communicate scientific knowledge in written and oral forms and for multiple audiences.

**Schedule:** Tuesday, 2:30-5:30 pm, in-person.

### **Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online and synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online.

## **4. Course Materials**

Students should bring their laptop, a notebook, and writing materials to class.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

### **Technical Requirements**

Stable internet connection, Office 365.

## **5. Methods of Evaluation**

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

25% - Engagement, professionalism, and class participation. Weekly written reflections (1% per week) will comprise 12% of this component. The remaining 13% will be assigned at the end of term by the instructor, and is based on characteristics including, but not limited to, professionalism, integrity, attitude, independence, cooperation, improvement, and contribution.

25% - Fact Sheet – draft due on Sept 30 (10%) + revision due on Oct 21 (15%)

30% - Presentation – draft due on Nov 14 (15%) + revision presented during last three weeks of classes (15%)

20% - Interviews – interviewers (10%) and interviewees (10%) will be evaluated on the same day as presentations.

Any course-specific conditions that are required to pass the course: a passing grade on the revised fact sheet and final presentation. The consequence of not meeting the requirement is a course grade of 45%.

## **6. Student Absences**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

**Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:**

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

Accommodated absences will be handled through make-up opportunities or re-weighting (fact sheet worth 25% with no draft; presentation worth 30% with no draft).

## 6. Accommodation and Accessibility

### Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

### Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## 7. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

**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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

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>).

## 8. Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.