

Integrated Science 1002Y: What Scientists Do

Course Outline: Fall/Winter 2026/27

1. Course Information

Course Title:	Integrated Science 1002Y: What Scientists Do
Section:	Lecture: 001
Calendar Description:	What are scientists, and who are they? Meet real scientists, explore careers in science and beyond, and connect with a student mentor in science. Through visiting speakers, discussions, tours, and self-reflection, students will garner an appreciation for what scientists actually do to help solve today's interdisciplinary problems.
Prerequisite:	Enrolment in Year 1 of the Western Integrated Science program.
Course Hours:	1.5 lecture hours approximately every two weeks.
Credit:	Non-credit. Pass/Fail
Lectures:	Fridays 2:30 – 4:30 pm, [REDACTED] Class activities held 2:45 pm – 4:15 pm on designated dates in schedule

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from the academic advising of your faculty of registration to enroll in it, you may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on your academic record. This decision may not be appealed.

2. Instructor Information

Instructor	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Emails:	Please use your @uwo.ca email address and specify “INTEGSCI 1002Y” within the subject of your email. I aim to respond to emails within 2 business days.
Office Hours:	Please email to make an appointment.

3. Course Overview, Learning Outcomes and Schedule

Course Overview

This interactive course introduces Integrated Science students to the roles, impact, and identities of current scientists. Students will have the opportunity to meet real scientists, explore diverse careers that integrate scientific disciplines, and reflect on their scientific learning and future scientific aspirations.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the interdisciplinary approaches taken by scientists to help solve scientific problems.
- Provide examples of diverse career paths taken by individuals with a science background.
- Identify science disciplines of interest for future study in the Integrated Science program.
- Describe some of the research opportunities available to students in the sciences.

Schedule

Each class will explore a different aspect of what scientists do. This schedule is subject to change and any changes will be announced in-class and/or on OWL. When possible, please bring a laptop or WiFi-enabled device to class. The “TBD” dates will be announced on OWL.

Class	Dates 2:45-4:15 pm (unless otherwise listed)	Topics
1	Friday, September 11 th	Introduction to Integrated Science
2	Friday, September 18 th	Meet Integrated Science Mentors
3	Friday, September 25 th	Study Strategies in Science Guest Scientist
4	Friday, October 23 rd	Western Science Tour with Integrated Science Mentors
5	Friday, November 13 th	Guest Scientist Science Issue
6	Friday, November 20 th	Guest Scientist Science Ethics and Academic Integrity
7	Thursday, December 3rd 6:30 – 8:30 pm	Community Engaged Learning Presentations by Integrated Science Mentors
8	Friday, January 8 th	Guest Scientist Time and Stress Management
9	Friday, January 15 th	Finding and Evaluating Scientific Information Guest Librarian
10	Friday, TBD	Exploring Scientific Careers
11	Friday, TBD	Exploring Science Programs: ITR for Integrated Science
12	Friday, TBD	Science Issue
13	Friday, April 2 nd 2:30-5:30 pm	Integrated Science Research Conference

4. Course Materials

All course material will be posted to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>.

There are no additional required materials for this course.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

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

5. Evaluation

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

This is a pass/fail course. Students must earn a **pass** in **each** of these four course components to earn a pass in the course:

Course Component	Due Date	Pass Requirements
In-Class Engagement	Throughout year	Must complete a minimum of 10 (out of 13) in-class learning activities
Written Reflection	Friday, November 27	Submission must meet pass expectations below
Science Careers Post	Friday, February 26 (+ 1 week for replies)	Submission must meet pass expectations below
Creative Reflection	Monday, April 5	Submission must meet pass expectations below

Refer to the Generative AI policy for each course component below.

Essential Learning Requirements:

Even when Academic Consideration is granted for missed coursework, the following is essential to earn a **pass** in this course:

- Earn a **pass** in **each** of these course components:
 - In-Class Engagement
 - Written Reflection
 - Science Careers Post
 - Creative Reflection

When a student has not demonstrated proficiency in an essential learning requirement listed above, and when the shortfall results from a granted Academic Consideration, they will be withdrawn (WDN) from the course. The student may appeal to the Associate Dean (Academic) for reinstatement with an Incomplete (INC) standing. Where an appeal for INC is granted, their maximum course load may be reduced during the term in which they complete the outstanding course requirements.

Component Descriptions

In-Class Engagement

Attend and engage in each class. Track your engagement by submitting a Learning Activity via OWL Quizzes (or other avenue, as instructed in class) at the end of each class.

Generative AI Policy: These engagement activities will only be meaningful if you are the one preparing your responses. Thus, no AI use is permitted for these submissions.

Written Reflection

Reflect on your scientific learning experience and respond to your selection of guiding reflection questions posted on OWL Assignments. Submit your 200-400 words reflection on OWL Brightspace.

- What aspect of having an integrated science mentor has been beneficial to you thus far?
- How has your integrated science mentor supported or connected with you thus far?
- What is one thing that has surprised you about your science education at Western thus far?
- What have you learned thus far about what scientists do?
- What have you learned thus far about who scientists are? Why does this matter?
- What is one thing you wish your science professors knew?
- What study strategies have been beneficial to you thus far? What do you plan to continue or change?
- Which parts of science capture your interest thus far? Why?
- Additional (as discussed in class)

Pass expectations:

- Submission responds to at least 3 of the above questions
- Submission discusses at least 7 meaningful points

Generative AI Policy: This reflection will only be meaningful if **you** are the one reflecting on your learning. Thus, you may not submit a reflection produced by generative AI. You may use AI to provide feedback on your idea clarity or grammar/spelling, but your submitted work must be your ideas communicated in your own words.

Science Careers Post

Explore one scientific career of interest and post an informative, engaging summary of your findings on OWL Discussions. Reply to two of your peer's posts. Consider the following aspects of this career:

- Educational pathway
- Day-to-day tasks
- Potential impact on the world/society
- Growth opportunities
- Highlight a real person in this position
- Quotes from or hyperlink to a job ad
- Hyperlink(s) to further information to explore
- Relevant, informative image(s)
- Questions or concerns related to this position
- Additional aspect (as discussed in class)

Pass expectations:

- Informative points provided for at least 6 of the above career aspects

- Post is organized and easy to follow
- Information is accurate and relevant
- Source information is provided for **each** piece of information (hyperlink or formal citation)
- At least two meaningful replies to posts made by classmates.
- Replies demonstrate engagement with the post (highlight a feature of interest, provide an additional point of interest, ask an extending question, etc.)

Generative AI Policy: To prepare your Career Post, you may use generative AI to find relevant sources and information, brainstorm ideas, organize your information, and even summarize your findings. However, **you** are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and relevance of your information, and for providing *original* source citations or hyperlinks for each item (ChatGPT is *not* a legitimate reference source for this assignment!). You may NOT use generative AI to prepare your replies to your classmates' posts, as these replies will only be meaningful if **you** are the one reflecting on these posts.

Creative Reflection

Reflect on your learning experience in science over the past two academic terms and where you plan to go in the future. Consider the following guiding questions. Submit a creative work to capture your reflection on some of these questions. A creative submission could be (but is not limited to) a piece of artwork with an accompanying written description, a podcast, a website, an infographic, a song, or a mind-map with clarifying descriptions. If your creative idea is not captured in this list, discuss your idea with your instructor in advance of your submission. The written/spoken component of this submission should be approximately 300-400 words.

- What area of science do you want to pursue and why?
- How did your mentor meet your expectations this year? What would you look for in a future mentor?
- What research/career opportunities capture your interest?
- What are things that scientists do that do not capture your interest?
- What is a challenging aspect of studying or working in science and why?
- What is a piece of advice you have for a student starting in the integrated science program next year?
- What did you learn about scientific research or communication that you hope to apply in the future?
- Additional (as discussed in class)

Pass Expectations:

- Submission addresses at least two of the above questions
- Submission communicates at least 7 meaningful points related to the above topics
- Submission is creative and incorporates more than just written sentences.

Generative AI Policy: This reflection will only be meaningful if **you** are the one reflecting on your learning. Thus, you may not submit a reflection produced by generative AI. You may use AI to provide feedback on your idea clarity or grammar/spelling, but your submitted work must be your ideas communicated in your own words, with your own artistic expression.

Information about Missed Coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage: https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within **48 hours** after the assessment date or submission deadline.

Engagement: If you miss a class (and thus miss out on the in-class learning activity submission), you must review the posted course materials/check-in with your classmates and submit the engagement submission **within 48 h** of the missed class (no academic consideration is required). If no engagement submission is received within 48-h, your score for this missed in-class engagement will be zero. You may submit a **maximum of two** engagement activities without attending the associated in-person class. The skills assessed in this engagement component are essential to this course. If you complete fewer than 10 engagement activities, you will not meet the requirements of this course. See Essential Learning Requirements above for what happens in that case.

Reflections and Science Careers Post: Students are expected to submit these assignments by the due dates listed. Should extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to **48 h** past the deadline without a late penalty and without academic consideration. If extenuating circumstances apply beyond 48 h after the deadline, reach out to your instructor directly. If a student earns a *fail* on a reflection or the science careers post, the student will have **one** opportunity to revise and resubmit the assessment. The skills assessed in these components are essential to the course. If a student does not pass these components, they will not meet the requirements of the course. See Essential Learning Requirements above for what happens in that case.

6. Additional Statements

6.1 Religious Accommodation

When a recognized religious holiday either requires a student to be absent from the University, or requires or prohibits an activity that makes it impossible for them to complete an academic requirement scheduled that day, they are entitled to accommodation. No student will be penalized for an absence for religious reasons, and an alternative means of satisfying the requirement will be arranged. This accommodation is provided in accordance with the University's policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

The student should submit their requests through the Student Absence Portal (SAP), identifying the conflict and the specific course component(s) affected (e.g., test, midterm, exam).

Students are responsible for finding out what was covered in any class they miss due to a religious observance, and for taking the appropriate steps to keep up with the course.

If a suitable arrangement cannot be reached between a student and their instructor, they should consult the Undergraduate Chair of the department offering the course, and if necessary, the Associate Dean (Academic) of the Faculty of Science.

For a list of recognized religious observances, please visit the calendars posted on the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion website - <https://www.edi.uwo.ca> (About Us – Resources – Additional Resources – Calendars).

6.2 Academic 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.

6.3 General Academic Policies

The website for Registrar Services is <https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>.

Use of @uwo.ca email: In accordance with policy, 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 email address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that emails received from the University at their official university address are attended to in a timely manner.

Requests for Relief (formally known as “appeals”)

Policy on Request for Relief from Academic Decision:

https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/requests_for_relief_from_academic_decisions.pdf

Procedures on Request for Relief from Academic Decision (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_requests_for_relief_procedure.pdf

6.4 Scholastic Offences

Policy on Scholastic

Offences: https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

Procedures on Scholastic Offences (Undergraduate):

https://uwo.ca/univsec//pdf/academic_policies/appeals/undergrad_scholastic_offence_procedure.pdf

Use of Generative AI Tools

Unless otherwise stated, the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Google Gemini, or similar platforms) is **not permitted** in the completion of any course assessments, including but not limited to: assignments, lab reports, presentations, tests, and final examinations.

Using such tools for content generation, code writing, problem solving, translation, or summarization—when not explicitly allowed—will be treated as a **scholastic offence**.

If the use of generative AI is permitted for a particular assessment, the conditions of use will be specified by the instructor in advance. If no such permission is granted, students must assume that use is prohibited. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification before using any AI tools in academic work.

6.5 Support Services

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

Mental Health Support. 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.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence. Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If a student has experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), they can find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, at:

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.

Accessibility for Coursework. A student may contact the course instructor if they require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to them. If they have any questions regarding accommodations, they may also contact Accessible Education at http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

Learning Development and Success. Learning-skills counsellors at Learning Development and Success (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help students improve their learning skills. The facility offers 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.

Student Councils

Student-run support services are offered by the University Students' Council (<https://westernusc.ca>) and the Science Students' Council (<https://www.westernssc.ca>).