

Integrated Science 3000Y: Discovering Research

Course Outline: FW 2026/27

1. Course Information

Course Title:	Integrated Science 3000Y: Discovering Research
Section:	Lecture: 001
Calendar Description:	Immerse yourself in a research environment and see what modern science is all about. Meet with researchers and discover the research being conducted at Western. Research activities may take place in a laboratory, in the field, or remotely depending on the nature of the project.
Prerequisite:	Enrolment in Year 3 of the Western Integrated Science program.
Course Hours:	Class meetings will be scheduled in September, based on student availability and calendar below.
Credit:	Non-credit. Pass/Fail

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special permission from the academic advising of your faculty of registration to enroll in it, you may be removed and withdrawn from this course in accordance with university policy. This may be done after the add/drop deadline of the academic term, and the course will be marked as withdrawn (WDN) on your academic record.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	
Emails:	I will strive to respond to your email within two business days. Please use your @uwo.ca email address and specify "INTEGSCI 3000Y" within the subject of your email.
Office Hours:	Please email your instructor to make an appointment.

3. Course Overview, Learning Outcomes & Schedule

Overview

This course provides Integrated Science students with the opportunity to obtain insight on scientific research at Western University prior their fourth-year thesis project. Students will contact 3-5 research groups and meet with current researchers to discuss their scientific endeavours and any challenges and

opportunities they may encounter when performing scientific research. Students will submit a reflection piece summarizing their discoveries.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Describe some of the research conducted by research groups at Western University
- Identify potential challenges, as well as opportunities, that one may encounter when conducting scientific research.
- Reflect on what scientific research actually entails.

Schedule

Class meeting dates and times will be finalized in September and posted on OWL, based on student availability and feedback shared in the initial survey. Any further updates will be announced on OWL.

Dates (to be posted on OWL)	Activity
Early in Term 1	CLASS: Introduction to Course
Into Term 1	CLASS: Activating Research Discovery
Anytime in Term 1	SEMINAR: Attend at least one research seminar of your choice
Early in Term 2	CLASS: Progress Discussion
Anytime in Term 2	SEMINAR: Attend at least one research seminar of your choice
Later in Term 2	CLASS: Sharing Findings with Class

4. Course Website & 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.

Online WHMIS training will be available through OWL, upon request. If a research group's principal investigator asks you to complete this training prior to a tour/shadowing opportunity, you **must** complete this training prior to that event.

5. Evaluation

Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates

This course involves connecting with research groups in the Faculty of Science and summarizing and reflecting on these experiences. Students are considered partners in the planning of the research experiences and assessment details. Detailed assessment descriptions and specifications of pass requirements will be shared on OWL after discussion as a class.

To earn a **pass** in the course, you must earn a **pass** in *each* of these three course components:

- Evidence of Research Connection
- Summary Reflection
- Sharing Findings

Assessment	Due Dates	Pass Requirements
Evidence of Research Connections	1 st - November 20 th , 2026 2 nd - February 12 th , 2027 3 rd - March 19 th , 2027 Additional - March 19 th , 2027	Three submitted evidence packages that meet the specifications on OWL
Summary Reflection	March 25, 2027	Meets specifications on OWL
Sharing Findings	End of Term 2 (Date TBA on OWL)	Meets specifications on OWL

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:
 - Evidence of Research Connections
 - Summary Reflection
 - Sharing Findings

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.

Otherwise, if you do not earn a **pass** in one of your components, a course grade of **fail** will be assigned. Students will have **one** opportunity to revise and resubmit a course assignment (i.e. one evidence package or one summary reflection) if a **fail** is initially earned.

Assessment Descriptions

Generative AI Policy: All submissions must be prepared in your own words. You may not submit or present an assignment produced by generative AI. The reflection and reporting components in this course will only be meaningful if you are the one preparing these submissions. That said, you may use generative AI to assist or provide feedback on your work, such as providing edits to a paragraph, composing interesting questions to ask researchers, or brainstorming ideas, but your submitted/presented work must be your ideas communicated in your own words.

Evidence of Research Connections

- Aim to connect with researchers from at least **two different departments**, if possible, to expand your integrated science perspective
- Submit an evidence package on OWL for each research group connection you have throughout the year (minimum of 3 evidence packages required)
- The evidence package includes **connection details** (e.g. researcher name(s) and roles, dates, key questions posed, response highlights, observations, etc.) and **post-interview reflection** (i.e. a paragraph of take-aways, observations, and connections to future career/education). Note: Audio/visual recording of meetings/interviews/tours/shadowing can only be taken and used with permission from researchers
- If more than one meeting/tour/shadowing activity occurs with the same research group, submit only one evidence package for that cumulative research experience.
- For greater reflective value, aim to submit each evidence package within **1 week** of the research connection conclusion.

Summary Reflection

- Respond to guiding questions and instructions (as discussed in class and posted on OWL).
- Refer to the two (or more) research seminars you attended.
- Approximately 500-700 words.

Sharing Findings

- Prepare an artifact summarizing your *Discovering Research* experience. Consider a collage, word cloud, simple infographic, or other creative item (as discussed in class and posted on OWL).
- Submit a photo/PDF of your artifact on OWL prior to your presentation.
- Present your artifact and share a summary and reflection on your experience in class.

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.

Evidence and Summary Reflection: Plan to submit each assessment in advance of the due date.

These assessments will be accepted up to 48 h after the due date with no late penalty (and no academic consideration required). If extenuating circumstances prohibit you from submitting your work even after the no late penalty period, email your instructor to discuss your situation. Students will have **one** opportunity during the term to revise and resubmit a course assignment (i.e. one evidence package or one summary reflection) if a **fail** is initially earned. The skills assessed in these course components are essential to this course. If you do not pass these assessments, you will not meet the requirements for this course. See Essential Learning Requirements above for what happens in that case.

Sharing Findings: If you are unable to present your findings on the specified date, reach out to your instructor as early as possible to discuss your situation. If you do not reach out to your instructor within 48 h of a missed presentation, a **fail** will be assigned for this component. The skills assessed in this component are essential to the course. If a student does not pass this component, 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>).