

# BIOLOGY PROFESSIONS ORIENTATION

**BIOLOGY 1050**

**Fall 2018**

**Instructor: Dennis Welker**

**dennis.welker@usu.edu**

Office Hours by appointment M-F between 11:10 and 12:30 in BNR 101

## **Objectives:**

- To help students gain factual knowledge about career opportunities in different biology professions and the steps needed to enter those professions.
- To help students develop skills and competencies that will aid them to undertake preprofessional activities and to apply to a professional school.
- To help students learn to find and use resources about biology professions and about the application processes for professional degree programs.

## **Course Description**

This course will provide students information about professional careers in biology and about the processes for applying to professional degree programs. The format of this course will involve presentations by biology professionals and classroom discussions as well as out-of-class assignments. A major goal is to enable students to be stronger candidates for entrance into a professional degree program by gaining a broader understanding of different professions in biology and of the educational and other requirements for specific degree programs.

## **Assignments**

A. Class participation/In-Class Assignments (120 points).

The success of this course depends upon your participation during the presentations by the guest speakers. Participation will be assessed by attendance and completion of in-class handouts. Students are expected to attend each class and to be prepared to contribute appropriate comments and questions to class discussions.

B. Out-of-Class Assignments (60 points).

You will complete four Out-of-Class assignments for this course, each about 1-2 pages.

The success of this course depends upon your thoughtful preparation of these class assignments. If for any reason you will be unable to submit work on time, contact me as soon as possible (dennis.welker@usu.edu). **I expect hardcopies of the reports in class the day they are due. Reports will be accepted up to one week late but your grade will be reduced.**

## **Bonus Point Policy:**

**If you are unable to attend some classes or miss the time deadline to submit an assignment report, I will permit you to earn bonus points by attending a biology related activity on campus and then writing up a one page report. Each bonus report will be worth up to 10 points.**

## **Grading Criteria (based on a total of 180 points from the in-class and out-of-class assignments)**

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 90-100%  | A-, A     |
| 80-89.9% | B-, B, B+ |
| 70-79.9% | C-, C, C+ |
| 60-69.9% | D, D+     |
| <60%     | F         |

**University Add/Drop Policies:** The last day to add this class or to drop this class without notation on your transcript is September 17, 2018. The last day to drop a class with a “W” notation on your transcript is October 29, 2018.

**The following policies as described in the USU Policy Manual will apply to this class:**

### **Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities**

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility.

### **Academic Integrity - "The Honor System"**

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

*The Honor Pledge:* To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

## **Grievance Process (Student Code)**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking - which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code:

[http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student\\_code.pdf](http://studentlife.tsc.usu.edu/stuserv/pdf/student_code.pdf) (Article VII. Grievances).

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

## **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students with physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, 797-2444 voice, 797-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

## **Withdrawal Policy and "I" Incomplete Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.