

# Spring 2021 BIOL-3055-LO1 XL Syllabus

## BIOL 3055 Syllabus

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Compare physiological and morphological traits across taxa
- Read and critique scientific literature
- Increase proficiency in analyzing and presenting data
- Improve understanding of the scientific processes
- Develop speaking and presenting skills

### Instructor

Megen Kepas - [megenkepas@gmail.com](mailto:megenkepas@gmail.com) (mailto:megenkepas@gmail.com)

### Teaching Assistant

Marilyn Wright - [wright.marilyn13@gmail.com](mailto:wright.marilyn13@gmail.com) (mailto:wright.marilyn13@gmail.com)

### Course Resources

No textbook required. All required literature and online resources will be provided via Canvas.

### Point Breakdown and Grade Scheme

#### Grading:

	Points Per Assignment	Total Points Possible
Lab Assignments (8)	20	160
Writing Draft 1	40	40
Writing Draft 2	40	40
Writing Assignment Final	150	150
Final Presentation	100	100
Presentation Review	10	10
<hr/>		
Total Points Possible		500

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Range</b>
A	100 % to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 % to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 % to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 % to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 % to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 % to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 % to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 % to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 % to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 % to 60.0%
F	< 59.0 % to 0.0%

## Course Schedule/Outline

Week 1	Lab: - Biological Anthropology lab lactose tolerance and pigmentation	Due: - Turn in lab worksheets
Week 2	Lab: - Vertebrate hydration lab. Teleost fish living in different environments	Due: - Turn in Teleost lab writeup
Week 3	Lab: - Intro to morphosource. - Access the website and begin finding scans. - Design experiment for next week and come up with a hypothesis	

Week 4	Lab: - Finish morphosource assignment. Contact Instructor for help	Due: - Morphosource final analysis and conclusion
Week 5	Lab: - HHMI Elephant communication lab	Due: - Elephant communication worksheet
Week 6	Lab: - Zooniverse bird color activity (online)	Due: - Bird coloration lab summary due
Week 7	In lab: - Corticosterone dataset and virtual lab	
Week 8	In lab: - Finish Cort data analysis and summary	Due: - Cort data and results summary
Week 9	Lab: - Types of immunity, vertebrates and invertebrates	Due : - Immune system lab writeup
Week 10	Lab: - Final Presentations	Due: - Final presentations
Week 11	Lab: - Final Presentations	Due: - Final presentations

## Writing Assignment

In compliance with the CI course requirements, you will be required to complete a 10-page writing assignment. A rough draft of the paper will be submitted on two different occasions prior to the final submission. Feedback will be given after each rough draft submission. See the writing assignment module for additional details.

First Draft Due: 2/13/2021

Second Draft Due: 3/20/2021

Final Paper Due: 4/17/2021

## Final Presentations

Final presentations will cover the material studied for the term paper and will be 5 minutes long. You will also be evaluating classmate presentations for participation points.

## Attendance and Excused Absences Policy

If you are unable to meet a deadline or complete the weekly assignments on time, please contact your instructor or TA directly.

# Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at [libguides.usu.edu/rc](http://libguides.usu.edu/rc). (<http://libguides.usu.edu/rc>)

# Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article V Section V-3 (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5>) for more information.

# University Policies & Procedures

## COVID-19 Classroom Protocols

In order to continue to provide a high standard of instruction at USU, and to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, students are asked to follow certain classroom protocols. These protocols are in place not only for your safety but also the safety of the rest of the campus community. You will be asked to clean your desk area at the start of each class, sit in designated seats, wear face coverings, and follow dismissal instructions. There may be individual medical circumstances that prevent some students from using face coverings. These circumstances will be rare, but if they do exist, we ask that everyone be respectful. It is imperative that we each do our part so that on-campus instruction can continue.

## 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. Faculty Code Policy #403 (<http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf>) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

## Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. 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.

## Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism:** 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 using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6>)

## Sexual Harassment/Title IX

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 (<http://www.usu.edu/policies/339>) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU's Office of Equity (<https://equity.usu.edu/>) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305 (<http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/>)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

## Withdrawal Policy and "I" 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.

## Students with Disabilities

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<http://www.usu.edu/drc/>) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-

2444, [drc@usu.edu](mailto:drc@usu.edu) (mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

## Diversity Statement

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: <https://studentaffairs.usu.edu> (<https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/>), (435) 797-1712, [studentservices@usu.edu](mailto:studentservices@usu.edu) (mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: <https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services> (<https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services>), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/>), (435) 797-1728, [access@usu.edu](mailto:access@usu.edu) (mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture>), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/>), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: <https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity> (<https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity/>), (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:

The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State

University: <https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode> (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/>)

## Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7>).

## Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- Student Conduct (<http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct>)
- Student Code (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/>)
- Academic Integrity (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6>)
- USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures (<http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty-life/syllabus.cfm>)
- USU Academic Policies and Procedures (<http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=546>)
- Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy (<http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf>)

## Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

## Mental Health

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events

may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (<https://counseling.usu.edu>).

Students are also encouraged to download the “SafeUT App” (<https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/programs/safe-ut-smartphone-app>) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.