

**“Biology First Year Experience” Biology 128-01**  
**Tuesday, 10:00 – 10:50 am, ISC 136**  
**FALL 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Jani E. Lewis  
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Office hours: Tuesday, 1 – 3 pm and Friday, 8 – 10 am and by appointment.

- A. **Course Objective:** This course is intended for students considering a major in Biology or Biochemistry. It is meant to engage students in their academic program and the college. The goals of the course are to give students a sense of community, provide help with study skills and introduce students to potential resources available at the college. 1(1-0) (S/U).
- B. **Suggested Text** (not absolutely required but it is required for your biology laboratory so it is a great investment!): "A student handbook for Writing in Biology" by Karin Knisely.
- D. **Grading:** This class is graded using an S/U system. A grade of S (satisfactory – is equivalent to a grade of C or higher). Students must complete all of the in-classroom and out of classroom assignments to obtain a grade of S. There will be between 15-20 assignments either to be done in class or outside of class. In addition, attendance will be taken at each class. To get an S you must complete at least 80% of the assignments and not miss more than 1 class unless you have an excusable reason (see excusable reasons for missing class, part F. Please note that the list of assignments is only partially complete below and a more complete list will appear on your canvas page.
- E. **Learning outcomes:**
1. Students will develop a sense of community both within the college and the department by being introduced to faculty, staff and other students within the department and by attending programs and meetings of campus organizations.
  2. Students will improve their study skills in biology and other sciences by doing exercises to make them aware of study habits and tactics.
  3. Students will be introduced to the wide variety of resources available at the college through meetings with several personnel from those different offices as well as exercises meant to engage students in interactions with these valuable college resources.
  4. Students will explore the jobs available to those who pursue a B.A. or B.S. in Biology.
- F. If you can't attend one of the classes for excusable reasons you need to contact Dr. Lewis as soon as you can. Excusable reasons for missing a class are illness and family emergencies. In each of these cases you must have appropriate documentation such as a doctor's excuse or release from the Student Health Center.

**Accommodations:** SUNY Geneseo will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities. Accommodations will also be made for medical conditions related to pregnancy or parenting. Students should contact the Office of Disability Services (585-245-5112) and their faculty to discuss needed accommodations as early as possible in the semester.

**Class Dates and Topics**

Class topics will be announced the week before class in order to increase flexibility of the sessions. I will send out announcements on canvas as well with reminders about what you need to complete for the following week as well as where to meet should we be meeting elsewhere on campus.