

BIOL 128: Freshman Experience in Biology

Thursdays | 10:00-10:50 AM | ISC 137

Why are you here?

During this first semester, you will be participating in a program designed especially for you. Our Freshman Experience in Biology was created to offer you appropriate study and organizational tools, a look at career opportunities, and small-group faculty mentoring and advising--all focused around your biology interests and ultimate career goals. Only 40 first-year students total have been selected to participate in this special course.

What is this course about?

This course is intended for students considering a major in Biology or Biochemistry, and 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 resources available at the college. This course is designed for freshmen. Other students may be able to enroll if space permits. Graded on S/U basis. Credits: 1(1-0).

Who is the instructor of this course?

Instructor: Dr. Suann Yang

Office: ISC 256

Email: yang@geneseo.edu (preferred)

Phone: 245-5311

Office Hours: Mon 1:00-2:00 PM, Wed 3:00-4:00 PM, Thurs 11:00-12:00 AM, or by appointment

What will you get out of this course?

The intended learning outcomes for this course are:

1. Students will develop a sense of community both within the college and the department by being introduced to faculty, staff and other students.
2. Students will improve their study and computer skills in biology and other sciences.
3. Students will be introduced to the wide variety of resources available at the college.
4. Students will generate a four-year curriculum plan.
5. Students will explore career opportunities in biology and the coursework and experiences needed to be competitive for their career choice.
6. Students will learn what constitutes academic dishonesty and investigate SUNY-Geneseo's policies on academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

What are the required course materials?

1. Laptop
2. The following software
 - R software (free download, <https://cran.r-project.org/>)
 - RStudio (free download, <https://www.rstudio.com/products/RStudio/#Desktop>)
 - Microsoft Office (free to all Geneseo students, <https://wiki.geneseo.edu/display/cit/Software+at+Geneseo>)
3. Paper (lined or unlined) for activities in class
4. There is not a required textbook for the course. Resources will be posted on Canvas, SUNY Geneseo's online course management system. You can access Canvas through My Geneseo.

How do grades work in this class?

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 attend at least 13 sessions. Students must also be prepared for and participate in completing assignments during each session to obtain a grade of S. Students will be awarded a U if they prepare for, attend, and participate in less than thirteen sessions.

What are the expectations for attendance and participation?

Because each class session will rely on discussion and other group work, please be on time and prepared for participating in class. Your classmates will also appreciate it if you can inform me of absences ahead of a missed class.

What is the policy for plagiarism and academic dishonesty?

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty (cheating, turning in another student's work as your own) will not be tolerated. Evidence of academic dishonesty will result in unpleasant actions, such as including notifying the department chair and Dean of the College, which can result a report filed with the Dean of Students.

According to the Student Code of Conduct (http://www.geneseo.edu/dean_office/dishonesty), plagiarism includes the following:

- A. direct quotation without identifying punctuation and citation of source;
- B. paraphrase of expression or thought without proper attribution;
- C. unacknowledged dependence upon a source in plan, organization, or argument.”

Are accommodations available in this class?

Yes! 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 Dean Buggie-Hunt in the Office of Disability Services (tbuggieh@geneseo.edu or 585-245-5112) and their faculty to discuss needed accommodations as early as possible in the semester.

What are we doing each week?

I may adjust the topics and dates during the semester; be assured I will inform you of any changes in a timely fashion. You may want to use the schedule to keep track of attendance by checking off each completed week.

DATE	TOPICS	NOTES
<i>Learning to be a first-year biology student</i>		
30 Aug	Introductions	Cameo: Provost Stacey Robertson
6 Sep	What is the science behind effective studying?	Cameo: Vice Provost Glenn Geiser-Getz
13 Sep	What is the science behind effective studying (cont'd)?	Cameo: Dept Chair Robert O'Donnell
20 Sep	How do we get more out of reading our textbooks?	Guest: Assoc Prof Brian Morgan, School of Education
27 Sep	How do we manage our time more wisely?	Guest: Alex Carlo, Director for Lauderdale Counseling Services
<i>Learning to be a biology major</i>		
4 Oct	What is R and RStudio?	Cameo: Chip Matthews, Director of Student Life
11 Oct	What is plagiarism, and how do we avoid it?	No class meeting. Attend a GOLD Plagiarism workshop by 12 Oct.
18 Oct	How do we figure out what classes bio majors take?	Cameo: TBA
25 Oct	How do we figure out what classes bio majors take (cont'd)?	Cameo: Vice President Bob Bonfiglio
1 Nov	How can we manage stress?	Guest: Alex Carlo, Director for Lauderdale Counseling Services
<i>Learning to be a biologist</i>		
8 Nov	What do biologists do when they grow up?	Guest: Career Services TBA
15 Nov	How do biologists do scientific library research?	Guest: Milne Librarian Jon Grunert
22 Nov	Thanksgiving	No class meeting. Enjoy the break!
29 Nov	What kind of research do biologists do?	Cameo: TBA
6 Dec	What kind of biologist am I?	Cameo: TBA
17 Dec	Final Exam (8:00-10:30 AM)	Location TBA