

**Biology 297**  
**Undergraduate Lab Assistant**  
**Course Syllabus – Fall 2019**  
**Monday Evening, 6:30-7:20 PM**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Harold Hoops, ISC- 353  
Telephone: (585) 245-5378  
Office Hours: M 8:30-9:30, T: 3:00-4:00, W 4:00-5:00, R 9:30-10:30, & F  
8:30-9:30, or by appointment.  
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**Course description & Teaching Philosophy:**

Students enrolled in Biology 297, Biology Lab Assistant, will assist the Undergraduate Laboratory Instructor and faculty supervisor in lab sections in Biology 106, Contemporary Biology Laboratory. Biology 297 students will take part in weekly instructional activities. Weekly class meetings (Monday, 6:30 PM) will emphasize preparation for lab and discussion of topical instructional strategies.

**Text and materials:**

Material will be available form Canvas or given to you during our weekly meeting.

**Evaluation:**

Class participation (interaction with students, engagement during laboratory preparation)	30%
Observation of teaching by your instructor and ULI	30%
Reflective writing assignments	15%
Review of lab and quiz	25%

1. Class participation will be assessed by direct observation by members of the instructional team including the course coordinator, the faculty advisor, and the ULI.
2. Many weeks you will be asked to teach or demonstrate something for the class. The faculty supervisor and your ULI will observe you and provide feedback.
3. You will be asked to evaluate at least one laboratory write-up and one quiz. For each, you will evaluate both the pedagogy and writing and prepare a

marked-up copy for the instructor. The goal is to learn to evaluate written labs and to continuously improve the laboratory exercises.

**Grading scheme:**

In order to receive an A, you must: (1) attend and participate *enthusiastically* in the weekly meetings as well as the Biology 106 lab to which you are assigned, (2) be consistently punctual and well-prepared for lab, (3) perform the instructional activities assigned to you with care, attention and enthusiasm, (4) communicate well with students in lab including initiating conversations with students, (5) work well with your faculty supervisor and lab instructor and (6) show growth through the semester.

A B grade will reflect serious problems with one category or lesser problems in two categories. If you exhibit serious problems in two categories or minor problems across several categories you will receive a C. If you have serious problems in more than 2 categories, you will receive a D. If you are negligent or have problems in 3 or more categories you will fail.

**Course Goals:**

This course has three major main objectives; the first is to gain an understanding of how the Biol 106 course is designed from the instructional perspective, the second is to practice small group student instruction, and the third is to observe and assist the Undergraduate Laboratory Instructor (ULI) and Faculty supervisor.

**Learning Outcomes for Biology 297:**

Upon completion of this course, through the evaluation methods described above, students will:

1. Understand the structure and learning outcomes of the Biol 106 Course.
2. Demonstrate the ability to reflect on experiences in the classroom and suggest ways to alter teaching practices to improve learning.
3. Develop and teach mini-lessons on topics related to lab material using pre-determined learning objectives as a guide.

**Accommodations:**

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