

**Biology 397**  
**Biology Lab Instructor: General Biology**  
**Course Syllabus – Spring 2021**  
**Monday Evening, 4:30-5:20+ PM**

**Course Instructors:**

**Dr. Robert Feissner** (Office: ISC 356, Phone: 245-5022, e-mail: [feissner@geneseo.edu](mailto:feissner@geneseo.edu))  
Office hours: Wednesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:00, via Zoom and by appointment.

**Course description:**

Students enrolled in Biology 397, Biology Lab Instruction, will serve as the Undergraduate Laboratory Instructor (ULI) for one section of Biology 116, General Biology Laboratory. ULIs will take part in weekly instructional activities. Weekly class meetings (Monday, 4:40 PM) will emphasize preparation for lab and discussion of topical instructional strategies. In addition to teaching one lab section, Biol 397 students will be responsible for grading student assignments, maintaining a class gradebook, and holding a regularly scheduled office hour to provide additional assistance for students.

**Class Meeting Times and Requirements:**

It is expected that all student will attend a laboratory preparation meeting every week during the semester for which labs are in session. Additionally, Biol 397 students are expected to attend all class meeting of Biol 116 for which they have been assigned as Instructor, as well as one weekly office hour. A general schedule can be found on the last page of this syllabus.

**Text and materials:**

Lab exercises and ULI preparation guides for Biol 116 will be available on-line. An introductory biology textbook is also useful.

**Evaluation:**

1.	Class participation (Monday night lab & seminar meetings)	20%
2.	Daily responsibilities (Grading, maintaining gradebooks, holding office hours, etc.)	20%
3.	Observation of teaching	60%

1. **Class participation** will be assessed by direct observation during the ULI meetings, and by short writing assignments done either in class or outside of class.
2. **Daily Responsibilities.** ULIs are responsible for grading lab reports and lab quizzes in a timely manner and maintaining an updated gradebook. ULIs must hold a weekly office hour to help students with questions. Furthermore, ULIs must be accessible via email throughout the semester to address student questions. Assessment for this category will be made by monitoring online gradebooks and discussing grading and office hour issues.
3. **Teaching observation.** The Course coordinator will observe your teaching in addition to your faculty supervisor (if it is not the same person). Part of observing your teaching will include

examining your written plan for the day. You will know in advance when you will be observed (at least 24 hours' notice). You are expected to be on time for your teaching and office hours responsibilities, to assess and evaluate your students fairly at all times, and to consider the suggestions and comments of the teaching team in the management of your classroom, and the presentation of important material to your students.

**Grading scheme:**

In order to receive an A, you must: (1) attend and participate enthusiastically in Monday night class meetings, (2) be consistently punctual and well-prepared for lab as well as class meetings, (3) turn in excellent assignments on time, (4) show evidence of reflective teaching practice, including efforts to improve based on your reflection and feedback from others, (5) show evidence of careful, fair and prompt assessment of students, (6) keep accurate records, maintain appropriate security and confidentiality, and provide readable summaries of grades to faculty supervisor or course coordinator when required, (6) maintain good communication with students throughout lab including initiating conversations with students, (7) work well with your faculty supervisor and lab assistant. You will receive a B if there are 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 seriously negligent, or if you have problems in 3 or more categories you will fail.

**Schedule of topics:**

See the Biology 116 syllabus for additional information about the schedule of laboratories in Biology 116. That schedule will govern our Monday night meetings.

**Course Goals:**

This course has two major main objectives; the primary objective is to teach the Biol 116 curriculum to one section of Biol 116 via direct instruction, weekly office hours, and graded assignments, the second is to develop an understanding of leadership, teamwork, and class management.

**Learning Outcomes for Biol397:**

- Upon completion of this course, through the evaluation methods described above, students will:
1. Develop the skills needed to teach one section of Biol 116.
  2. Understand the learning objectives of the Biology Lab course they teach.
  3. Demonstrate a commitment to providing the best learning opportunities for their students.

**Accommodations:**

SUNY Geneseo is dedicated to providing an equitable and inclusive educational experience for all students. The Office of Accessibility will coordinate reasonable accommodations for persons with physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities to ensure equal access to academic programs, activities, and services at Geneseo. Students with letters of accommodation should submit a letter to each faculty member and discuss their needs at the beginning of each semester. Please contact the Office of Accessibility Services for questions related to access and accommodations.

Office of Accessibility Services  
Erwin Hall 22

(585) 245-5112

[access@geneseo.edu](mailto:access@geneseo.edu)

[www.geneseo.edu/accessibility-office](http://www.geneseo.edu/accessibility-office)

**BIOL 116: General Biology Laboratory Spring, 2021 - Lab schedule: revised 1/21/21**

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Laboratory</b>	<b>Quizzes and Notes</b>
1	Feb. 1	Intro to Biol 116 Safety and Dichotomous keys.  <b>Week 1 will be a SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE lab meeting. Be prepared to meet at your normal lab meeting time. All Labs starting week 2 will be in-person.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Prelab meetings will be recorded and posted to Canvas by 2:00 PM on Monday afternoons (or earlier) Review is required before your lab meeting.</b></li><li>• Practice Quiz</li></ul>
2	Feb. 8	Diversity and Taxonomy Part I (Skulls)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QUIZ #1</li></ul>
3	Feb. 15	Phylogeny, Excel, and, Introduction to Data Analysis using R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QUIZ #2</li></ul>
4	Feb. 22	Diffusion Lab - dilutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QUIZ #3</li></ul>
5	Mar. 1	Hiatus week - No in-lab meeting	<i>n/a</i>
6	Mar. 8	Daphnia Lab Part I - tea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QUIZ #4</li></ul>
7	Mar. 15	Daphnia Lab Part II – beta blockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QUIZ #5</li></ul>
8	Mar. 22	Hiatus week - No in-lab meeting	<i>n/a</i>
9	Mar. 29	Microbiology Lab Part I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QUIZ #6</li></ul> <b>**BRING GOGGLES TO LAB THIS WEEK**</b>
10	Apr. 5	Microbiology Lab Part II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QUIZ #7</li><li>• <b>**BRING GOGGLES TO LAB THIS WEEK**</b></li></ul>
11	Apr. 12	Microbiology Lab Part III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>**BRING GOGGLES TO LAB THIS WEEK**</b></li><li>• QUIZ #8</li></ul>
12	Apr. 19	Hiatus week - No in-lab meeting	<i>n/a</i>
13	Apr. 26	Microbiology Lab Part IV Review Chapter 7 from <i>Writing in Biology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>**BRING GOGGLES TO LAB THIS WEEK**</b></li><li>• QUIZ #9</li></ul>
14	May 3	Group Oral Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• QUIZ #10 – Review Quiz</li><li>• Schedule will be established week of 4/26</li></ul>
15	May 10	Lab Final Exam (online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Online, 16 hour window</i></li></ul>