

## BIOL 2005 Journal Topics in Biology

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**Instructor:**  
**E-Mail:**  
**Phone:**  
**Office:**  
**Office Hours:**

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### **I. Course Description**

A course in the analysis, evaluation, and communication of scientific research in the field of biology. Students will discuss, present, and write about hypothesis driven research published in peer reviewed biology journals. Both the instructor and students will choose classic and contemporary articles that display the scientific method at work.

**Credit:** 1 credits, 1 class hour

**Prerequisite:** Completion of all competencies in Learning Support reading and writing

### **II. Course Outcomes and Topics**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Describe and use the scientific method.
- Analyze and evaluate results from peer-reviewed biology journal articles.
- Examine and express biological concepts clearly in discussion, presentation, and writing.
- Find and use resources about biological research.

### **Course Topics**

- Scientific method.
- Peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Basic statistics.
- Leading a discussion.
- Conducting an oral presentation.
- Writing a scientific paper.
- Preparing graphs.
- Avoiding plagiarism.
- Preparing citations.

### **III. Required Materials:**

A Short Guide To Writing About Biology, 7<sup>th</sup> edition by Pechenik, J.A. (Publisher: Longman, text ISBN 0205667279)

### **IV. Course Policies**

#### Attendance Policy

Each Instructor will provide information regarding his/her attendance policy. Failure to attend class will result in a final course grade of "FA" or "FN" (see explanation below), depending on the individual instructor's course policy.

FA= failure, attendance-related (unofficial withdrawal) Last recorded date of attendance required

FN= failure, never attended class (unofficial withdrawal)

Assessment and Grading: \*\*\*Subject to change at instructor's discretion  
Assignments/Essays/Presentation

Final calculation of the course grade will be based on the following percentages:

#### GRADING SCALE

A = 89.5 - 100.00

B = 79.5 - 89.49

C = 69.5 - 79.49

D = 59.5 - 69.49

F = Less than 59.5

There will be NO dropped grades; however, extra credit will be offered throughout the semester. The final exam cannot be made up under any circumstances. Exams cannot be made up and an absence will result in a 0 for that day's activity.

### **Student Communication Channels**

It is the student's responsibility to check NS Online (D2L) and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. NS Online contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

### **V. ADA Statement**

Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you wish to request any special accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Students Disabilities Office. Such Services must have proof of

documentation that is not over 3 years old. Contact the Disabilities Coordinator at 353-3721.

## **VI. Classroom Behavior**

Nashville State Community College has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or in conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College. Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but is not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.).

**Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or unattended on campus.**

## **Academic Dishonesty (Honor Code)**

Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. "Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words" (A Writer's Reference 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else's work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor's permission, allowing someone else to copy or use your work, using someone else's work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member's signature.

In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty the instructor has the authority to assign an "F" or a "Zero" for the exercise, paper, or examination or to assign an "F" for the course.

**NOTE: This syllabus is meant simply as a guide and overview of the course and dates of assessments, etc. are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.**