

Biology 114 Lab Winter 2016

Note: This is WKU's online biology lab class. The course is delivered **completely online**. As such you will be expected to thoroughly understand how to use your computer and the internet. **If you have problems using your computer, please drop this class**. The online class material can be found at <http://ecourses.wku.edu>. Login using the instructions found on that page.

We will be using the LabSmart laboratory simulation developed by McGraw-Hill. This will have the format of an e-text and will be accessed through Blackboard. **Registering for this lab obligates you to purchase the LabSmart system.** There is NOT another text to buy for this lab. You will be billed by the university text for your LabSmart manual, so you will not need to use an access code or a credit card to log into the system. Follow the directions under the "START HERE" tab in Blackboard and described in the "Introduction" Tegrity video that walks you through the course.

Instructor: Dr. Kerrie McDaniel
Email: Kerrie.mcdaniel@wku.edu

McGraw-Hill Help Number: 1-800-331-5094: If you have technical difficulties with LearnSmart, use this phone number for technical support.

BIO 114 Course Description – 1 hr. credit. A laboratory course correlated with BIOL 113 for non-science majors emphasizing the scientific process, biological concepts and biological organization. This course fulfills the Natural Science Explorations Category of Colonnade.

Natural Science Exploratory Category of Colonnade

This course fulfills the Natural Science Exploratory Category of Colonnade. Students will gain the ability to:

1. Demonstrate and understand the methods of scientific inquiry in biology
2. Explain basic concepts and principals in biology
3. Apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in biology
4. Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance

As these processes are studied, the student should:

- learn to think analytically about the experimental processes
- be able to analyze and focus on the best way of determining an appropriate procedure to answer a question,
- gather, interpret, and draw conclusions based on data.

- communicate in ways appropriate to the biological sciences, about the processes studied and results obtained,
- become familiar with the use of computers to gather and analyze data.

Winter Term- The winter term reduces a semester's worth of lab exercises and condenses them into 3 weeks! That means that every "day" in winter term is equal to a "week" of regular term. When the virtual lab exercises refer to a specific "week", that is a "day" for us! Winter term moves very quickly and you will have to work hard to make sure that you meet deadlines and do NOT fall behind!

Introduction - Lab exercises include virtual exercises focused on collecting and analyzing data. This class requires a lot of work! A lot of work on both your and my part. If you are not prepared to do the work, please do not register for this class.

Study Strategies: Keep up! Work on Biology 114 everyday so that you do not get behind. This is NOT a course that can be completed in one night! Pay close attention to what you are doing in the simulations. It is easy to "slop" through the experiments and have no idea what you did. This will make answering questions about the labs more difficult and will actually force you to spend MORE time on the exercise. THINK about what you are doing and why you are doing it!

Tegrity Videos: These short videos will give you an introduction to the content covered in the day's lab. The content is also being covered in your Biology 113 lecture. If you are taking both in the winter term, there will be times when we cover material in lab that you have not yet talked about in lecture and vice versa. Remember, you can always use your lecture textbook as a reference as well as any other references you have available to you.

Learn Smart Labs: This course will be guided by the McGraw-Hill Learnsmart online modules. You will complete 11 modules (worth 25 points each). To receive full credit, be sure to complete all sections of each module. A module will be assigned each day (because each day in winter term= one week of regular term!)

The questions throughout each module will check your understanding of the core concepts before the materials is actually introduced. Your responses will allow your learning experience to be tailored to your level of knowledge of the material. The labs are meant to facilitate your learning and not evaluate your knowledge but will be graded based on completion. Carefully consider your responses, and follow up on incorrect answers by reviewing the supplemental material and taking notes as you go.

For help with LearnSmart labs, refer to the FAQ and the video tutorials at the top right of the page.

Quizzes: Each week a 20 point quiz over the previous week's material will be available. You can only access the quizzes ONE time, so make sure you are ready to take them before you open the quiz. These will be timed. Make sure you have a quiet spot, a good internet connection and plenty of time to complete the quiz.

Grades: Grades will be determined based on the percentage earned out of total points possible from weekly quizzes and mastery of LabSmart labs. Your grades will be updated on Blackboard under "My Grades". Check your grades often so that you have an idea of where you stand!

Grading scheme Format	Points
3 Quizzes @ 20 pts each	60
11 LearnSmart Labs @25 points each	275
Total Points	335

> 90% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, below 60% = F

At any point during the semester you can easily calculate your cumulative grade so far: (sum of points earned to date/sum of points possible to date)*100 = earned percentage grade to date

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act: Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), if you are 18 years old or older, I cannot discuss your grades, etc. with your parents.

Academic Misconduct: Dishonesty on quizzes, exams, or written assignments (see WKU's plagiarism statement below) will result in a failing grade for the class. Computers are wonderful things. Each time you send me an assignment the computer tells me where you are and when you sent it (and more if I wish). This means I can tell when two people take the same quiz or assignment from the same computer within a short period of time. If the assignment is for credit then this is cheating and it will not be tolerated. I also know how to use Google, just as you do, and I will search your Quizzes, Exams, and Projects for plagiarized material.

WKU's Plagiarism Definition: "To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism."

Withdrawals and Audits: If you wish to audit or withdraw from the course you should do so by the dates mandated by the University. Be sure you are aware of these dates because credit for the course will not be changed to an audit after the university designated time. You also cannot drop the class or change to Audit or

Withdraw after the designated time. Be aware that IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DROP THE CLASS. Do not assume that I will do this for you because you will very likely end up with a grade for the class. University policy states, "Students who, without previous arrangement with the instructor or department, fail to attend the first two class meetings of a course meeting multiple times per week or the first meeting of a class that meets one time per week MAY be dropped from the course; however, students are responsible for officially dropping any course for which they have enrolled."

Disabilities: "Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services."