

Course Syllabus

Spring 2022

Instructor Information

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Contacting me

Please feel free to contact me whenever you want via e-mail. My intent is to reply within 24 hours.

Course restriction and notes

Graduate standing. BIOL 500 is required for the MS in Biology for both non-thesis and thesis options. BIOL 500 will no longer count towards the Graduate Certificate Program starting fall 2022.

University Policies

As a WKU student enrolled in this course you have certain rights and entitlements established by federal law and described in University policies.

Information regarding the request of an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act can be found by clicking on the "ADA Accommodation" tab at:
<https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/>

Information regarding the reporting of discrimination or harassment under Title IX of the Equal Opportunity in Education Act can be found by clicking on the "Title IX Discrimination/Harassment" tab at:
<https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/>

Students are required to maintain a civil and professional conduct in class. Information regarding academic integrity and the student code of conduct as described in the student handbook can be found by clicking the

"Things you should know" tab at:
<https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/>

BIOL 500W: Introduction to Graduate Study & Research

Brief Course Overview (see next page, too!)

The main theme of this course is an introduction to a graduate research program in Biology.

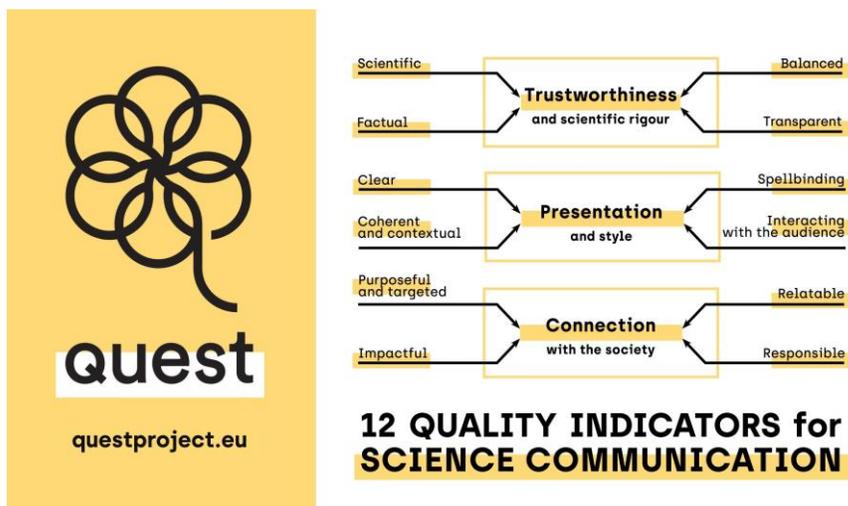
All course activities will occur asynchronously but within a framework of weekly deadlines.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- 1. Continue in the WKU Graduate Program and remain in good standing**
How – You? Completion of forms and development of timeline.
How – Me? Signature of your forms
- 2. Critically evaluate scientific literature**
How – You? Complete critical literature reviews
How – Me? Grading of your reviews
- 3. Comprehend and communicate scientific information**
How – You? All elements of course topics
How – Me? Grading and assessment of participation
- 4. Prepare and write a rigorous research proposal**
How – You? Assignments and submission of your proposal
How – Me? Grading and feedback on proposal
- 5. Become a serious graduate student**
How – You? Develop time management skills
How – Me? Credit for participation and personal assessment
- 6. Demonstrate proficiency with important biological topics**
How – You? Focused effort
How – Me? Online biology exam – requirement of the MS in Biology

Technological Requirements

Access to online content via a reliable internet connection is required for this course.



Expanded Course Overview

Welcome to the MS non-thesis graduate program in biology at Western Kentucky University. BIOL 500 is required of **all** first-semester thesis and non-thesis graduate students in biology and designed to prepare you generally for your graduate program. That said, I realize that many of you have already started coursework towards your MS degree and have likewise started to develop a relationship with an advisor. If you do not yet have an advisor, please started working through the list of WKU Biology faculty (<https://www.wku.edu/biology/staff/>) to help choose the best match possible for your interests and needs.

The course features topics of scholarly and research importance such as literature review, abstract preparation, development of research proposals and design of research study. This course also features topics that relate directly to professional development, including preparing a proper curriculum vitae or resume, time management, managing expectations, making the most of your advisors and colleagues, and presentation and communication skills. The course will also focus on the BIOL 516 (Investigations/Biology) proposal development and degree program requirements. IN essence, BIOL 500 and BIOL 516 are designed as the “bookend” courses to your graduate curriculum.

Grading – 300 points total

Biology Assessment exam: 50 points

BIOL 516 advisor agreement: 25 points

cv/resume – draft: 25 points

cv/resume – final: 25 points

Participation in research topic discussion board: 25 points

Research proposal – bibliography: 25 points

Research proposal – draft outline (1 page): 25 points

Research proposal – final: 100 points

Grading scale: A (≥ 90%), B (80–89%), C (70–79%), D (60–69%), F (< 60%).

Note: If you wish to withdraw, you must do this by the WKU deadline

Lastly...

If you have read this far, please note that this is the first time I have administered this course. Please be patient with me. This is a draft syllabus and will be updated in a timely manner.