

Biology of Women (BIOL 186/WGS 130)

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point at Wausau and
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point at Marshfield
Fall 2022, 3 Credits

Instructor: Dr. Kristine Prah
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Office Hours: 8:30-10:30 AM on Wednesdays and Fridays, (in person in 285B in Wausau or by Zoom at <https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/9042747100>) and other times by appointment

Class Times: 2:00PM– 3:15PM Tuesdays and Thursdays in room 220 (Wausau) and room 130 (Marshfield)

Textbook: *Biology of Women*, 6th edition, written by Theresa Hornstein and Jeri Schwerin (Kendall Hunt, ©2020). This required book will serve as the source for much of the information in the course, and it is available for free rental at the university bookstore. Additional readings which offer more information and additional perspectives will also be provided.

Course Catalog Description

An introduction to the physiology and reproductive anatomy of women including pregnancy, human development, cancer, infertility, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases and other health issues. Class Attributes: Natural World (AD)

Course Rationale And Learning Objectives

This course is designed for any student who desires the following:

- 1) To become knowledgeable about current women's health issues and how such issues are influenced by culture and other social factors
- 2) To understand women's anatomy and physiology
- 3) To evaluate current research on the biology of women
- 4) To become familiar with the vocabulary used in biology, particularly the biology of women
- 5) To understand how experiments are designed to answer specific scientific questions
- 6) To communicate scientific information (orally and in writing) in a clear and concise manner
- 7) To evaluate the connection between social issues and women's health issues
- 8) To have opportunities to discuss global concerns about the wellbeing of women

Course Expectations

Students are expected to be present at all class meetings. Some discussion-based assignments will be done in class during many class periods. So, unexcused class absences may negatively affect a student's course grade. Prior to missing any class session, please discuss with your instructor the reason for any absences which you feel should be excused, so that you can be given the opportunity to make up any in-class work that you will miss. Students should not use ear buds or cell phones in class unless they have spoken with the instructor about this first. The instructor and students are expected to show respect for everyone in the class. Textbook reading assignments

and other reading assignments should be completed before the designated class meeting time. Students are encouraged to discuss assignments with each other unless indicated otherwise. However, students may not copy answers from each other, and each person's answers must be in his or her own words. The policies found in chapter UWS 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative code will be used in the case of suspected academic misconduct. Examinations are in-person and should be completed independently without using any books or notes. For effective communication, you should type and spell-check your work on all assignments unless notified otherwise. Students should daily check their student email account and Canvas as some class announcements and some handouts and some reading assignments will be distributed using these technologies. Scores on assignments and examinations will be posted on Canvas, and an estimation of your course grade will be kept updated during the semester on Canvas.

Evaluation of Student Work (Grading)

1) **Examinations (300 points)** There are three exams scheduled during class. In addition, there will be a cumulative final exam (scheduled for Friday, December 16 at 2:45PM). All four exams will be in-person, closed-book and closed-notes. Point values on each of the exams are as follows:

Exam 1	75 points
Exam 2	75 points
Exam 3	75 points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>75 points</u>
Total	300 points

2) **Problem Sets and Discussion Assignments (240 points)** Problem sets and discussion assignments will be given, collected, and graded throughout the semester for a total of 240 points. Many of these assignments will be done in class.

3) **Current Topic Presentation and Report (60 points)** Each student will prepare a short, oral PowerPoint presentation on a current issue related to the biology of women. Students may choose the topics, but approval must be obtained from the instructor. A written report must accompany the presentation. In preparation for this assignment, students will be given a list of grading criteria. The oral presentation together with the written report will be given a score from zero to sixty points. All students should submit their PowerPoint presentation slides to the instructor by December 11, so that the instructor has adequate time to review the slides before the oral presentations. Students should be prepared to give presentations in class on December 13 or December 15 as assigned. Up to fifteen points will be deducted from a student's score if he/she is not present virtually to listen to all the presentations by other students on December 13 and December 15, unless the student has received permission from the instructor to be absent.

3) **Letter Grades** There are a total of 600 possible points available in this course. The percentage of the total points a student earns will be converted to letter grades using the following table:

≥ 92%	= A	72-77%	= C
90-91%	= A-	70-71%	= C-
88-89%	= B+	68-69%	= D+
82-87%	= B	62-67%	= D
80-81%	= B-	60-61%	= D-
78-79%	= C+	< 60 %	= F

Dates and Topics of Examinations

September 29, 2022	Class material covered September 6 through September 27 and readings posted on Canvas for that period
October 27, 2022	Class material covered October 4 through October 25 and readings posted on Canvas for that period
December 8, 2022	Class material covered November 1 through December 6 and readings posted on Canvas for that period
December 16, 2022	Cumulative final exam covering class material from September 6 through December 6 and readings posted on Canvas Note: the final exam is on a Friday, and the final exam starts at 2:45PM

Tutoring-Learning Centers (TLC) at Wausau and Marshfield

The Tutoring-Learning Centers on each campus promote and support the academic environment by providing free, student-centered academic support.

For additional information about the *Wausau* TLC, check the TLC website at <https://www.uwsp.edu/wausau/tlc/> or contact Dr. Lori at lorandal@uwsp.edu | 715-261-6148 | Library Room 256

For additional information about the *Marshfield* TLC, please visit this [website](#) or contact Ryan O'Leary, Academic Coach, Room 404C, email roleary@uwsp.edu or phone 715-898-6036.

Absences and Tardiness

You are responsible for material covered in all class sessions, including class sessions that you miss partially or entirely. If you miss a class session, please check with your instructor. Assignments must be handed in on time (this includes assignments that were given or due in your absence) unless your instructor has given you permission beforehand to hand in the assignment late.

Make-Up Exams

Notify the instructor in advance if you need to reschedule an examination. An acceptable reason must be given for needing to reschedule the testing time. Your instructor will determine if the reason for rescheduling the examination is acceptable. Make-up examinations must be taken within 48 hours of the original test date unless unusual circumstances exist. If you have a reason to reschedule the final exam, please notify your instructor by December 9.

Care Team

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is committed to the safety and success of all students. The Office of the Dean of Students supports the campus community by reaching out and providing resources in areas where a student may be struggling or experiencing

barriers to their success. Faculty and staff are asked to be proactive, supportive, and involved in facilitating the success of our students through early detection, reporting, and intervention. As your instructor, I may contact the Office of the Dean of Students if I sense you are in need of additional support which individually I may not be able to provide. You may also share a concern if you or another member of our campus community needs support, is distressed, or exhibits concerning behavior that is interfering with the academic or personal success or the safety of others, by reporting here:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Anonymous-Report.aspx>.

Title IX

UW-Stevens Point is committed to fostering a safe, productive learning environment. Title IX and institutional policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In the event that you choose to disclose information about having survived sexual violence, including harassment, rape, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, and specify that this violence occurred while a student at UWSP, federal and state laws mandate that I, as your instructor, notify the Title IX Coordinator/Office of the Dean of Students. Please see the information on the Dean of Students webpage for information on making confidential reports of misconduct or interpersonal violence, as well as campus and community resources available to students.

Dean of Students: <https://www.uwsp.edu/DOS/sexualassault>

Title IX page: <https://www.uwsp.edu/hr/Pages/Affirmative%20Action/Title-IX.aspx>

Equal Access for Students with Disabilities

The University has a legal responsibility to provide accommodations and program access as mandated by Section 54 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The university's philosophy is to not only provide what is mandated but also convey its genuine concern for one's total well-being. If accommodations are needed, please contact the instructor as well as the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (DATC), located on the Stevens Point campus. Students can also pick up an application for accommodations packet in the Solution Centers on the Marshfield and Wausau campuses.

DATC contact information:

(715) 346-3365 (Voice)

(715) 346-3362 (TDD only)

or via email at datctr@uwsp.edu

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is an expectation of each UW-Stevens Point student. Campus community members are responsible for fostering and upholding an environment in which student learning is fair, just, and honest. Through your studies as a student, it is essential to exhibit the highest level of personal honesty and respect for the intellectual property of others. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. It compromises and disrespects the integrity of our university and those who study here. To maintain academic integrity, a student must only claim work which is the authentic work solely of their own, providing correct citations and credit to others as needed. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and/or helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can

result in disciplinary action. Failure to understand what constitutes academic misconduct does not exempt responsibility from engaging in it. For more information on UWS chapter 14 visit: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

Late Assignments

Hand in assignments on time. If you are unable to hand in an assignment on time, you must notify your instructor in advance of the due date. You must also provide an acceptable excuse for handing in an assignment late. Your instructor will determine if an excuse is acceptable. Failure to hand in assignments on time may delay the grading of your work, and you will lose points from each late assignment unless the instructor has given you permission to turn in the assignments late. The standard late penalty will be a loss of 10% of the points per calendar day, and no late assignment will be accepted without permission from the instructor after the other students' work on that assignment has been graded.

Participation in Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

I encourage you to be involved in co-curricular and extracurricular activities as you are able. However, you are responsible for material covered in class sessions that you miss because of participation in co- or extracurricular activities. Some assignments may be given and/or due during class sessions that you miss because of such activities. You are also responsible for handing in these assignments on time. If you must miss an exam because of participation in co-curricular or extracurricular activities, you are responsible for notifying your instructor in advance of the exam. The terms of make-up exams and late assignments as stated in above sections of this syllabus apply.

Proper Use of Course Materials

Course materials for BIOL 186/WGS 130 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. Students may not copy or share course materials outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Incomplete Grade

If you are unable to complete your work in a course due to extenuating circumstances or if you need to extend your research or performance beyond the normal limits of a term, you may ask for a temporary grade of "incomplete" in the course. An "incomplete" should be reserved for the completion of a definable amount of work (for example, one term paper or one exam) that occurs near the end of the semester. The "incomplete" gives you more time to complete a limited amount of missing work defined by your instructor.

Navigate Student App

For those of you looking to connect with other students in the course for study groups, the Navigate student app has a feature called **Study Buddies**. Here, you can find a list of other

students who have indicated they are interested in forming a study group. If you are the first, you will be sent notifications when other students join. You can select who you want to connect with and can leave the group at any time. Additionally, the Navigate student app can help you with the following at UWSP:

- Schedule appointments
- Remove holds from your account
- Find important resources
- Learn of key dates and important to-dos on campus
- View your class schedule

Accessing the Navigate student app: For students who have already downloaded the Navigate smart phone app, choose the **Study Buddies** icon, and a full list of your courses will appear. Each section shows how many buddies are in the group. The free Navigate app is available to download from any mobile operating system. For students without a smart device, a desktop version of the app is available here: <https://uwsp.navigate.eab.com/app>

Tentative Course Schedule, Including Relevant Textbook Chapters

September 6	Course introduction, overview of women's health issues [Chapter 1] Discussion: Factors that affect women's health
September 8	Overview of human anatomy and physiology [Chapter 2] Discussion: Homeostasis
September 13	Reproductive anatomy of women [Chapter 3] Discussion: Female genital mutilation
September 15	Reproductive cycles of men and women [Chapter 4] Discussion: Declining age of puberty
September 20	Menstrual problems (amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, abnormal uterine bleeding, PMS, premenstrual dysphoric disorder) [Chapter 5] Discussion: Options for treating menstrual irregularities
September 22	Vaginitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, reducing transmission of gynecological infections, candidiasis, <i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i> , urinary tract infections, toxic shock syndrome, <i>Chlamydia</i> , gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, hepatitis, human papillomavirus (HPV) [Begin chapter 6] Discussion: Ways to reduce the spread of HPV
September 27	The HIV life cycle, effects of HIV infection, diagnosis of HIV infection; transmission of HIV; treatment of HIV infection and AIDS [Finish chapter 6] Discussion: Ways to reduce the spread of HIV
September 29	Examination One
October 4	Breast anatomy, lactation, breast conditions, breast medical conditions [Chapter 7] Discussion: Breastfeeding and culture
October 6	Conditions of the cervix, cervical cancer, vulvodynia, endometrial cancer, conditions of the ovaries [Begin chapter 8] Discussion: Cervical cancer statistics
October 11	Breast cancer – risk factors, detection, diagnosis, treatments [Finish chapter 8]

	Discussion: Breast cancer treatments
October 13	Marshfield Clinic guest speakers Amanda Boreen and Idolina Sutton: Breast cancer and cervical cancer
October 18	Female sexuality [Chapter 9] Discussion: Club drugs
October 20	Introduction to the cell cycle, fertilization, prenatal development and prenatal care [Begin chapter 10] Discussion: Endocrine disruptors
October 25	Sex determination, chromosomal disorders [Finish chapter 10] Discussion: Genetic testing
October 27	Examination Two
November 1	Pregnancy – diagnosis, maternal changes, labor and delivery [Begin chapter 11] Discussion: Adolescent pregnancy
November 3	Labor and delivery, continued [Finish chapter 11] Discussion: Maternal mortality
November 8	Pregnancy, continued – complications, medical interventions, birthing options [Chapter 12] Discussion: Fetal heart rate monitoring
November 10	Oral contraceptives, Norplant implant, Depo-provera, Intrauterine devices, Barrier contraceptives, Sterilization, Other methods used to prevent conception, Abortion [Chapter 13] Discussion: Birth control and culture
November 15	<i>The Pill</i> video by American Experience Discussion: History of birth control
November 17	Infertility [Chapter 14] Discussion: Methods of assisted reproduction
November 22	Menopause – cause, changes during menopause, hormone replacement therapy [Chapter 15] Discussion: Hormone replacement therapy
November 29	Women and nutrition [Chapter 16] Discussion – obesity and overweight data from the World Health Organization
December 1	Women and stress [Chapter 17] Discussion: Stress management
December 6	Biology of appearance [Chapter 18] Discussion: Appearance and culture
December 8	Examination three
December 13	Student presentations
December 15	Student presentations
December 16	Comprehensive Final exam (Note start time – 2:45PM)