

Biology 281: Animal Physiology Syllabus

Spring 2013

Class information posted at Desire2Learn.

Course Overview:

Purpose and Goals: Across taxa, animals face many similar physiological challenges, but have evolved a diversity of approaches in addressing them. In this course, we will explore what some of those challenges are, some alternative physiological solutions to them, and under what conditions certain solutions are most effective. By the end of this course, you should have a deeper understanding of animal physiology in an ecological context, be better able to comprehend and assess primary research papers, and be better able to communicate science to both academic and public audiences.

Times: Lectures: T/Th: 3:35-4:50 p.m. in CCC 213
Labs: Section 1 R: 8:00-10:50 a.m. in TNR 253
Section 2 T: 10:00-12:50 p.m. in TNR 253
Section 3 R: 11:00 a.m.-1:50 p.m. in TNR 253
Final Exam: T May 14 5:00-7:00 p.m. in CCC 213

Instructor: Sarah Jane Alger, Ph.D.
Office: TNR 480
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 p.m., after lecture or by appointment
E-mail: salger@uwsp.edu
Phone: 715-342-5342 (I don't receive voice messages – Better to send an email)

Texts: Animal Physiology, 2nd Edition by Hill, Wise, and Anderson (2008), Sinauer Publishers is available for rent at the bookstore

Biology 285 Human Physiology Lab Manual by Sepsenwol and Zellmer (2012) is available for purchase for \$11 in the Sales Office of TNR 167.

Other readings: We will read and discuss several papers over the course of the semester. These are **required** reading and will be posted at Desire2Learn.

Key Dates: Exam 1 = **February 12**; Exam 2 = **March 12**; Exam 3 = **April 11**; Exam 4 = **May 7**
Final Exam = **May 14**

Absence Policy and Accommodations:

Please arrive to lectures and labs on time and turn your cellphone off.

Everything covered in lecture is fair game on exams. If you miss a lecture, I strongly advise you to make arrangements with another student for notes and to review what was covered. I will post most lecture slides on D2L prior to class, but they only serve as an aid for taking notes, not a replacement.

Your lowest exam score will be dropped before I calculate your final grade for the course. This has two ramifications:

1) **There will be no make-up exams.** If something comes up (you get sick, have a family emergency, have a school-sanctioned event, get abducted by aliens, etc.) and you miss an exam, that

will simply become your dropped score. (Exceptions can be made in extraordinary cases: If you think your case qualifies as extraordinary, please let me know *in advance* and I will try to be accommodating and fair. I will keep any requests confidential.)

2) If you are happy with your grade after the Unit Exams, you don't need to take the Final Exam.

Attendance at all laboratories is required. Labs are all participatory in nature and all sections are full; as a result **there will be no make-up labs.** However, if something comes up in which you will miss a lab *and you get approval from me prior to that lab*, you can write a pop-science article on the topic of that lab to make up the lost points. This will require more of a time commitment on your part than the lab you miss and the instructions will be identical to those for the pop-science article due at the end of the semester. If you do not get prior approval, you forfeit those points.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I will make every effort to honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and require accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center (6th floor Learning Resource Center in the Library) and *let me know as soon as possible*. Requests for accommodation can be responded to most effectively if I receive the requests early in the semester. Such requests are confidential.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Point Distribution:

Lab Assignments	10 X 5 points each = 50 points
Research Proposal	10 points
Research Paper	30 points
Pop-Science Paper	15 points
Pop-Science Presentation	5 points
Discussion Notes and Participation	8 X 5 points each = 40 points
Unit Exam 1	100 points
Unit Exam 2	100 points
Unit Exam 3	100 points
Unit Exam 4	100 points
Final Exam	100 points

****Lowest Exam Grade Dropped****

Total

550 points

Letter Grades:

93-100% = A; 90-92.9% = A-; 87-89.9% = B+; 83-86.9% = B; 80-82.9% = B-;
77-79.9% = C+; 73-76.9% = C; 70-72.9% = C-; 60-69.9% = D; 0-59.9% = F

UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities:

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful and inviting learning environment. A set of expectations for students and instructors, known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment. For more information go to <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>.

The Rights and Responsibilities document also includes the policies regarding academic misconduct, which can be found at

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyinfo.pdf>.