

**Biology of Women (BIOL 186/WGS 130)**

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point at Wausau, Spring 2021  
3 Credits

**Instructor:** Dr. Kristine Prah

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Virtual Zoom office hours: 8:00-10:00 AM on Mondays and Thursdays, and other times by appointment

**Class Times:** 12:00PM– 12:50PM Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays by Zoom

<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/97188029934?pwd=a3k3RWJWUjZMdUZCVVpBTDdsbFNmQT09>

Meeting ID: 971 8802 9934

Passcode: 6k482k

**Textbook:** *Biology of Women*, fifth edition, written by Theresa M. Hornstein and Jeri Lynn Schwerin (Delmar, Cengage Learning, ©2013 ISBN-13: 9781435400337). This required book will serve as the source for much of the information in the course. Additional readings which offer more information and additional perspectives will also be provided.

**Office hour Zoom link:** Mondays and Thursdays from 8-10 AM

<https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/93894175052?pwd=aWd1WGRtSkI6cmErU3hMemNWaWZ2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 938 9417 5052

Passcode: 323443

**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 (AAS)

**Course Rationale And Learning Objectives**

This course is designed to help students meet the following UW Colleges' proficiencies: "analyze, synthesize, evaluate and interpret information and ideas", "read and listen with comprehension and critical perception", and "demonstrate a large and varied vocabulary". 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 politics 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 virtual class meetings. Some discussion-based assignments will be done in class. So, unexcused class absences may negatively affect a student's course grade. The instructor and students are expected to show respect for everyone in the classroom. 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. Examinations should be completed independently. For effective communication, you are expected to type and spell-check your work on all assignments unless indicated otherwise. The policies found in chapter UWS 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative code will be used in the case of suspected academic misconduct. 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 will be three exams scheduled on class meeting days. In addition, there will be a cumulative final exam (scheduled for Thursday, May 20). All four exams will have a time limit, but will be open-book and open-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. Some 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 May 3, 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 May 5, May 7, May 10, May 12 or May 14 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 May 5, May 7, May 10, May 12 and May 14, unless the student has received permission beforehand 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**

February 17, 2021	Class material covered January 25 through February 15 and readings posted on Canvas for that period
March 15, 2021	Class material covered February 19 through March 12 and readings posted on Canvas for that period
May 3, 2021	Class material covered March 17 through April 30 and readings posted on Canvas for that period
May 20, 2021	Cumulative final exam covering class material from January 25 through April 30 and readings posted on Canvas Note: the final exam is scheduled on a Thursday.

### **Academic Support Resources**

UWSP students have academic support resources available to them for FREE. The Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) offers tutoring services including one-on-one and drop-in tutoring services. The tutors are UWSP students who have done well in their classes and who are here to share their successful study habits and biology content knowledge to help others succeed. Discussing biological concepts and processes together clarifies and solidifies knowledge, and the tutors are eager to study with you. The TLC will offer two main forms of biology tutoring during Spring 2021:

- **Drop-In Tutoring.** Tutors are waiting in a Zoom room where students can “drop-in” for assistance. No appointment or registration is required and attendance is flexible. The schedule and Zoom links can be found here:  
<http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/dropInTutoring.aspx>.
- **One-on-One Tutoring.** Tutors are available for weekly, recurring appointments. Weekly attendance is required, as this service is designed for long-term assistance. To sign up, students can submit a request form through the TLC webpage:  
<https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/Mathandscischedules.aspx>. Appointments are made based upon tutor availability – the TLC cannot guarantee that every student will be matched with a tutor. One-on-One Tutoring is **FREE** for all UWSP students during Spring 2021!

For additional information please contact Maysee Cha, the Academic Success Coordinator on the Wausau campus, via email [mcha@uwsp.edu](mailto:mcha@uwsp.edu) or phone 715-261-6148.

### **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 lecture session, please watch the Zoom recording and please also 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 May 12.

### **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>

### **Disability and Accommodations**

In accordance with [federal law and UW System policies](#), UWSP strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you need accommodations for a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please visit with the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to determine reasonable accommodations and

notify faculty. After notification, please discuss your accommodations with me so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **DATC contact info:** datctr@uwsp.edu; 715/346-3365; 609 Albertson Hall, 900 Reserve Street

### **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.

### **Recording of Lectures**

Recordings of class Zoom meetings will be made and posted on our class Canvas site.

### **Proper Use of Course Materials**

Course materials and recordings for BIOL 186/WGS 130 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings 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 and recordings 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 and recordings 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**

January 25	Course introduction, overview of women's health issues [Chapter 1] Discussion: Factors that affect women's health
January 27	Overview of human anatomy and physiology [Chapter 2] Discussion: intersectionality in health care
January 29	Overview of human anatomy and physiology, continued [Chapter 2] Discussion: Homeostasis
February 1	Reproductive anatomy of women [Chapter 3] Discussion: female genital mutilation
February 3	Reproductive cycles of men and women [Chapter 4] Discussion: declining age of puberty
February 5	Reproductive cycles of men and women, continued [Chapter 4]

February 8	Menstrual problems (amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, abnormal uterine bleeding, PMS, premenstrual dysphoric disorder) [Chapter 5] Discussion: amenorrhea
February 10	Menstrual problems, continued [Chapter 5] Discussion: options for treating menstrual irregularities
February 12	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
February 15	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
February 17	<b>Examination one</b> (Online; no Zoom meeting)
February 19	Breast anatomy, lactation, breast conditions [Begin chapter 7] Discussion: breastfeeding and culture
February 22	Marshfield Clinic guest speakers: breast cancer and cervical cancer
February 24	Breast medical conditions [Finish chapter 7]
February 26	Conditions of the cervix, cervical cancer, vulvodynia, endometrial cancer, conditions of the ovaries [Begin chapter 8] Discussion: screening for breast and cervical cancer
March 1	Breast cancer – risk factors, detection, diagnosis, treatments [Finish chapter 8] Discussion: breast cancer treatment
March 3	Female sexuality [Chapter 9] Discussion: club drugs
March 5	Introduction to the cell cycle, fertilization, prenatal development [Begin chapter 10] Discussion: endocrine disruptors
March 8	Discussion: Prenatal care [Continue chapter 10]
March 10	Sex determination, chromosomal disorders [Finish chapter 10] Discussion: genetic testing
March 12	Discussion: knowing family health history
March 15	<b>Examination two</b> (Online; no Zoom meeting)
March 17	Pregnancy – diagnosis, maternal changes, labor and delivery [Begin chapter 11] Discussion: fetal heart rate monitoring
March 19	Labor and delivery, continued [Finish chapter 11] Discussion: adolescent pregnancy
March 29	Pregnancy, continued – complications, medical interventions, birthing options [Chapter 12] Discussion: Caesarean sections
March 31	Discussion: Maternal mortality
April 2	Transcript – <i>The Pill</i> by American Experience Discussion: history of birth control

April 5	Oral contraceptives, Norplant implant, Depo-provera [Begin chapter 13]
April 7	Intrauterine devices; barrier contraceptives [Continue chapter 13] Discussion: birth control and culture
April 9	Sterilization, other methods used to prevent conception; Abortion procedures; Abortion statistics; male contraception [Finish chapter 13] Discussion – abortion facts worldwide
April 12	Infertility [Chapter 14]
April 14	Discussion: methods of assisted reproduction
April 16	Menopause – cause, changes during menopause, hormone replacement therapy [Chapter 15]
April 19	Discussion: hormone replacement therapy
April 21	Women and nutrition [Chapter 16]
April 23	Discussion – obesity and overweight data from the World Health Organization
April 26	Women and stress [Chapter 17] Discussion: stress management
April 28	Biology of appearance [Chapter 18]
April 30	Discussion: appearance and culture
May 3	<b>Examination three</b> (Online; no Zoom meeting)
May 5	Student presentations
May 7	Student presentations
May 10	Student presentations
May 12	Student presentations
May 14	Student presentations, and review for the final exam
May 20	<b>Comprehensive Final exam</b> (Online) Note: this date is on a Thursday