

**Biology of Women (BIO 186/GSW 130)**  
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point at Wausau, Spring 2019  
3 Credits (Natural Science)

**Instructor:** Kristine Prah  
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Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 on Mondays  
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays  
4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays  
1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. on Thursdays

Also, feel free to make scheduled and/or unscheduled office visits at any other time.

**Class Times:** 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in room 284.

**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.

### **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.

### **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 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. Students should not use ear buds, laptop computers, cellular phones or other electronic devices in class unless they have spoken with the instructor about this first. 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. 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 Desire2Learn as some class announcements and some handouts and some reading assignments will be distributed using these technologies.

## **EVALUATION OF STUDENT WORK (GRADING)**

1) **Examinations (300 points)** There will be three exams scheduled during class meeting times. In addition, there will be a cumulative final exam (scheduled for Monday, May 20 from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.). Point values on each of the exams are as follows:

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

2) **Problem Sets and Discussion Assignments (250 points)** Problem sets and discussion assignments will be given, collected, and graded throughout the semester for a total of 250 points. Some of these assignments will be done in class.

3) **Current Topic Presentation and Report (50 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 fifty points. All students should submit their PowerPoint presentation slides to the instructor by April 30, 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 2, May 7, May 9 or May 14 as assigned. Up to fifteen points will be deducted from a student's score if he/she is not present to listen to all the presentations by other students on May 2, May 7, May 9 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:

$\geq 92\%$	= 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 21, 2019	Class and textbook material covered January 29 through February 19 and readings posted on D2L for that period
March 19, 2019	Class and textbook material covered February 26 through March 14 and readings posted on D2L for that period
April 30, 2019	Class and textbook material covered March 21 through April 25 and readings posted on D2L for that period
May 20, 2019	Cumulative final exam covering class material from January 29 through April 25 and readings posted on D2L Note: the final exam is scheduled from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. and is on a Monday.

### **MAKE-UP EXAMS**

You must notify your instructor prior to the scheduled exam time if you are unable to take an examination at the regularly scheduled time. Failure to give such notification in advance may result in a score of zero for that examination. An acceptable excuse must be given for needing to reschedule the testing time. The instructor will determine if an excuse is acceptable. Make-up examinations must be taken within 48 hours of the original testing time unless unusual circumstances exist and instructor approval is obtained for a later make-up test time.

### **ABSENCES AND TARDINESS**

If you must miss part or all of a class session, please notify your instructor, and please get notes from another student. Please see your instructor for handouts that were distributed in your absence, and ask your instructor about any announcements that you missed. You are responsible for material covered in all class sessions, including class sessions that you miss. You are also responsible for all assignments given and due during class. These assignments must be handed in on time (this includes assignments that were given in your absence and assignments that were due in your absence) unless your instructor has given you permission beforehand to hand in the assignment late. Please arrive on time for exams as you will not be allowed to take an exam if a fellow classmate has already completed the exam and left the classroom.

### **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 after the other students' work on that assignment has been graded and returned without permission from the instructor.

### **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.

### **FORMAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

For the fall semester of the 2018-19 academic year, UW Colleges classes that fulfill outcomes at the Foundation Level of the UWSP [General Education Program](#) (GEP) will be assessed utilizing the GEP assessment portfolio process. The GEP Foundation Level includes courses that fulfill the Oral Communication (OC), Written Communication (WM), Quantitative Literacy (QL), and Wellness (WLN) [category learning outcomes](#). Courses such as Biology of Women that do not fulfil the Foundation Level category outcomes will be included in future assessments for the A.A.S. degree program, and the specific schedule for assessment of these courses will be determined during the 2018-19 academic year. So, Biology of Women is not part of the assessment program this semester.

### **RECORDING OF LECTURES**

Audio recordings of class lecture periods will be made and posted on our class D2L site.

**Tentative Course Schedule, Including Relevant Textbook Chapters**

January 29	Course introduction, overview of women's health issues [Chapter 1] Human reproduction video – selected parts of <i>Life's Greatest Miracle</i> by Nova
January 31	Overview of human anatomy and physiology [Chapter 2] Discussion: intersectionality in health care
February 5	Reproductive anatomy of women [Chapter 3] Discussion: female genital mutilation
February 7	Reproductive cycles of men and women [Chapter 4] Discussion: declining age of puberty
February 12	Menstrual problems (amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, abnormal uterine bleeding, PMS, premenstrual dysphoric disorder) [Chapter 5] Discussion: options for treating menstrual irregularities
February 14	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 19	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 21	<b>Examination one</b>
February 26	Marshfield Clinic guest speakers: breast cancer and cervical cancer Discussion: screening for breast and cervical cancer
February 28	Breast anatomy, lactation, breast conditions [Chapter 7] Discussion: breastfeeding and culture
March 5	Conditions of the cervix, cervical cancer, vulvodynia, endometrial cancer, conditions of the ovaries, breast cancer – risk factors, detection, diagnosis, treatments [chapter 8] Discussion: breast cancer treatment
March 7	Female sexuality [Chapter 9] Discussion: club drugs
March 12	Introduction to the cell cycle, fertilization, prenatal development [Begin chapter 10] Discussion: endocrine disruptors
March 14	Sex determination, chromosomal disorders [Finish chapter 10] Discussion: genetic testing
March 19	<b>Examination two</b>
March 21	Pregnancy – diagnosis, maternal changes, labor and delivery [Chapter 11] Discussion: fetal heart rate monitoring
April 2	Pregnancy, continued – complications, medical interventions, birthing options [Chapter 12] Discussion: Caesarean sections
April 4	Video – <i>The Pill</i> by American Experience Discussion: history of birth control

**Tentative Course Schedule, Including Relevant Textbook Chapters (Continued)**

April 9	Oral contraceptives, Norplant implant, Depo-provera, intrauterine devices; barrier contraceptives [Begin chapter 13] Discussion: birth control and culture
April 11	Sterilization, other methods used to prevent conception; Abortion procedures; Abortion statistics; male contraception [Finish chapter 13] Discussion – abortion facts worldwide
April 16	Infertility [Chapter 14] Discussion: methods of assisted reproduction video
April 18	Menopause – cause, changes during menopause, hormone replacement therapy [Chapter 15] Discussion: hormone replacement therapy
April 23	Women and nutrition [Chapter 16] Discussion – obesity and overweight data from the World Health Organization
April 25	Women and stress [Chapter 17] Biology of appearance [Chapter 18] Discussion: appearance and culture
April 30	<b>Examination three</b>
May 2	Student presentations
May 7	Student presentations
May 9	Student presentations
May 14	Student presentations, and review for the final exam
May 20	<b>Final exam</b> from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Note: this date is on a Monday