BIOL 411: Senior Capstone

Holly Wichman  
Office: IRIC, Rm. 336  
Email: hwichman@uidaho.edu

Jim Bull  
Office: LSS 266B  
Email: jbull@uidaho.edu

PLACE AND TIME:
Life Sciences South 163  
Tuesday, Thursday 2:30 – 3:20 pm

Masking requirement

- Masks are required in all university buildings on the Moscow campus.
- In classrooms, students must wear masks properly. Properly worn masks are required in this class.
- CDC guidelines for selecting, wearing and caring for masks:

  Do NOT come to class if you think you are sick. We have the capacity to Zoom live from the classroom and will try to make that work if you contact us before class.
Our communication with you outside of class

Holly Wichman                      Jim Bull
Email: hwichman@uidaho.edu          jbull@uidaho.edu

Use subject line “BIOL 411: specific topic”

OFFICE HOURS:
To make an appointment for an individual meeting, email either of us or check with us before or after class. If you want to talk in person, these meetings will usually be on Zoom with a link provided in response to your request. Indicate 2 to 3 times when you are available.
Wichman: email hwichman@uidaho.edu using BIOL 411: individual meeting request as the subject line.
Bull: email jbull@uidaho.edu with BIOL 411: individual meeting request as the subject line.

If your questions can be answered by email, that works too.

Course information and assignments

Course information such as assignments and readings will be available on Canvas.

Assigned reading for this course will come from the primary literature, government publications, and the popular press. Links for these readings (or PDFs) will be posted on Canvas.

Students are required to complete the assigned reading before the scheduled class period and should be prepared to participate in class discussions.
Course Objectives

• Consider how scientific knowledge can be used to evaluate and address "real world" problems
• Learn how to understand the scientific method in the context of everyday problems
• Read, consider, discuss, and write about specific critical issues facing the world today.
• See how the skills gained as an undergraduate can inform these issues; help decide if and how you will address them.

Learning Outcomes

*Students will be able to apply their knowledge and skills to solve modern biological problems.*

Students will achieve this outcome by improving their skills in:

• Finding scientific information and evaluating its reliability
• Exploring the interface between scientific training and real-world issues
• Developing and supporting an opinion based on factual information
• Conveying opinions and information orally and in writing
• Engaging in rigorous and respectful discussions
Course grade

Grades will be based on following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1: Three major world problems (1-2 pages)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video 1: Non-standard applications of the scientific method (3-5 min)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2: Evaluating the quality of covid data (2 pages)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuasive Speech: topic selection, annotated bibliography, persuasive speech (Video 2), discussions</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assignments / quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30%: Persuasive speech

Each of you will pick a controversial topic for your persuasive speech. You will propose a change from the status quo and present arguments for and against this change.

You will record your speech and post it on YouTube. The class will watch these as assigned; you will lead a discussion about your topic.

You will also write an annotated bibliography to support your presentation.

The selection of topic, speech, bibliography, and leadership on the discussion will constitute 30% of your grade.
Other projects / essays

There will be three additional projects or essays.

Video 1 will make up 10% of your grade (it is short: 3-5 min).

Two essays will make up 25% of your grade; these won’t be long, but they will require preparation on your part.

Participation and Other

It will be impossible to do well in this course without regular attendance and participation:

15%: Other assignments, mostly in-class, will make up 15% of your grade.

20%: Participation will make of 20% of your grade. Participation will include contributions to discussion as well as answering surveys that are not graded per se.
Academic honesty

Academic honesty is governed by Article II of the University of Idaho’s Student Code of Conduct (http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html).

Dishonesty in the classroom or on outside assignments will be considered as a violation of this code. This includes plagiarism, presenting the work of others as your own, or giving false excuses for missing class.

All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the dean of students. Individuals guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course.