

Environmental Health Orientation

Biol 113 Spring 2011

Thurs 11:40 – 1:40pm -- Halsey Science 270

Professor:

Dr. Sabrina R. Mueller-Spitz, Office: 151 HS - Phone: 424-1104
Email: muellesr@uwosh.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:50-3:30 & Thursday 1:50-3:30, other times by appointment.

Required Text: McMillan VE. 2001. Writing Papers in the Biological Sciences. Bedford: Boston, MA.

This is the *de facto* writing manual for the Biology & Microbiology Department and will serve you well for all science-related courses in which writing assignments are given during your time at UWO. Its sections on graphs and statistics will be very useful this term, too.

Course Description (2 credits) : An introduction to the cultural aspects of biological sciences for students declaring or considering a major in Biology or Microbiology. Discussion topics will include: current "hot" fields and employment opportunities; roles and responsibilities of scientists in society; professional ethics; scientific communication; planning (career choices, course selection, research experience); and an introduction to department faculty, staff and facilities. Students are encouraged to take this course as early as possible in their academic program.

Note: BIO 111 is intended for Biology Majors in their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd semesters of college. To achieve this, 111 was made a prerequisite for BIO 230 and 231. Regardless, **Junior and Senior BIO majors continue to show up in 111, often expressing the resentment that "I am so beyond this class"**. If that's your situation, *please*: keep an open mind, assist those who are less knowledgeable than yourself, and (at the very least) play along and do not begrudge Freshmen and Sophomores their opportunity to learn (the easy way) what you may have learned the hard way.

Course Objectives: Students in this course will be offered instruction to develop their:

1. Ability to make the most of their educational opportunities at UW Oshkosh.
2. Familiarity with the wide variety of biological fields, specifically focused on Environmental Health.
3. Information literacy.
4. Critical thinking skills.
5. Writing and speaking skills.
6. Research skills.
7. Networking skills.
8. Strategies for career planning.

Special Needs and Accommodations: Students with disabilities are welcome in this class. Please notify me at the first class meeting, with appropriate documentation, so that the pertinent accommodations can be made.

Classroom Etiquette: Silence all cell phones during all class periods and keep them out of sight. Texting during class is prohibited. Please do not use music players of any kind during class. Turn your phone and other mobile devices off before you walk into the room.

D2L & Email Policy: I use both D2L and campus (uwosh.edu) email accounts regularly. D2L is vital for accessing the course syllabus and assignment instructions. I also make occasional announcements on D2L mainpage. You are expected to access both D2L and your campus email regularly (I recommend once each day), so that you receive timely notification of any last-minute changes or assistance regarding assignments. I may post short reading assignments, but I will always give you several days notice to read them (my goal is Monday at noon, before a Thursday class). You should make a habit of **accessing both D2L and your campus email at least once each weekday**, so that you receive timely notification of any last-minute changes or for fast assistance regarding assignments. Not checking your email is not an excuse for performance problems in the class. Contact Academic Computing or any Campus Computer Lab supervisor for assistance with email and D2L.

Due to legal privacy concerns, I only respond to emails about classroom matters that originate from official uwosh.edu email

accounts, so please do not be offended if I ignore messages that arrive from hotmail, yahoo, or other unofficial email accounts. Contact [Academic Computing](#) if you need help with your campus email account (including combining it with a private email account).

Late Assignment Policy: Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late work will be docked 10 percent for each calendar day it is late (including weekends). I will create a late dropbox for any late assignments.

Academic Integrity: The [University's statement on conduct](#) says that "Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions." Here are the consequences: If you cheat or plagiarize in one of my courses, at a bare minimum you have earned a zero on the assignment, and I may elect to fail you from the class and report you to the Dean of Students. (<http://www.uwosh.edu/stuaff/dean/>)

Need help with your writing? Your McMillan textbook was chosen precisely because it is a short-but-sweet reference for the basics of quality writing in the biosciences. For custom assistance, contact the UW Oshkosh [Writing Center](#).

Feeling overwhelmed? The UW Oshkosh [Reading Study Center](#) is an all-university service that can help you learn to learn more efficiently. Strategies for improved textbook study, time management, note-taking, test preparation and test-taking are taught through both credit courses and non-credit services.

Course Elements/Assignments

(Additional instructions will be posted on D2L & talked about in class)

1. **Attendance:** Attendance at every class (for the full class period) is **required**. If you leave early or arrive significantly late, you will be marked absent. If you are routinely late to class, you will have points deducted from your attendance grade. If you must miss class for a university-approved reason, you must notify me in advance of class, and I will require documentation. One unexcused absence will result in loss of half of the attendance points. The second unexcused absence will result in a loss of all attendance points. Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the entire course, regardless of points earned on the assignments.
2. **Participation:** This class will be more rewarding if you actively participate. Your fellow students can learn from you, and I hope you can learn from their ideas. During class, I expect you to participate in discussions, activities and be able to contribute to the class when called upon. For you to be effective at this, *you must do the assigned reading or other assignments before class*. I will post questions for lecture on D2L in advance of class. At a *minimum*, you should be able to answer these questions and complete the in-class assignments.

Participation points will be awarded using the following system:

- 100 (participates actively, answers questions and completes in-class assignments during all/almost all class periods)
- 75 (participates frequently, but not every class)
- 50 (participates about half of the class periods)
- 25 (participates infrequently)
- 0 (participates never)

1

3. **Resume and Cover Letter:** This items will be evaluated for your ability to follow instructions, write, and engage in self-analysis and self-promotion. After I grade your assignments, you may re-write and turn it in for an improved grade. These can be used to help you find summer internships.
4. **Professor Interviews:** You will be required to interview 2 different professors to learn about how these individuals came to teach at UW-Oshkosh and their interests in teaching and the broader world. You will be required to write a short analysis of your interview with the different professors.
5. **Curriculum Plan:** This chart will be evaluated for your ability to follow instructions, use University rules and regulations, and plan for the future.
6. **Internship/Career Capsule:** You will collaborate with a partner on this assignment. This oral presentation will be evaluated for your ability to follow instructions, use common research tools related to an internship in environmental health or another aspect of biology, use an overhead projector, and speak informally in front of a group of peers and post relevant links to internship positions. Limit: 3-4 minutes.

7. **News Story Presentation and Write-Up:** This oral presentation will be evaluated for your ability to follow instructions, use common research tools related to a scientific topic, use PowerPoint, and speak formally in front of a group of peers specifically to teach them something new about an aspect of environment health. The time limit is 5-7 minutes. This presentation will be based on a scientific journal article and/or review article. The corresponding writing assignment will allow you to summarize the topic of your news presentation utilizing your critical thinking and writing skills.
8. **Final Exam.** A cumulative exam covering material from the entire class. It will be open-book and open-notes.

Course Point Breakdown and Due Dates:

Assignment	Point Value	Due Date
Attendance	100	
Participation	100	
Curriculum Plan (4yr plan)	50	Feb 24
Career Capsule	25	March 3
Resume & Cover Letter	50	March 17
Professor Interview	25	March 31
News Story Presentation & Scientific Write-Up	25	Wk 11-13
	25	April 21
Exam	100	May 13
Total Points	500	

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	%	Grade Points per Unit (cr.)
A	92.0-100	4.00
A-	90.0-91.9	3.67
B+	88.0-89.9	3.33
B	82.0-87.9	3.00
B-	80.0-81.9	2.67
C+	78.0-79.9	2.33
C	72.0-77.9	2.00
C-	70.0-71.9	1.67
D+	68.0-69.9	1.33
D	62.0-67.9	1.00
D-	60.0-61.9	0.67
F (Failure)	<60.0	0.00

Tentative Lecture Schedule: Topics

Introduction to UWO & Department of Biology and Microbiology
 Introduction to the Field of Environmental Health
 Obtaining Success in College (Learning Styles and Study Skills)
 Making the Most of the College Experience
 Scientific Presentations
 Scientific Writing
 Critical Thinking and Analysis, Essay Writing
 Finding Relevant Internships and Career Services

Important Dates for Lecture

February 17	Library Resources (We will meet in the library.)
March 3	Internship Presentations
April 21	Earth Day Activities and Presentations
April 28	Presentations
May 5	Presentations & Review
May 12	Final Exam & Course Wrap-Up