



BIOL 803 – SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SKILLS FALL 2024

Territorial acknowledgement: The University of Regina is situated on the territories of the nêhiyawak, Anihšînāpēk, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakoda, and the homeland of the Métis/Michif Nation. The Regina campus is on Treaty 4 lands, and Saskatoon classes are on Treaty 6 lands.

Course Coordinator: Mel Hart, PhD (mel.hart@uregina.ca)

Meeting times and Location: Wednesdays, 8:30-11:15 a.m., in person, CL 313

Class start and end: Sept.11 –Nov. 27, 2024 (Dec.4 only if needed)

Office hours: Please email to set up an appointment. I have an open door policy as well (LB 236), so you can always stop by and see if I'm available.

Course description: This course develops general skills and knowledge in the field of scientific research. Students will be introduced to the philosophy of science with discussions about how to identify important and feasible research topics. Students will also be taught about communicating with the media, giving clear oral presentations and posters, and will have the opportunity to do extensive writing and oral presentations which will be rigorously critiqued by a number of faculty members.

Admission to an MSc program in Biological Sciences

Learning outcome:

1. Learn key information that will help you navigate your graduate degree.

Late assignments/missed exam policy: Late submissions are not accepted for grades and will not receive feedback. All assignments are required components of the class; failure to complete a required component of the course earns a student a grade of NP. If you know that you will not be able to get something in on time, please let Mel know, with plenty of time, to see what can be done. If you're having trouble getting something in on time, others may be too.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory (please note the attendance & engagement grade). If you will be at a conference, need to run an experiment that cannot be run at any other time, or are sick, please email Mel well before the class. Each class missed earns a 2% penalty to your overall grade in addition to negatively impacting your attendance and engagement grade. Please be on time (lateness will also earn you a penalty to your grade).

Grading

Attendance and engagement	10%
Class form	5%
Respectful behaviour and communication	5%
Student conduct course	10%
Biographical piece	10%
TA quiz	10%
Research presentation	20%
Poster & presentation	10% & 10%
3 minute pitch	10%

Exam modality: there is no final exam for this class.

Academic integrity: Academic integrity requires students be honest. Assignments and exams are to help students learn; grades show how fully this goal is attained. Thus, all work and grades should result from a student's own understanding and effort.

Acts of academic misconduct violate academic integrity, and are considered serious offences by the University. Examples include, but are not limited to, cheating on tests or exams, plagiarizing, copying from others, falsifying lab results, etc. Instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the Associate Dean for investigation. Full details are provided in the Undergraduate Academic Calendar: <https://www.uregina.ca/student/registrar/resources-for-students/academic-calendars-and-schedule/undergraduate-calendar/index.html> Students are encouraged to understand your obligations as a student, as well as your rights.

For this class, the Instructor does not allow the use of generative artificial intelligence programs. Should a student's work be thought to have used generative AI, the material will be sent to the FGSR Associate Dean for investigation of academic misconduct.

Accommodations: The Centre for Student Accessibility upholds the University's commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning environment by providing services and supports for students based on disability, religion, family status, and gender identity. Students who require these services are encouraged to contact the Centre for Student Accessibility to discuss the possibility of academic accommodations and other supports as early as possible. For further information, please email accessibility@uregina.ca.

Class schedule: all dates and topics are subject to change, as necessitated by illness, closures, or other unforeseen circumstances.*

Wednesday	Topic	Class guests
Sept. 11	Introduction to class and grad. studies	Dr. Harold Weger (filling in for Dr. Andrew Cameron BIOL grad coordinator), and Dr. Twyla Salm (FGSR Associate Dean)
Sept. 18	Library supports Signed class policy form due to Turnitin by 11:59 PM Sept. 18	Mr. Christopher Read (Librarian in support of Science)
Sept. 25	Dos and don'ts of TAing Biographical statement due to Turnitin by 11:59 PM Sept. 25	Dr. Jenn Russell and Ms. Karin Rustad (Biology Laboratory Instructors)
Oct. 2	Professional presentations TA quiz after Dr. Brigham's material	Dr. Mark Brigham (Biology professor)
Oct. 9	Scientific writing TBD if in person	Dr. Peter Leavitt (Biology professor) – recording and materials posted to UR Courses
Oct. 16	Reading break – no class	
Oct. 23	Student research presentations – to scientists. Slides due to Turnitin by 8:30 AM Oct. 23.	none
Oct. 30	A new type of poster Certificate of completion for student conduct course due to Turnitin by 11:59 PM Oct. 30	Dr. Chris Yost (Vice President, Research)
Nov. 6	Publishing process	Dr. Chris Somers (Biology Professor)
Nov. 13	Poster (projected) and accompanying talk – to a general audience. Poster due to Turnitin by 8:30 AM Nov. 13.	none
Nov. 20	Three minute thesis	Materials to watch beforehand for in-class discussion
Nov. 27	Three minute thesis presentations. Background slide due to Turnitin by 8:30 AM Nov. 27.	none

*If in person learning is delayed due to illness or unforeseen circumstances, the classes will move to remote learning, or shift items to use the Dec. 4 time slot that currently has nothing scheduled.