



**Syllabus for  
Biol 2870: Faculty Research Seminar  
Fall 2023  
Monday 3:05-3:55pm, ASB 210 (in person)**

**Learning Outcomes:** The objective of this course is to introduce students to biological research being conducted by faculty in the School of Biological Sciences at University of Utah. Research will cover the entire spectrum of biological sciences, spanning evolution, ecosystems, organismal and cellular physiology, molecular and biochemistry. Faculty will emphasize undergraduate research opportunities by highlighting undergraduate research in their labs. By the end of this class, students will be able to identify research areas of interest to them and will be encouraged to contact faculty and enroll in independent research. Faculty members who are engaged in this seminar course are excited about introducing undergraduates to their research area. As with all scientific seminars, students are encouraged to take the path of inquiry by asking questions. Another enabling objective is that of faculty interaction with students before, during, and after class to answer individual questions.

**Instructor:** Please do NOT email the instructor through Canvas, email the instructor directly through the email address listed below. Put Biol 2870 in the subject line so your email can be given preference. Please give the instructor 24 working hours to respond.

Dr. Amanda Hoepfner

Email: amanda.hoepfner@utah.edu

Office hours: Wed. 12:30-1:30pm, Bldg 44 Rm 221, also available for questions immediately after each class and by appointment scheduled via email (she/her/hers)

**Required Materials:** No required materials for this course besides access to a broadband internet connection during and after class.

**Class Meeting Type:** Biology 2870 will be meeting in person during the designated class time. Except in cases of ADA accommodations or quarantining due to COVID-19 exposure or infection, you will be expected to attend class in person. Changes to this policy are up to the discretion of the instructor.

According to the CDC, wearing a mask remains an effective means of preventing infection for both unvaccinated and vaccinated people. Regardless of what someone chooses (mask or no mask), the university seeks to foster a sense of community and asks everyone on campus to be respectful of individual decisions on mask wearing.

The class will not be live-streamed or recorded.

## **Grades and Assignments**

Attendance and participation are vital to this course. Grades are based on attendance and a short summary of each presentation. You are permitted to miss ONE DAY of class without a documented excuse, e.g., medical or school-sponsored activities (see grade break below). To receive an exception for a school-sponsored activity, a letter from the faculty mentor must be provided BEFORE the missed class or assignment.

- **Attendance: 5 points per day.** Attendance will be taken during each class. For full credit for attendance, you must join class on time and stay actively participating for the duration of class.
- **Presentation summary: 5 points per summary.** After each class, a 1 page, single-spaced, summary is due about one hour before the beginning of the next class (every Monday by 2:00pm). For each summary, you need to write no less than 200 words per presenter (2 presenters per class = 400 words total per summary). Summaries must be written in paragraph format (no bullet points) and need to pertain to the science and research of the presentation. The summaries must be uploaded directly to our canvas course page; emailed and hard copies turned in will NOT be accepted. Please type your summaries. No late summaries are accepted and missed summaries cannot be made up.

To upload your summary to Canvas, click on assignments on the left-hand side, then click on the underlined title of the assignment (example: Week 1 Summary), on the far right-side, click on the +Submit assignment. **CHECK that you uploaded the correct file, it is your responsibility to upload the summaries on time and correctly. The preferred file format is pdf**, but doc will also work. Other formats (odt, wps, pages, etc.) are not accepted as Canvas is unable to read them.

The plagiarism software Turnitin will be used, which will compare your work against published literature and previous/current work by students to look for plagiarism. Therefore, you cannot copy the work of a fellow student or copy information found from a website. If your summary is found to be plagiarized, you will receive a zero for that assignment and we will schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss this violation of the university code.

- **Optional/Makeup Assignment: Worth 10 points.** To make up for ONE missed class, you can turn in the makeup assignment at any time during the semester, due on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> by midnight (11:59pm) at the latest. This assignment is to help you learn how to contact a faculty member in the School of Biological Sciences to work in their research lab. Please see the optional/makeup assignment on Canvas for full details.

**Grade breakdown:** Course grade will be determined from your percentage score out of 120 total points. Each class is worth 10 points (5 pts for attendance and 5 pts for the presentation summary). There are 14 class days in the semester and there will be no attendance or summary due for the first day of class. This means there will be a total of 130 points possible and only 120 points required, which allows you to miss 10 points in the class before it affects your final grade. Cumulative scores will be guaranteed a letter grade of no less than: A (94-100%), A- (90-93%), B+ (87-89%), B (83-86%), B- (80-83%), C+ (77-79%), C (73-76%), C- (70-73%), D+ (67-69%), D (64-66%), D- (60-63%) E (<59%).

- **Attendance (50% of final grade):** 65 points possible

- **Presentation summary (50% of final grade):** 65 points possible
- **Optional/makeup assignment:** worth 10 points if completed to replace any 10 missed points. For example, one missed attendance (5 pts) and presentation summary (5 pts), or two missed presentation summaries, etc. You can only turn in this assignment once and cannot be used to make up more than 10 missed points.

**Important dates:** See Canvas for class schedule of presenters

- **Presentation summaries due every Monday by 2:00pm**
- **Optional/Makeup Assignment due Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> by midnight (11:59pm)**
- **\*No class will be held during university designated holidays (Labor Day on Sept. 4 and Fall Break on Oct. 9).**

### **Course Policies**

**Attendance & Punctuality:** The University and your instructors expect all students to attend all class meetings. Students are expected to acquaint themselves with and satisfy the entire range of academic objectives and requirements as described in this syllabus. Given the nature of this course, regular attendance is required and adjustments cannot be granted to allow non-attendance. However, if you need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy due to a disability, please contact the Center for Disability and Access (CDA). CDA will work with us to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate. The student must give reasonable notice and supply appropriate documentation to the instructor for any exceptions to the course policy.

**Equipment Failure:** It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignment. If you experience any equipment problem or have internet connectivity issues that cause you to miss a class or an assignment, one of your drops will be used for the missed class or assignment.

**Computer and Canvas Literacy Expectations:** Students are expected to be computer and internet literate to take this course, including Canvas navigation skills. For Canvas orientation, see <https://utahtacc.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/205654094>. Call 581-4000 for CIS help or bring your laptop to Knowledge Commons on second floor of Marriott Library for help. As will be explained in class, sometimes more than one browser is needed for Launchpad assignments. Post your technical issues to the class discussion board and we will crowd-source solutions as issues arise.

**Online etiquette:** Discussion threads, emails, and Canvas are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code. Specifically:

- Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting.

- Disrespectful language and photos are never appropriate.
- Using angry or abusive language is not acceptable and will be dealt with according to the Student Code. The instructor may remove online postings that are inappropriate.
- Do not use ALL CAPS, except for titles or overuse of certain punctuation marks such as exclamation points and question marks.
- Course emails, e-journals, and other online course communications are part of the classroom and as such, are University property and subject to the Student Code. Privacy regarding these communications between correspondents must not be assumed and should be mutually agreed upon in advance, in writing.

### **University Policies**

1. ***COVID-19 Campus Guidelines.*** The COVID-19 guidelines for the University of Utah are adapted often due to the ever-changing status of the pandemic. For the most up-to-date information regarding the campus guidelines, visit <https://coronavirus.utah.edu>.
2. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
3. ***University Safety Statement.*** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).
4. ***Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
5. ***Undocumented Student Support Statement.*** Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream

Center. Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence. The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at 801.213.3697 or visit [dream.utah.edu](http://dream.utah.edu).

6. **Drop/Withdrawal.** Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A “W” grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade “W” is not used in calculating the student’s GPA. For deadlines to withdraw from full-term, first, and second session classes, see the U's Academic Calendar.
7. **Academic Misconduct.** In order to ensure that the highest standards of academic conduct are promoted and supported at the University, students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty. Acts of academic misconduct include cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one’s work, and inappropriately collaborating. Suspected cases of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures found in the Student Code, University Policy 6-400(V)(<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>). Instances of academic misconduct will be recorded in a database that may be made available to other University of Utah Departments and Colleges.
8. **Wellness Statement.** Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness at [www.wellness.utah.edu](http://www.wellness.utah.edu) or 801-581-7776.
9. **Veterans Center.** If you are a student veteran, the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center located in Room 161 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M---F 8---5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.
10. **Diversity / Inclusivity Statement.** It is the intent of the instructors that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students’ learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is our intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let us know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups.
11. **Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language.** If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu/>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli/>). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.