

Messages will be answered within 48 hours, excluding weekends. Typically, forum posts will be addressed first, followed by OWL messages, and then emails.

3. Course Description/Syllabus

In the first half of the course (Fall semester), students will develop original project proposals in Synthetic Biology through group and peer workshops. During the second half of the course (Winter semester), students will vote and execute one of the project proposals (voted by the class).

Learning objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Create a novel, plausible, and ethical proposal for development of a microorganism or biological system with purpose-built characteristics;
- 2) Present a synthetic biology proposal, including background/rationale, methodology, timeline, and budget, and the outcomes of synthetic biology research to a variety of audiences, orally and in writing;
- 3) Incorporate feedback received from others into an improved project proposal;
- 4) Plan a research strategy aimed at completing a synthetic biology project using available resources within a specified time and with a specified budget;
- 5) Perform synthetic biology experiments focused on DNA assembly using Golden Gate cloning and/or homologous recombination, and interpret their results;
- 6) Identify and use effective troubleshooting strategies

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, synchronously at the times indicated in the timetable. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructors.

Tentative

4. Course Materials

Learning materials will be posted to the course OWL Brightspace site. During the first term, students should bring a laptop computer or tablet to class, if possible. During the second term, each student **must** have a lab coat, safety glasses, and laboratory notebook. Students who arrive without proper lab attire (lab coat, safety glasses, long pants, close-toed shoes, long hair tied back) may be denied entry to the lab.

Students should check OWL Brightspace (<http://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Students are responsible for checking OWL Brightspace on a regular basis.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL Brightspace Help page. They can also contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Methods of Evaluation & Grading

The overall course grade will be calculated as follows (*due dates subject to change*):

First term 50%

Proposal presentation 1	10%	(due Oct 8)	Learning objectives 1,2
Proposal report 1	10%	(due Oct 22)	Learning objectives 1,2
Proposal presentation 2	15%	(due Nov 19)	

According to university policy, a final grade ending in .45 or above will be rounded to the next highest number (e.g. 78.45 becomes 79, while 78.44 becomes 78). Grades will not be rounded up beyond this policy for any reason.

Grades for specific course evaluations will be posted regularly to the course OWL Brightspace site. Appeals of specific graded items must be submitted in writing to the instructor(s) within two weeks of the grade posting with a clear explanation of the reason for the appeal. The instructor(s) may re-grade all or part of the assignment to look for additional errors which may lower or raise the final grade.

6. Student Absences

General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf,

This policy does not apply to requests for Academic Consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person.

The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made0 612 79262(f)-6(or)13(-)9(Ac)6(a)4(de)4(mi)-3(c)4(-)9(C)7(o

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

7. EDI statement

The pronouns used by Dr.

Turnitin *aids* in identifying plagiarism. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Western students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- All course materials created by the instructors or the students are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared without explicit permission from the authors
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed

10. Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on add/drop