

SYLLABUS

Biology 494: “LIFE AFTER BIOLOGY”: Biology Integrated Experience 01-LEC (40195) Spring 2020

Class Meeting: Mondays from 2:30 to 3:20 pm in **Herter Hall Room 227**
TA office hours: by appointment

NOTE: Discussions will start January 27th

<u>Discussion sections:</u>	Mon	4:00-4:50	01AA-DIS (40243)	Morrill 1 N345 (Akaansha)
	Tue	4:00-4:50	01AB-DIS (40244)	Morrill 1 N345 (Akaansha)
	Wed	1:25-2:15	01AC-DIS (40245)	Morrill 1 N345 (Tanya)
	Thu	10:00-10:50	01AD-DIS (40246)	Morrill 1 N345 (Tanya)
	Thu	1:00-1:50	01AE-DIS (40247)	Morrill 1 N345 (Akaansha)

Course Overview and Objectives: This 1 credit course fulfills one component of the General Education Integrative Experience (IE) requirement for Biology majors (sophomores and above). The course provides a structured context for older students to reflect upon educational experiences and to explore how they fit into the larger context of your educational and career aspirations. If you are a younger student, the course will help you be proactive in career readiness planning. Network with each other!

During this semester, you will learn about a variety of career options that exist for life scientists and develop a strategy for how to pursue your professional goals. This process will be guided by your attendance and participation in weekly large and small group activities focused on the following topics:

- Careers in the Life Sciences: facilitated discussions with representatives of the life science industry, graduate programs, governmental and non-governmental organizations, education and entrepreneurs. You will learn about their educational experience and their career paths.
- Resumes and Cover Letters: workshops on the “dos and don’ts” of writing an effective resume/cv and cover letter that allow you to effectively present your educational and life experiences for internships, graduate programs, etc.
- Communication: peer-to-peer workshop on the interview process, on how to reflect on your experiences, and on how to represent yourself to others.
- Social Media: a discussion of the positives and negatives of social media and how to use it wisely to network and to learn about career opportunities.

By the end of the course, you will have:

- Reflected on your courses and career aspirations in a way that will help you develop a plan for future courses and extracurricular activities
- Identified opportunities to augment your educational and career goals
- Learned how to find internships, jobs and graduate programs
- Developed your resume/cv and an application cover letter
- Gained knowledge of and practice with the interview experience
- Identified intriguing career opportunities for biologists and learned how to pursue them

- Developed strategies for how to most effectively use your time at UMass to help you be more successful with your professional goals

Reading: There is no textbook. Instead, important materials relating to each topic will be posted on the course website each week. Once materials are posted, they will remain available on the course Moodle site for the rest of the semester.

Other Course Resources: The course Moodle site provides extensive information about the kinds of careers that are available for life scientists, how to develop skills to become more competitive, graduate testing exams (e.g. MCAT, GRE, etc.), and other useful information.

Required Materials for the lecture: iClicker remote (Have back-up batteries on hand!). You will need to register your remote so that your name is associated with your clicker.

Class culture expectations: Use of laptops, tablets, cell phones, etc. and chatting with your classmates off-topic in class are not allowed. Please give your respectful attention to our *volunteer* guest speakers.

Details of expectations for Assignments and Due Dates: See Discussion Section syllabus below. WRITE ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW.

Grading: A possible 101 points can be earned in this course. The points are distributed as follows:

Short Bio	1 extra credit
Attendance in lecture class (2 absences allowed)	20
Attendance and participation in Discussion section (2 absences allowed)	30
Writing Assignments	50

101 TOTAL POINTS

Academic Honesty: No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, and facilitating dishonesty (e.g. using someone else's iClicker). The university's academic honesty policy and the procedures for dealing with suspected dishonesty are described in detail at the Dean of Students Office website:

http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/acadhonesty/

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents the instructor's current plans for the course. Any part of this plan is subject to change without notice due to circumstances beyond our control (e.g. snowstorms, failure of outside speakers to arrive, etc.). To the best of our ability, we will email you with information regarding significant changes in the schedule or curriculum via the Moodle system and your student email.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

This is a tentative schedule. Changes may become necessary based on speakers' needs.

*speakers not yet confirmed

WEEK	DATE	PROPOSED TOPIC	LED BY:
1	Jan 27	Introduction, discussion of the IE experience, description of course goals and on-line resources, student survey	Prof. Pallas
2	Feb 3	David Andersen, Biotech Recruiter	Genevant Biosciences
3	Feb 10	Intro to Career Services	Nessim Watson, Asst Director CNS Career Center
4	TUES Feb 18	Graduate and Professional Schools	Prof. Pallas
5	Feb 24	Pre-Medicine	Prof. Wilmore Webley (Microbiology)
6	Mar 2	STEM Teaching Careers	Enrique Suarez (College of Education)
7	Mar 9	Conservation Biology	Lena Fletcher* Natural Resources Conservation
	Mar 15-22	Spring Break	No class
8	Mar 23	Physician's Assistant	Mike Brown
9	Mar 30	Medicine	Dr. Mariann Manno* Dean of Admissions, UMMS
10	Apr 6	Using Social Media in Your Job Search	Nessim Watson, Assistant Director for Career Planning
12	Apr 13	CNS graduate programs	TBA
	Apr 20	Patriot's Day	No class
13	WED Apr 22	Soft Skills	Prof. Pallas
14	Apr 27	NGOs, journalism, policy careers, GAP year	Prof. Pallas

Discussion Sessions with Teaching Assistants

WEEK	Lecture DATE	Date	Discussion Day	Topic	Student Home Work Assignment
1	Jan 20			NO DISCUSSIONS THIS WEEK	-
2	Jan 27	1/27	Mon	Introduction to web-based resources, setting up the individual student accounts, student introductions	Short Bio (due 1/31) Register iClickers
		1/28	Tue		
		1/29	Wed		
		1/30	Thu		
3	Feb 3	2/3	Mon	Discuss personal database. General discussion about career goals	Fill in on-line resume template (Due 2/14)
		2/4	Tue		
		2/5	Wed		
		2/6	Thu		
4	Feb 10	2/10	Mon	How to find a job or graduate program	Visit web sites for jobs or graduate programs, identify one to "apply" to (Due 2/21)
		2/11	Tue		
		2/12	Wed		
		2/13	Thu		
5	Feb 17	2/17	Holiday	No sections this week	Write draft cover letter and be prepared to discuss the company/school (Due 2/28)
		2/18	Tue		
		2/19	Wed		
		2/20	Thu		
6	Feb 24	2/24	Mon	Discuss student cover letters and Resume/cv	Write Draft Resume (Due 3/6)
		2/25	Tue		
		2/26	Wed		
		2/27	Thu		
7	Mar 2	3/2	Mon	Discuss student resumes and Elevator Pitch	Cover letter Final draft (due 3/13)
		3/3	Tue		
		3/4	Wed		
		3/5	Thu		
8	Mar 9	3/9	Mon	How to interview	Read materials, prepare for a mock interview
		3/10	Tue		
		3/11	Wed		
		3/12	Thu		
9	Mar 16	3/16	Mon	SPRING BREAK No sections this week	
		3/17	Tue		
		3/18	Wed		
		3/19	Thu		
10	Mar 23	3/23	Mon	Interviewing skills- Mock MMI	Revise resume (final draft due by 3/27)
		3/24	Tue		
		3/25	Wed		
		3/26	Thu		
11	Mar 30	3/30	Mon	TBA	Identify a plan "B" career option, Plan B assignment (Due 4/10)
		3/31	Tue		
		4/1	Wed		
		4/2	Thu		
12	Apr 6	4/6	Mon	Soft Skills and Time Management	none
		4/7	Tues		
		4/8	Wed		
		4/9	Thurs		
13	Apr 13	4/13	Mon	General discussion about "Plan "B" career plans	Finish outstanding materials (Due 4/25)
		4/14	Tues		
		4/15	Wed		
		4/16	Thurs		
14	Apr 20	4/20-23	Holiday	No sections this week	

yellow = Monday Holiday, green = Monday schedule