

# BIOMEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY

## BIOM\*4300, Fall 2016

Department of Biomedical Sciences (OVC)

Lectures: Tuesday 2:30 – 4:30 pm (MAC149) & Wednesday 10:30 – 11:20 am (ANNU156)

### Course Coordinator & Lecturer:

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*(Endocrinology, Cardiovascular and renal physiology,  
Reproduction, Immunology, Digestion & Nervous system)*

### 1. Calendar Description and Course Objectives:

The primary purpose of this course is to develop the students' ability to communicate scientific and clinical information logically and concisely and to be able to translate this into formats that are readily understood and accessible to a variety of trained and naïve audiences. Students will practise problem-solving in aspects of comparative physiology. Through written and oral presentations, students will develop the skills and confidence to analyze scientific and clinical data and communicate that knowledge to others.

The course consists of a number of problems that will be addressed in small-group sessions. In addition, each group will be set a task every two weeks to develop a written piece in a particular genre. For example: a ministerial brief to explain the key scientific and political issues of a particular scenario; an article for a popular media magazine; an abstract for a scientific meeting; a pitch to potential investors for equity investment in a scientific idea; a magazine article for an international journal such as the Economist, the New Yorker or the Walrus etc.

### 2. Class Sessions:

The main activities for the course will be the weekly two-hour sessions held in Mac Hall (MAC149). Attending these sessions is important and students should make every effort to attend. In addition, there will be a fifty-minute lecture once a week. This lecture will be held in ANNU156 and will consist of a number of presentations about how to communicate in different formats.

In addition, there will be a group assignment in the form of a presentation that will be made to the class. These projects will be allocated to each group in the first two weeks of the course and presented to the class in November. A separate schedule of presentations will be provided.

### 3. Assessments:

There will be no mid-term or final examination in this course. Assessment will comprise continuous assessment in three different ways:

1. Each week at the end of the case discussions, there will be an opportunity to members of each group to provide feedback to their colleagues about their own and the other members of the group. This process will be formalized in two written self and peer-assessments (one at the mid-way point in the semester and one at the end). These mid and full-term assessments will comprise 40% of the final total grade.

2. There will be six written assignments spaced throughout the semester. The best five out of six grades will be used to calculate 30% of the final grade for the course.
3. The group presentation will be marked by a rubric by the rest of the class and will contribute to 30% of the final grade for the course.

#### 4. Textbooks and Lecture Materials:

There are no specific textbooks for the course. It will be helpful to access to Stuart Fox's book "Human Physiology" 14<sup>th</sup> Edition, ISBN: 0077485300, by McGraw-Hill, available from the University Bookstore.

Powerpoint slides for each formal lecture will be made available on Courselink In addition, as the semester progresses, you will also see handouts of additional material and notes posted on Courselink. Students are expected to be familiar with everything posted.

**The active learning sessions, the additional lectures and any notes posted to Courselink are the foundation for the course, but it is your responsibility to ensure that you do the additional work necessary to gain a good overall understanding of issues presented in this course.**

#### 5. Submission of material for assessment

**Dates for submission of all assignments will be posted on Courselink (See separate schedule).**

It is your responsibility to ensure that all material is submitted on time. As all the submissions will be made on-line, it is vital that you have access to a computer either at home or in the library. There will be no extensions granted for late submission. A mark of ZERO will be allocated to the particular assignment (and that includes the mid-way and final group assessments worth 20% each).

All the assignments are planned to take into accommodation different learning styles and challenges in completing assignments by a deadline. For students working with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) see below.

#### **Requests for deferral privileges.**

As there are no mid-terms or final examinations in this course, there should be no reason to request deferral privileges.

There may, however, be medical or compassionate grounds that may prevent you from completing or submitting the assignments by the posted due date. If you have medical reasons that will not permit you to submit an assignment on time, you must inform the Coordinator of the situation by e-mail. Preferably this should be done before the due date for the assignment, but requests for consideration will be considered for submissions **within 5 working days after the due date**. Proof of the medical/compassionate reasons that you claim for your inability to complete the assignment on time (such as a doctor's note) **will be required**. Your documentation must be **specific** to the particular circumstance. In some instances, you may also be required to obtain a dispensation from your program counsellor before a privilege is granted. The doctor's note should be specific (including reference to the time that any incapacity is likely to exist).

In other words, a certificate stating only "I saw this patient today at 3PM, with complaints of influenza-like symptoms" will NOT be accepted. A statement should read like this: "This patient is not well and I advised her that she should refrain from academic work for one week starting today".

It is not necessary for your doctor to give the diagnosis, and you will never have to divulge any health problems to any of the teaching staff.

**If You Need an Extension Due to Stress, Anxiety, or Depression**

A note from a family doctor, psychiatrist or psychologist registered in Ontario may be submitted for an extension of the assignment due dates to be granted. The note must be on letterhead and in the case of a psychologist give his or her Ontario registration number, and include:

1. A clear, specific recommendation that submission of the assignment is delayed, or, if you saw the practitioner after the test, that your condition SPECIFICALLY caused you to miss the deadline, and
2. A clear statement as to how long the incapacity is likely to persist.

**Students working with the Student Accessibility Services**

Students who are working with the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) will have the appropriate accommodation made. Please ask the staff at SAS to contact the course coordinator as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations can be in place.

**If You Had a Traffic Accident**

Please supply some evidence that refers to the date of the accident: police report, doctor's note, or insurance report.

**If You Had a Death in the Family**

All consideration will be extended to bereaved students who have experienced a death in their immediately family (parent, grandparent, sibling). The specific nature of the consideration should be discussed with the Course Coordinator as soon as practically possible but proof of the situation should include a copy of the death certificate or letter from the funeral home stating the date of death, the date of the funeral, and the relationship between the student and the deceased.

(Death certificates are widely and easily available following a death. Several are usually given to the bereaved by a funeral home at the time of the funeral arrangements).

**Invalid excuses:** the following are some of the more common ones.

**“I have another test at the same time.”**

The dates for all assignments for BIOM4300 are scheduled ahead of time and there is ample time to complete the assignment. To be fair to everyone the assignment dates will not be changed for students who may have particularly hectic examination schedules.

**“My computer broke down,” “The internet wasn't working” etc.**

At all times keep a hard copy of your work in case we lose it or your computer breaks down. Failure to do so may result in you losing credit for your work! In case where you are asked to submit your work electronically, please do so well before the deadline, otherwise if there is a server problem you may not be able to get it in on time. Sorry, computer and internet problems will not be accepted as valid reasons for being late.

**“Would you please give me a better mark, different assignments, I need it to get into medical school/ law school / journalism school/ teacher's college / massage therapy”**

Sorry. Please don't try this one. Marks are assigned on merit only, and the course is offered the same for all students.

## 6. University of Guelph Policy Reminders:

**Course and Instructor Evaluation:** Students will be asked to complete a questionnaire on the teaching performance of the instructor. The evaluation is required by the University to assess faculty teaching performance for purposes of Tenure, Promotion and annual pay increases. To ensure confidentiality, the evaluation will be administered solely by the office of Teaching Support Services and NOT by the Instructor or by any member of the Department of Biomedical Sciences. Summaries of these evaluations will be made available to the Instructor ONLY after the grades for examinations have been submitted to the Registrar's Office. You are encouraged to be honest and forthright in your comments.

**Academic Misconduct:** The University of Guelph takes a very serious view of Academic Misconduct. Included in this category are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission. Students are expected to be familiar with the section on Academic Misconduct in the Undergraduate Calendar and should be aware that expulsion from the University is a possible penalty.

**Accessibility:** The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (formally named the Centre for Students with Disabilities) as soon as possible.