



# SYLLABUS

## BIOL 4051 RESEARCH Fall August 26, 2019 - December 14, 2019

**Instructors:** Dr. Mgbemena, Dr. Sander and Dr. Vaden,  
**Section # and CRN:** P01, 13553  
**Office Location:** E.E. O'Banion Science Building, Biology Department  
**Office Phone:** (936) 261-3172  
**Email Address:** Use MY MAIL (eCourses email)  
**Office Hours:** by appointment  
**Mode of Instruction:** Face to Face

**Course Location:** E.E. O'Banion Science Building  
**Class Days & Times:** Lecture/Lab Wednesday, 3PM - 3:50PM, Rm. 407  
**Catalog Description:** Research. (0-2) Credit 1 semester hour each. Library and laboratory work in specific biological problems.

**Prerequisites:** NA  
**Co-requisites:** NA

**Required Texts:** Literature, research papers and reviews that cover diverse topics will be provided on eCourses.

**Other Required Course Materials:** By Sept. 4., students are required to bring a binder (1 inch) with 2 inside pockets to assemble all documents/literature received in class. Students are required to bring the binder to each lecture/laboratory class.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

Program Learning Outcome # Alignment: knowledge of #1) the chemical basis of life, #2) the central concepts of Genetics; #3) Cell Biology; #4) Organismal Biology; and #5) scientific communication

Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment: Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, and Teamwork

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1	Demonstrate knowledge of experimental design, basic data collection methods, and data interpretation.	#1-4	Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills
2	Summarize key findings from primary literature.	#1-4	Critical Thinking
3	Analyze and interpret figures/tables published from biomedical research publications.	#1-4	Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills
4	Summarize scientific communications for lay people from different sources, including print and digital media. Write scientific protocols.	#5	Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical, Quantitative Skills and Teamwork
5	Demonstrate mastery of the scientific method and laboratory skills	#1-4	Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills

## Major Course Requirements

### Method of Determining Final Course Grade

#### COURSE EVALUATION METHODS:

The University's Academic Catalog grading policy is used in this course.

Course Grade Requirement	Value	Total
1) Hourly Lecture Exams	25%	25
2) Science Journalism/Media Piece	25%	25
3) Laboratory Protocols	25%	25
4) Class Assignments & Lab/Lecture Performance/Participation	25%	25
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100</b>

### Grading Criteria and Conversion:

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = Below 60

### Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

#### Assignment Title or Grade Requirement

#### Description

Lecture & Lab Exams	The midterm and final lecture exams will be administered. The average of all lecture exams will constitute 25% of the semester grade.
Science Journalism/Scientific Media Piece	25% of the semester grade
Laboratory Protocols	25% of the semester grade
Class assignments & Lab and lecture performance/participation	25% of the semester grade. Class assignments will consist of eCourses quizzes/lab exercises / lecture quizzes. JoVE assignments (Journal of Visualized Experiments) from a peer-reviewed scientific journal that publishes experimental methods in video format. Unannounced quizzes may be given by the instructor in order to evaluate how well students are learning the most recent research concepts taught. The average of all graded class assignments will count for 25% of the total grade.

### Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

1. **CLASS ATTENDANCE:** The University Attendance Policy requires students to be present for each scheduled class. Students with or without official excuses for missing class will be tested and evaluated the same as students who attend class. However, students attending class will have the advantage of being taught knowledgeable information which they are expected to know. Students are responsible for materials covered during their absences. Classes will start at the prescribed time and end at the prescribed time. Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class. The University catalog provides more detailed information.

2. **MAKE-UP EXAMS:** Students are strongly advised to take all exams at the scheduled time. Plan and schedule your activities so that you can be present to take all exams at the scheduled time. Students with non-valid or non-official excuses for missing an exam will earn a grade of zero (0) for the missed exam. Students may request a make-up exam if an official excuse is provided. However, the instructor will schedule the time and place of the make-up exam which will not interrupt the teaching of the class or delay the complete coverage of the course topics. Students who are scheduled for the make-up exam and miss it will not be provided a second opportunity to take an exam for the original exam that was missed.

3. **CHEATING.** Students caught cheating will receive a grade of F for the course. Students are prohibited from participation in acts of academic dishonesty, including tampering with records or falsifying admissions or other information. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who alone or with others engages in any act of academic fraud or deceit. The undergraduate catalog provides more detailed information. It is the responsibility of students and faculty members to maintain academic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty.

4. Cellular phones, I-Pods, Palm pilots, CD players, Radios, Cameras, Computers and other sorts of high technology communication instruments are not allowed to be used during any part of lectures and exams. They are instruments of cheating. They must be turned off and locked so that they cannot be seen or used. Students that are caught using these or any other instruments used to cheat, will be charged with cheating and therefore earn a

failing grade of zero and F.

5. PLEASE DO NOT BRING FOOD OR DRINKS INTO THE CLASSROOM.

6. BE CERTAIN TO TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES, IPODS AND LAPTOPS DURING CLASS.

7. Student Academic Appeals Process: Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

8. DISABILITY SERVICES: If you have a disability, please inform me so that I can assist you to get "reasonable accommodation" related to the disability. Students with disabilities who believe they may need adjustment in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disabilities Services at (936) 261-3585 as soon as possible. Once you receive a letter of adjustment from the office, please make an appointment with me to discuss adjustments for this class.

9. CLASSROOM CIVILITY: Each student is encouraged to help create an environment during class that promotes learning, dignity, and mutual respect for everyone. Students who speak at inappropriate times, sleep in class, display inattention, take frequent breaks, interrupt the class by coming to class late, engage in loud or distracting behaviors, use cell phone in class, use inappropriate language, are verbally abusive, display defiance or disrespect to others, or behave aggressively toward others could be asked to leave the class and subjected to disciplinary action under the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Disciplinary Procedures.

### Taskstream

Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. One of your assignments may be considered an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

### **TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE AND COURSE OUTLINE:**

Scientific Method - Case Review and Practice
Literature Review
Figures and Tables
Test/Quiz over Scientific Method
Science communication and journalism
Journal Club
Digital and Print Media Projects
Digital and Print Media Projects
Scientific Protocol Writing
Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE) assignments covering: General laboratory techniques and basic methods in cellular and molecular biology
Research skills and equipment

### Student Support and Success

#### John B. Coleman Library

The library and its partners have as their mission "to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service" and to support the University's core values of "access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility" through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty.

#### Center for Academic Support

The Center for Academic Support (CAS) offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Tutoring Center is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library

### COMPASS

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Location: Hilliard Hall 121

### **University Rules and Procedures**

#### **Disability statement (See Student Handbook):**

Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

#### **Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):**

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

#### **Forms of academic dishonesty:**

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

#### **Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)**

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

#### **Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):**

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **Attendance Policy**

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

#### **Student Academic Appeals Process**

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

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### **TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:**

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

**Note:** Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups

#### **Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:**

- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

#### **Netiquette (online etiquette):**

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

#### **Technical Support:**

Students should go to <https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/> if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

#### **Communication Expectations and Standards:**

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

#### **Discussion Requirement:**

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

**It is strongly suggested** that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.

## Academic Calendar Fall 2019 – Full Term

The Prairie View A&M Academic Calendar is subject to change

Jun 15 Saturday	Deadline to Submit Financial Aid Verification Documents
Jun 15 Saturday	Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Appeal Deadline
Aug 22 Thursday	Registration for All Students
Aug 26 Monday	First Class Day
Aug 26 Monday	Tuition & Fees Payment Due Date
Aug 26 - Sep 03 Monday through Tuesday	Attendance Reporting Period (NS/SH) Students who do not attend class during this period will have their courses removed and financial aid reduced or cancelled
Aug 26 Monday	Late Registration Fee Begins (\$50.00)
Aug 31 Saturday	Final Day to Add a class(s) for credit
Aug 31 Saturday	Final Day to Register with Late fee
Sep 02 Monday	Labor Day Holiday (University Closed)
Sep 09 Monday	Financial Aid Refunds Begin
Sep 11 Wednesday	12th Class Day (Census Date)
Sep 11 Wednesday	Final Day to Drop/Withdraw from Course(s) without Academic Record (A Financial Record will still exist)
Sep 12 Thursday	Withdrawal from Courses with Academic Record ("W") Begins
Sep 17 Tuesday	Drop for Non-Payment of Tuition and Fees @ 5:00 p.m.
Oct 17 - Oct 19 Thursday through Saturday	Mid-Semester Examination Period
Oct 22 Tuesday	Mid-Semester Grades Due
Oct 31 Thursday	Final Date to Apply for Fall 2019 Graduation (ceremony participation)
Nov 01 Friday	Application for Graduation-Degree Conferral only for Fall 2019 Graduation Begins (no ceremony participation or name listed in the program)
Nov 01 Friday	Final Day to Withdraw from Course(s) with Academic Record ("W") – Fall 2019 16-week session
Nov 11 Monday	Priority Registration for continuing students for Spring and Summer semesters

Nov 18 Monday	Pre-Registration for all other student for the Spring and Summer semesters
Nov 28 - Nov 30 Thursday through Saturday	Thanksgiving Holiday (University Closed)
Dec 02 - Dec 03 Monday through Tuesday	Course Review Days (Classes must convene and instructors will prepare students for final exams)
Dec 03 Tuesday	Final Day to Apply for Degree Conferral only for Fall 2019 Graduation (no ceremony participation or name listed in the program)
Dec 03 Tuesday	Last Class Day
Dec 03 Tuesday	Final Day to Submit Application for Tuition Rebate for Fall Graduation 2019 (Undergraduate Candidates)
Dec 03 Tuesday	Final Day to Withdraw from the University (from all courses) for the Fall 2019 16-week session
Dec 04 - Dec 10 Wednesday through Tuesday	Final Examination
<b>Tuesday Dec 10</b>	<b>RESEARCH FINAL EXAM, 1:30pm – 3:30pm, room 407</b>
Dec 12 Thursday	Final Grades due for Graduation Candidates (12:00 p.m.) – Fall 2019 16-week session
Dec 14 Saturday	Commencement
Dec 17 Tuesday	Final Grades due for all other students (11:59 p.m.)

## FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE FALL 2019 SEMESTER EXAM WEEK

TIMES	Wednesday Dec 4	Thursday Dec 5	Friday Dec 6	Saturday Dec 7	Monday Dec 9	Tuesday Dec 10
8:00am–10:00am	M-W-F, 8:00 am	TU-THUR, 8:00 am	M-W-F, 9:00 am	SAT, 8:00 a m	M-W-F, 10:00 am	TU-THUR, 9:30 am
10:30am12:30pm	M-W-F, 11:00 am	TU-THUR, 11:00 am	M-W-F, 12:00 pm	SAT, 11:00 am	M-W-F, 1:00 pm	TU-THUR, 12:30 pm
1:30pm–3:30pm	M-W-F, 2:00 pm	TU-THUR, 2:00 pm	M-W-F, 3:00 pm	SAT, 2:00 p m	M-W-F, 4:00 pm	TU-THUR, 3:30 pm
4:00pm–6:00pm	M-W-F, 5:00 pm	TU-THUR, 5:00 pm	M-W-F, 6:00 pm	COMMON EXAM	COMMON EXAM	COMMON EXAM
6:30pm–8:30pm	COMMON EXAM	COMMON EXAM	COMMON EXAM	COMMON EXAM	COMMON EXAM	COMMON EXAM

**NOTES:**

1. All NROTC and AROTC examinations will be scheduled by the professors of NROTC and AROTC during this final exam period.
2. All HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE practice examinations will be scheduled by the head of the Department of Health and Human Performance during this final exam period.
3. Instructors should contact the Office of the Registrar as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester to schedule rooms for common exams.
4. Final Exam schedules for 8-week sessions will follow the Academic Calendar.