

Biology 140: Freshman Seminar

Syllabus: Fall 2007

Coordinator

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Office Hours: 1:00–5:00 Tuesday and Friday; or by appointment.

Purpose of Freshman Seminar

Freshman seminar is designed to provide opportunities for you to meet faculty and upper level students nearing graduation who will provide support and advice as you earn a degree in Biology. Over the course of the semester we will explore a variety of topics including growing in your Christian faith, class scheduling, summer research and internships, and educational and career possibilities that await you after graduation. In addition, you will have the privilege of joining with Biology 440 to hear invited speakers discuss their research and to hear fellow students present their senior seminars.

We sincerely hope that this class will serve as a platform for strengthening relationships between you and our faculty, and between you and your peers. But most of all, we pray that this class will be the starting point for growing in your relationship with God as you learn how to examine his awesome creation using standard scientific methods.

Students with Disability

It is the policy for Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Therefore, any student with a documented disability condition (e.g. physical, learning, psychological, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and the Disabilities Office at the beginning of each semester. (If the diagnosis of the disability occurs during the academic year, the student must self-identify with the Disabilities Director as soon as possible in order to get academic accommodations in place for the remainder of the semester.) The Disabilities Office is located in Room 102 of the Lee Academic Center, telephone, (501) 279-4019.

Academic Integrity

Honesty and integrity are characteristics that should describe each one of us as servants of Jesus Christ. As your instructor, I pledge that I will strive for honesty and integrity in how I handle the content of this course and in how I interact with each of you. I ask that you join me in pledging to do the same. Academic dishonesty will result in penalties up to and including dismissal from the class with a failing grade and will be reported to the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. All instances of dishonesty will be handled according to the procedures delineated in the Harding University catalog.

Attendance Policy

Freshman Seminar (BIOL 140) is required for the B.S. in Biology and the B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology degrees. BIOL 140 is the prequel to Senior Seminar (BIOL 440). Ideally, you should enroll in BIOL 140 during your first semester as a biology major.

Attendance is required. You are allowed one absence per semester for which you will not be held accountable. For each additional absence you must formally request to be excused. Your overall course grade for seminar (assigned during your last semester of Biol 440) will be lowered five points for each unexcused absence. In addition, you will be dropped automatically from Freshman Seminar if you exceed three unexcused absences during the semester, which will result in your having to register for an extra semester of seminar in order to meet graduation requirements. Activities such as making up work for another class (labs, exams, etc.), attending sporting events or team practice, medical appointments, institutional exams (CLEP, JEP, etc.), going home, attending to frivolous personal needs, club activities, and forgetting are insufficient reasons for being absent.

Formal requests for excused absence can be made by submitting the Request for Excuse Form with attached supporting documentation to the biology secretary in Pryor Science Rm 131 by 5:00 PM on Friday of the week missed. This is the only requesting procedure that will be considered and does not guarantee an excused absence. A majority vote by the biology faculty on your request will determine whether or not your absence is excused. If you have been called away from campus for an extended emergency or are suffering from an extended illness, you may turn in the form as soon as possible after your return. Make sure that the secretary dates and initials the form. Late excuses will not be accepted except in cases of unavoidable emergency.

Grades

Students enrolled in Biol. 140, and in Biol. 440 for 0 credit hours, will receive a final semester grade of "NC", no credit. However, participation will be recorded on the formal transcript as a partial fulfillment of a degree requirement.

A final course grade in Biology Seminar will be earned in the last semester of Biol 440 when taken for 2 credit hours. Course grades will be determined by adjusting the senior seminar presentation score by the following: 1) five point reduction for each unexcused absence accumulated during enrollment in Biology 140; 2) five point reduction for each unexcused absence accumulated over three semesters of enrollment in Biology 440; 3) five point reduction for each "U" earned during Journal Club; and 4) adjustments made regarding student's score on the MFAT, a standardized exam taken by all graduating seniors during their last semester of seminar.

For more information on Senior Seminar (Biology 440) you can visit its website at www.harding.edu/biology/SEMINAR/