

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
November 2020 Issue

We trust that this year's week-long Fall Break was a welcome change of pace, providing you with rest, time, and energy for the remainder of the term!

Julie French announced her retirement after a career helping generations of students (along with many faculty). Thank you, Julie, for spending your career with us and focusing your energy on helping us all. We wish Julie all the best and good health! As a reminder that the email address is now ug.biology@queensu.ca as we transition the Biology Undergraduate Office.

This month's newsletter provides further course information to complement the planning advice published in the October 2020 issue. We start here with a compilation of planned course information to help you firm up your Winter term schedule and address potential timetabling conflicts if needed. The table provides a quick look at whether a course plans to use synchronous approaches, the types of synchronous activities, tentative timeslots used, attendance expectations, and specific details if available. Bear in mind that more courses are planning to offer synchronous activities in the Winter term. This reflects some of your preferences communicated in the recent 2020-2021 ASUS Remote Learning Report as well as instructors gaining more knowledge in managing remote delivery in more interactive ways. The spreadsheet is available through the "Course Information Spreadsheet" link below along with a link to the October 2020 issue.

[LINK TO THE COURSE INFORMATION SPREADSHEET](#)

[LINK TO THE OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE](#)

BIOL402 – Experiments in Plant Physiology

The experiential lab course BIOL402 originally planned for on-campus delivery will now be converted to remote delivery. We will be adhering to the in-person activities as much as possible. The teaching team will be live broadcasting the lab sessions (both prep and experimental sessions) in a robust interactive manner with real datasets to analyze – a blend between a science show and town hall. One experiment may even be designed by you, carried out by us, and then provided with the data.

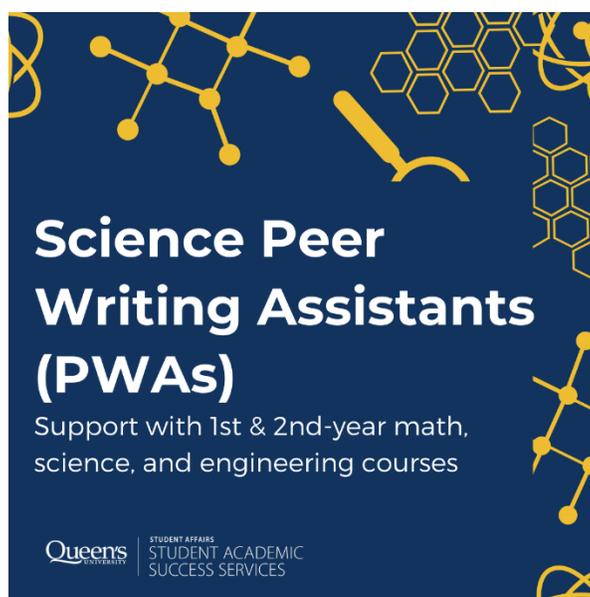
BIOL403 – Experimental Techniques in Biology

Contingent on public health's guidance, we are planning BIOL403 to be on campus in our brand-new teaching lab with more space and with enhanced resources. Using a scheduling system, the labs will be conducted in a safe manner with small numbers of students in the room. As a reminder, the University has advised all students returning to campus from out of town in winter to self-isolate for two weeks, starting January 4, 2021. The first week of classes starting January 11, 2021 will be remote and on-campus elements will begin the week of January 18, 2021.

BIOL537, 541 and BIOL 538-540 – Research in Biology and Research Mentorship

The capstone courses, BIOL537, 541, and the mentorships courses 538-540, are being planned for on-campus work and guided by the faculty supervisor's individual Return to Campus/Work application(s). Access is governed by the safety guidelines in place. Where needed, access can be full, partial, limited, or periodic. **Note that access to a research facility is subject to the supervisor's decision to accommodate, i.e. the decision rests with the individual faculty supervisor. You are advised to work with your supervisor.**

Peer Writing Assistants for Science



The Science Peer Writing Assistants (PWAs) are upper-year Queen's undergrad and grad students who specialize in assisting with writing lab reports, research papers, and other science assignments for 1st and 2nd-year courses. In one-on-one appointments with Science PWAs, the peers will help you work on your papers, whether you want to meet expectations around style, structure, use of technical vocabulary, or any other writing issue. There are lots of appointments available, so book your appointment today! (<https://sass.queensu.ca/>)

Wondering about how many courses you can take from other Faculties and Schools towards your degree plan/program?

A maximum of 6.0 units from courses offered by other Faculties and Schools may be counted towards the Program and/or Plan requirements of any degree in the Faculty of Arts and Science, in addition to any such courses allowed as either Core or Option course requirements.

The courses listed in the document below are approved for students in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/academic-calendar#section-courses-of-instruction>

Not sure if you have picked up the right courses for your degree plan?

It is important that you check your degree plan/program requirements before this year's special November add/drop date (November 2, 2020) to ensure you are on target. Please review your degree plan/program requirements using SOLUS. This is a great tool and will help keep you on track. January 22, 2021 is the last day to add winter classes or drop without financial penalty.

Biological Foundations List Requirement – IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THROUGHOUT YOUR PROGRAM!

It is very important to keep this GPA requirement in mind throughout your program, starting with first year. To be admitted to 400 and 500 level Biology courses, you will need a minimum GPA of 2.0 in any previously taken courses from Biological Foundations list.

The Biological Foundations List is BIOL 102, 103, 200, 212, (201, 202), 205, 206, 300, 330, 334, 339, and 341 (BIOL 302, 303).

Wondering how to contact your course program associate regarding work associated with the lab component of core courses?

BIOL 102: biol102@queensu.ca

BIOL 103: biol103@queensu.ca

BIOL 200: biol200@queensu.ca

BIOL 205: biol205@queensu.ca

BIOL 206: biol206@queensu.ca

BIOL 212: biol212@queensu.ca

BIOL 300: biol300@queensu.ca

Important Links

Updates on Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/fall2020>

Updates on COVID-19: <https://www.queensu.ca/covidinfo/>

Helpful Links

[Information on Applying for a Course Prerequisite Waiver](#)

[Arts and Science Academic Deadlines](#)

[Arts and Science Calendar](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

QUBS Quick Links

Website: <https://qubs.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/QUBioStation>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/QUBS_Director

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/qubsoutreach>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/QUBScam>

Looking for a job? [Quick Link](#)

Looking for study and travel opportunities? [Quick Link](#)

BIOLOGY Undergraduate Office (normal non-COVID-19 operations)

Mon to Friday 8:30 to noon and 1:00 to 3:00pm

Rm. 3109d, BIOSC Complex

613-533-6344

ug.biology@queensu.ca

NOTE: Use email to correspond during COVID-19 as we are working remotely.