
BIOL 507

Biotechnology

Winter Term 2022

Instructor	Dr. Maria Aristizabal
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Student Hours	TBA

Learning Objectives

The goal of Biology 507 is to provide a safe and respectful atmosphere for the free and open discussion of a wide range of topics in the area of biotechnology. We will explore background material and current research on a variety of existing and emerging technologies with a particular focus on their ethical, societal and environmental impacts. The main goal of this course is to stimulate discussions on topics related to public policy, the value of science to the public, and laws governing biotechnologies. There will be regular assignments throughout the term. Topics discussed will include human cloning, xenotransplants, genetic discrimination, stem cells, synthetic biology, patenting of genes, and the release of GMOs to the environment.

EXCLUSION BIOL441* (if taken first)

Learning Hours

Teaching method		Average hours per week	Number of weeks	Total hours
In-class	Lecture	0.5	12	6
	Student presentations	3	3	9
	Group learning	2.5	10	25
Other	private study	7	10	70
Total hours on task				110

Course Outline

1. TBD

Textbooks/Readings

All reading materials will be available on OnQ and will consist of research and news articles.

Grading Scheme

Component	Weight (%)
Student presentation	20%
Term paper	25%
Participation and regular assignments	35%
In-class essay	20%

Grading Method

- All components of this course will receive letter grades which, for purposes of calculating your course average, will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science Letter Grade Input Scheme.

When letter grades are employed, the following scale will be employed for purposes of calculating your course average:

Arts & Science Letter Grade Input Scheme

Assignment mark	Numerical value for calculation of final mark
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

Academic Integrity and Queen's Code of Conduct

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments and conduct conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 - <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations>, on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity>), and at Biology's website (<http://www.queensu.ca/biology/undergrad/integrity.html>) and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulations on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

Accommodation Policy, Exam Conflicts, and Other Conflicts

Students who feel they need accommodations for disabilities or extenuating circumstances, or have a conflict between exams or other commitments should consult the Biology Department's website for details about how to proceed (<http://www.queensu.ca/biology/undergrad/integrity.html>). In general, the earlier a course coordinator is apprised of an extenuating circumstance, the more likely an accommodation can be made. Students are encouraged to be proactive in anticipating difficulties, when it is possible to do so.

Students may apply to write a make-up or deferred exam if they have an exam conflict as defined in the Academic Regulations of the Faculty (See Arts and Science Calendar Regulation 8 - <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations>). In this case, the student should report to the Exams Office first to verify that there is a genuine exam conflict. Biology professors will not consider your situation to be a conflict unless it meets the criteria set out by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

Students may request a make-up or deferred exam if they have an exam conflict with off-campus travel associated with a field course (e.g BIOL-307/3.0 or 407/3.0) that is held during the fall or winter terms.

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Accommodation of Disabilities

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services Office (DSO) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the DSO website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/hcds/ds/>