



**Course Syllabus
Capstone in Modern Biology / BIO8183
Summer 2018**

Instructor:

Donna M. Gordon, Ph.D. M.S. in General Biology degree program graduate coordinator

Office location: 222 Harned Hall

Contact Information: gordon@biology.msstate.edu
662-325-9337 (office)

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

Hands-on laboratory and field experiences which demonstrate the major techniques of molecular, cellular, organismal, and ecological biology.

Course Prerequisites:

Thirty hours of BIO graduate work and consent of instructor.

Course Materials:

Required classroom materials will vary from module to module. You are encouraged to review the individual syllabi posted for each module prior to your arrival on campus to ensure that you bring the necessary materials and are prepared for the requirements listed for each.

You will be provided with a three-ringed binder that contains the syllabi for select lab modules along with any additional module materials (if available and/or necessary). Syllabi may also be posted online or presented during the first meeting for that module. Additional materials needed for taking/recording notes during the Capstone are the responsibility of the student.

MSU Honor Code and Academic Misconduct:

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows: "As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do." Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Student will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code.

You will be asked to acknowledge the University's policy on academic misconduct for all quizzes, exams, and assignments. You will be required to abide by all MSU policies with regard to academic conduct. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments, quizzes, and exams must be completed without outside assistance. Faculty members and students are responsible for reporting cases of misconduct. Penalties for cheating may include receiving an "F" for this course, suspension, and/or expulsion from the University. Students have the right to appeal decisions made by the Student Honor Code Council.

Please view the following site outlining the Universities policies and definitions of acts that constitute academic misconduct for more information: <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/policy/>. A link to the MSU Honor Code is also posted on the myCourses homepage for this course.

Title IX:

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU's educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU's Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by e-mail to titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources are available at <http://www.msstate.edu/web/security/title9-12.pdf>, or at <http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/>.

Accommodations For Students With Disabilities: Students with disabilities in need of accommodations to meet the expectations of this course are encouraged to bring this need to the attention of the instructor and should register with the Office of Student Support Services as soon as possible. The Office of Student & Disability Support Services is located in 01 Montgomery Hall, (662) 325-3335 (phone), and <http://www.sss.msstate.edu>

Service Animal Statement:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and MSU policy (OP 91.123), qualified service animals are permitted in those generally accessible areas of Harned Hall, including hallways, bathrooms, offices and non-lab classrooms. However, research and teaching laboratory areas are more restricted by their nature. If you need to be accompanied by a service animal for the laboratory portion of this course, please be sure to let [instructor name] know as soon as possible so that we can arrange for an evaluation of the space by MSU Environmental Health & Safety, in conjunction with Disability Support Services.

Maroon Alert:

Maroon Alert is the emergency notification system of Mississippi State University. It includes several methods of notifying the university community of hazards and concerns, including text messages, emails, alerts on web pages, social media, and sirens. To be fully informed, please verify your Maroon Alert subscription information at my.msstate.edu. To report an on-campus emergency, dial **911** or **(662) 325-2121**. You can find more information about the Maroon Alert system at <http://www.emergency.msstate.edu/maroon-alert/>

Class Schedule:

See the attached calendar for a schedule of events. The specific course module, location, and instructor are listed for each of the 10 days of the Capstone (Monday, June 18th through Thursday, June 28th).

Assessment:

Your grade in this course will be based on your performance in 12 different modules. Assessments for each module will vary and may include quizzes/exams, written lab reports, performance on laboratory practicals, participation, and/or attendance. The module, the instructor(s) for the module, and information concerning the method(s) used to assess your performance for each module is provided below:

Module	Instructor	Method of Assessment
Chemical Lab Safety	Mr. Thomas	Attendance/participation
Biological Lab Safety	Dr. Peacock	Attendance/participation
Laboratory Basics	Dr. Gordon	Provided within the syllabus for this module
Yeast Genetics	Dr. Gordon	Provided within the syllabus for this module
Developmental Biology	Dr. Range	Provided within the syllabus for this module
Ecology & Conservation	Dr. Barton	Provided within the syllabus for this module
Physiology	Dr. Liu	Provided within the syllabus for this module
Microbiology	Dr. Roberts	Provided within the syllabus for this module
Plant Genotype-Phenotype	Dr. Wang	Provided within the syllabus for this module
GMO Detection	Dr. Reichert	Provided within the syllabus for this module
Plant Tissue Culture	Dr. Reichert	Provided within the syllabus for this module
Genomics	Dr. Counterman	Provided within the syllabus for this module

Civility statement:

All class members deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Please ensure that your comments during class are not prejudicial in nature. Since this is a formal classroom setting, typical university protocol will be followed in the classroom. Your instructor should be addressed by title. E-mail correspondence and quiz/exam answers should follow standard rules of English grammar and punctuation.

In addition, note the following:

1. Place cell phones in silent mode before entering the classroom and/or laboratory environment (see AOP 10.08).
2. Text messaging, IM, and/or browsing the internet once class has started is not permitted unless otherwise granted by the instructor.
3. As a general rule, no recordings of course lectures will be permitted without prior written permission from the instructor.
4. Any person(s) displaying disruptive, distracting, or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave the classroom and/or laboratory. Any student that refuses a request made by the instructor will risk permanent removal from the class.

Attendance Policy:

Unless previously cleared by the instructor, attendance at all scheduled events is a course requirement. If you have a medical condition that might prevent you from fully participating in any of the course modules, you are encouraged to contact the Graduate Coordinator (gordon@biology.msstate.edu) as soon as possible.

Course Grading:

Each module will contribute to your final grade proportionally. Your grade earned in each module will be weighted based on the number of contact hours of that module. Approximate percentages are listed below. These should be used as a guide since final proportions may differ slightly.

Module	%
Yeast Genetics	16.6%
Ecology & Conservation	15.9%
Developmental Biology	12.4%
Microbiology	11.0%
Plant Genotype-Phenotype	10.3%
Physiology	8.2%
GMO Testing	7.6%
Genomics	6.9%
Laboratory Basics	4.8%
Plant Tissue Culture	4.1%
Lab (Chemical& Biological) Safety	2.0%

Final letter grade will be determined using a 10-point scale:

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	≤ 59%