



WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

Academic Cooperative HONORS

BIOL 2389 – SECTION 99

Dr. John W. Seawright

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

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Course Description:

An instructional program designed to integrate on-campus study with practical hands-on work experience in the biological sciences/life sciences. In conjunction with class seminars, the student will set specific individual goals and objectives in the study of living organisms and their systems.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Prerequisite: BIOL 1406, 1407, 1411, 1413, 2401, 2402 or 2420. Semester Hours 3 (2 lec/3 lab)

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Students will need to be proficient in performing self-directed literature reviews, experimental design, experimental techniques, data collection, and analysis. The instructor will act as a guide through each process.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: John W. Seawright, Ph.D.

MCC Email: jseawright@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: (254) 299-8185

Office Location: Faculty Office Building; Room 206

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: MW 11:00 am -12:00 pm (please give me a heads up), or by appointment. In the current pandemic Zoom meetings are preferred. I realize that these conference hours may not work for everybody. I will gladly work with your schedule to set up an appointment!

Zoom ID: 2542998185

Other Instruction Information: **E-mail is the best way to contact me.** You must use your MCC student email address whenever you email me. If you do not, I cannot respond. I attempt to respond to emails and phone calls within 24 hours, Monday – Friday (8 am – 5 pm).

Required Text & Materials:

Lap notebooks and sharpies can be purchased in the bookstore. Appropriate PPE (lab coat, eye protection, masks, gloves, etc.) will be discussed and required during data collection days.

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Throughout the duration of this course, students will be expected to conduct literature searches relevant to the student's research interest & project. A product of these literature searches will be a written proposal in which the student will work with the instructor to form a hypothesis, design experiments to test their hypothesis, planned analyzation techniques of the data they collect, and potential limitations of their experiements. At the end of the semester, students will submit a thesis based on their research project. Students will be expected to, at minimum, present a poster or presentation based on their research at MCC scholar day. If the student's research could result in a publication, the student will be expected to submit their academic paper to an appropriate peer-reviewed journal.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Students should be able to:

1. Perform a thorough literature search and review within the scope of their topic.
2. Use the scientific method to develop, test, and analyze a student created hypothesis.
3. Become proficient in the laboratory techniques necessary to test their hypothesis.
4. Use critical thinking skills to troubleshoot problems that arise during their research.
5. Collect and analyze data.
6. Present and discuss their research in scientific formats.

Course Outline or Schedule:

The student's research will dictate the week-to-week schedule. However, the student will need to conform to the following deadlines.

Friday, February 4th: Written Proposal Finalized

Friday, March 18th: Data Collection Complete

Friday, April 1st: Data Analysis Complete

Friday, April 22nd: Present Poster/Presentation at MCC Scholars Day

Friday, May 6th: Written Thesis Due

Course Grading Information:

Proposal:	20 points
Data Collection:	20 points
Data Analysis:	20 points
Scholars Day Poster/Presentation:	20 points
Thesis:	<u>20 points</u>
Total:	100 points

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Grading Scale:

A = 89.5-100% (89.5 – 100 points)

B = 79.5-89.4% (79.5 – 89.4 points)

C = 69.5-79.4% (69.5 – 79.4 points)

D = 59.5-69.4% (59.5 – 69.4 points)

F < 59.4% (< 59.4 points)

Late Work, Attendance, and Make-Up Work Policies:

Late Work: Late work is NOT accepted in this class without prior approval from the instructor.

Attendance: See MCC's complete attendance policy referred to below in a separate section.

Please note that I follow the attendance policy.

Make-Up Work: Make-up work is not allowed without prior approval from the instructor or from an MCC excused absence.

If for any reason you feel that you will be unable to complete the work by the assigned deadline, you **MUST** contact the instructor with a reasonable explanation and request for extension.

Extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to schedule and attend regular meetings with the instructor.

Each student is expected to ***behave in a civil and respectful manner*** toward the instructor, other students, faculty, and research participants. Students are expected to follow all directions, and provide a non-distractive learning environment.

Students will follow all laboratory safety rules. Students not following safety rules will be immediately asked to leave and may not be able to finish the experiment. The student will need to meet with me during office hours to discuss classroom/laboratory safety before continuing the course.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.