

Mary Baldwin College
Women's Studies/Biology 252 On-line - Canvas
BIOLOGY OF WOMEN
Spring 2021

On-line / Independent Study/Canvas

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Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes: Students will be introduced to the biological events of a woman's life from menarche to menopause and beyond. Topics include: female anatomy and physiology; hormones and the role of hormones in the menstrual cycle; diseases, disorders, and conditions; breast health and disease; development and disorders of development; pregnancy and effects of pregnancy on health; contraception; infertility; and menopause. Students will explore / research a topic of their choosing as a final exam project.

Text and Readings:

There is one good textbook that deals with women's biological issues – consider this an **optional** textbook – it's a bit dated but my power points ARE up to date.

- Hornstein, TM and Schwerin, JL. 2013. ***Biology of Women***. 5th Edition. Delmar Cengage Learning Publishers. ISBN-13: 9978-1-4354-0033-7. Note: to save money, consider renting a textbook or purchasing a used book or an e-book. Note that **I have placed black / white scans of most of the early chapters (but not the pregnancy or menopause chapters) on Canvas. Since there are power points and YouTube films in the modules, you may decide that you don't really need the book.**

Canvas will be used for posting of announcements, syllabus, power points, other applicable material and discussions as well as for submitting assignment-tests and final project. Power points are intended to inform as well as instruct. These contain current information. Due dates for discussion boards and all assignments/tests are posted on Canvas – there is a convenient calendar that shows all work that is due.

Gradebook is used for posting student grades.

Discussion board: Students will be expected to reply/interact/initiate discussion threads **for grade**. Consider the space as free-space for students to interact with each other, share experiences and ideas, and support each other.

Please note: All students must participate in the first discussion board by the end of the second week of the course – this is required for on-line courses. We have to know that you are out there as a course participant.

Contacts:

E-mails will be sent to students through Canvas.

Final Grades Breakdown:

Three test / assignments	60%
Final exam = research project	30% (written report 20%, power point 10%)
Discussion / participation	10%

Students must do the final exam (research project) in order to pass the course.

Due Dates for Work:

Due dates are included in the topics outline (in this syllabus) and are posted on Canvas. Occasional reminders will be sent to students when assignments, discussions, etc. are due – these are “gentle reminders”.

Any due dates set by Canvas will generally not be changed to accommodate individual students unless there are extenuating circumstances. Let me know by email if you are having a problem with a due date.

Work for Grade:

Test/Assignments:

Test / assignments are open book and are posted on Canvas. I suggest that you review the power points and assigned chapters BEFORE you work on the test / assignments so you’ll be better prepared to search for any topics you may need help with. Test / assignments will include multiple choice and essay responses. Since the test / assignment is open book/note, I expect comprehensive, reflective, and detailed responses. YouTube reviews must be comprehensive and include video URL and why chosen – strengths, potential audience(s), etc.

Final Exam Project:

Final exam project is a research project – written report + power point and submitted to Canvas.

Exam/Project will consist of researching a **specific aspect of a woman’s (or men’s) health / disease topic that interests you** – prepare a written report (5 to 7 pages, double-spaced, 12 font, standard margins; the length does NOT include your reference page) PLUS a power point to accompany the written project. Ideas for topics can come from the textbook or based on a women’s or men’s health / medical / basic biology issue of interest. Run your topic by me (as a **required assignment**) so that I can approve it before you get started. The book has lots of ideas but you may have a specific interest that you would like to explore in depth.

A total of at least three references will be required:

Choose one to two from here:

- **Reliable internet sources of information** with **dot.org** or **dot.gov** URLs (includes www.cdc.gov); eg,
 - **CDC publications:** see www.cdc.gov main page for links to available journals related to infectious diseases, case reports, chronic diseases or links to CDC information / data / publications
 - **Mayo Clinic web site** – excellent source of medical information
 - **NIH research sites**

Choose at least one to two from here:

- **A current journal article** (an **original and peer-reviewed research** article) **from a peer-reviewed medical / scientific journal** (eg, New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, Lancet, or other journals related to your

topic; eg, internal medicine, psychiatry, OB/GYNE, reproductive endocrinology, sexual health, sociology / social work, psychology, nursing, etc.) – you can ‘google search’ ‘journals related to _____’ and find a peer-reviewed and scholarly journal or two. Find research articles from any of these journals – try to stay within the last 2 year period to stay current. **Choose at least one article that represents a current area of research in your chosen topic.** Check out any of these journals for topics or ideas. **Choose scholarly and available full-text articles** to avoid interlibrary loan delays. Full text articles are often available in medical journals or would be available through MBU library services. **You may also use reliable, peer-reviewed journals for topics related to social work or law.**

- Editorials or medical perspectives, review articles, and case studies can enrich your research – these should not substitute for the current basic research article.

You may use the following as additional resources (as long as your main three sources are from the above categories):

- **Other reference(s) that address your topic** – YouTube, Nightline, 20/20, Frontline, or other film sources; magazine articles, etc. These are considered ‘gray literature’; ie, not peer-reviewed/scholarly sources. They can enrich your research if used appropriately. Avoid conspiracy theories and pseudoscience unless you are using these as examples of unfounded theories/ideas.

Written Report:

You don’t need to use a cover page – start your paper on page one with title, your name, date submitted on top of first page of document. You may include illustrations, diagrams, graphs, tables, photos, videos, etc. in your document. If you do so you must discuss them – don’t just put them in there expecting your reader to interpret for you.

Your paper must include an introduction and a reason why you chose the topic. **You should divide your paper up into sections with headings / subheadings – this helps with organization. One section can be devoted to current research pertaining to your topic.** Explain who the researchers are and what they are doing. Research may be in the area of mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, etc.

Be sure to include an overall discussion/conclusions section. You can include ‘what did I learn’, ‘what would I like to research further’, ‘where do we go from here’ – whatever your thoughts are.

Avoid use of ‘you’ and ‘your’ in professional writing (includes power point).

Format for citations of sources and bibliography (references): you may use MLA, APA, Chicago-Turabian, or CSE citation methods (I am flexible on this as long as you use a consistent method). Consult the reference librarian at MBC if you have questions related to these citation methods (I am not an expert on these methodologies). **You must use citations and sources within the written report** (endnotes, footnotes, bottom notes, within-parenthesis sources, etc. - whatever fits your chosen favorite).

On your reference page, include URLs if applicable. For articles, you must include author(s), year of publication, full title of article, full name of journal (no abbreviations), volume #, pages covered (eg, 234-242).

You may be creative and include films, pamphlets, newsletters, or other patient-information literature, etc. if you think that this might enhance your project. However, this cannot substitute for the written report with associated guidelines.

Make sure that you edit your work before submitting. Check the guidelines to make sure you have covered your bases.

Submit paper to Canvas (must be doc or dox only). Do not use google docs or pdf.

Power point:

Power point should contain no more than 12 to 14 slides **including title slide and final reference** slide. Your power point should be visible at the back of a pretend large classroom. Editing of slides is critical. **Avoid packing a lot of information onto one slide.** Avoid full sentences since they tempt the presenter to read from the slide – use outlines / bullets. Be brief and to the point. Audiences dislike having to read lots of tiny print on a slide. Crazy custom animations are distracting and should be avoided. Avoid unusual color combinations and busy slides. It is better to have more slides and spread out the information vs. less slides that have too much information.

Images should be used for visual variety and should be clear, not fuzzy (if fuzzy when enlarged, find another image); images should be visible from the ‘back of the room’. **Make sure that you check to see if the image is in fact what you searched for** (you will have to open up the link and make sure it is what you are looking for (eg, I have sometimes searched for a specific microorganism but the images that come up aren’t always that organism!)).

YouTube (or other) links to short films (less than 3 minutes) can be linked into your power point. If you are new to power points, use my own power points as examples of how to do power point presentations for lectures. Please do not use Prezi.

Edit your power point for font/case consistency and spelling, etc.

Your last slide should have your references.

Submit to Canvas. Submit as ppt or pptx. Do not use google docs or pdf.

Grading of Final Exam/Project:

Grading of written paper and power point will include writing (sentence structure and editing, spell-check), use of required and reliable sources (**links to full text articles must be provided so that I can access your references if necessary**), correct citation format, ability to communicate scientific information in a clear and accurate manner, scholarly treatment of the topic, and overall adherence to guidelines for the project.

Exam will be due by ‘work-due’ date (consult calendar).

Requests for Extension (ET):

Check on dates for extensions for semester in question. Extensions are at my discretion. If you are having difficulties during the session, it is a good idea to be in touch with your instructors on an on-going basis. If there are extenuating circumstances, instructors can grant extensions. There are deadlines for extensions so make sure you get your requests in on time. In general, only one ET is permitted.

Honor Code:

MBU honor code must be adhered to. Plagiarism includes copying and pasting content from the Internet as well as copying sentences from journal articles or text books without proper citation.

Schedule for Course Completion:

All students are responsible for adhering to deadlines regarding submission of work.

Schedule of Topics

Notes: Week dates cover Monday through Sunday. Discussion due dates – refer to Canvas Open book is defined as anything in modules, including power points; and text (optional textbook)

Topic / Power Points	Chapter(s) – text optional for reference
Spring: session starts January 11 Week 1 –January 11 – January 17 Why Biology of Women? Power point: History of Women’s Health Movement DISCUSSION #1	1
Week 1 – continued – January 11 – January 17 Power point: Skeletal Systems and Pelvic Floor – Male and Female	3 (pelvic floor – pages 67-68)
Week 2 – January 18 – January 24 Reproductive anatomy – females and males Power points: Reproductive System – Female (external and internal); Reproductive System – Male	3
Week 3 – January 25 – January 31 Reproductive cycle Power points: Hormones Simple; Menstrual Cycle	2 (homeostasis and feedback loops - pages 18-21; endocrine system – pages 22 – 26; skeletal system – pages 27-31; urinary system – pages 47-48) 4 (pages 77-89)
Week 4 – February 1 – February 7 Menstruation and problems Power points–Menstruation – Conditions/Disorders DISCUSSION #2	5
Week 5 - February 8 – February 14 Test / Assignment #1 (chapters 1 through 5; modules/power points) – on Canvas (open book) Due: on or before February 14	

<p>Week 6 - February 15 – February 21 Reproductive tract infections Cancers and other diseases of the female reproductive system Power points – Conditions, Disorders, and Diseases – (three power points) Female Reproductive Tract</p> <p>DISCUSSION #3</p>	<p>6, 8</p>
<p>Week 7 - February 22 – February 28 Breast health and diseases Power point – Breasts</p> <p>Assignment: Submit to Canvas: Think about <u>topic for final project/exam</u> approval; topic must be specific (eg, not just prostate cancer – too general; an example of a specific topic could be issues with screening or disparities in African-American males; another example – not just infertility but infertility and PCOS) – be as specific as you can</p> <p>Due: March 1</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>Week 8 - March 1 – March 7 Genetics and fetal development Power point – Development and Differences in Sexual Development</p>	<p>10 (fertilization and placenta – pages 228-232; sex determination – pages 237-240; chromosomal disorders – pages 241-244)</p>
<p>Week 9 – March 8 – March 14 Test / Assignment #2 (chapters 6 through 10; modules/power points) – on Canvas (open book)</p> <p>Due: on or before March 14</p>	
<p>Week 10 – March 15 – March 21 Pregnancy, labor, and delivery Complications and medical interventions during pregnancy Power points – Pregnancy</p>	<p>11, 12</p>
<p>Week 11 – March 22 – March 28 Contraception and STI protection Power point – Contraception / STI Protection</p> <p>DISCUSSION #4</p>	<p>13 Note: recommend that you start working on final project (find references, make outline, organize thoughts – review guidelines syllabus)</p>
<p>Week 12 - March 29 – April 4 Menopause Power point –Menopause</p>	<p>15 Note: consult with me about need for extension</p>

DISCUSSION #5	
Week 13 – April 5 – April 11 Test #3 (chapters 11 through 15; modules/power points) – on Canvas (open book)	
Due: submit on or before April 11	
April 12 – April 19 Work on final exam/project Final project - <u>Due on or before April 19</u> – note: 30% of your grade; required in order to pass the course	Will not be accepted after final due date unless there are extenuating circumstances; I must approve all ETs and late final project work

Reminder: Independent study is covered by the MBU honor code.

Dr. Eileen T. Hinks
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