



## Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

### Course Information

**Course Number and Name:** BIOL 2910 Independent Study

**Section ID:** 50351.202350

**Semester and Year:** Summer 2023

**Credit Hours:** 1

**Start Date:** June 01, 2023

**End Date:** August 03, 2023

**Course Format:** WEB - Web Classes

**Catalog Course Description:** A course designed to further the interest and education of students who desire to increase their knowledge and familiarity with a specific biological study area. **As required.**

**Meeting Details:** TBD

**Course Drop Deadline:** July 12, 2023

### Instructor Information

**Name:** Mary Griffin

**Office Location:** WSGC2 208

**Office Hours:** As posted in eLearn.

**Office Phone:** 423-798-8168

**Email:** Mary.Griffin@ws.edu

**Supervisor Name:** Dr. Matthew Smith, Dean Natural Science Division

**Supervisor Phone:** 423-585-6865

### Required Textbook(s) and Materials

No textbook required. Course materials will be provided by the professor.

### Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Students will gain insight into scientific research methods

## Instructional Approach and Methods

Directions and course assignments will be available in eLearn. One-on-one assistance with professor will be available via Zoom.

## Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

Data Mining and Reading: Students will be expected to read 3-5 papers and provide summaries of their readings. This activity can vary depending on the student's project design, but research and acquisition of project knowledge must occur along with submission of this information to the faculty member mentoring the project.

Summary Paper: This mini review paper will consist of the student's collective data mining and reading efforts.

Photographs: Students will take photographic evidence of their observations and work efforts. Photographs will need to be uploaded into the eLearn dropbox.

Poster design process: Students will develop a poster design highlighting their research development. The poster should educate the public about the presenter's educational experiences and provide avenues of later study for later students.

Poster presentation: An opportunity for students to present their collected information acquired through the independent study process. The WSCC Research Symposium in April is the planned venue.

## Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or less

## Assignments

## Grading Scale with assignments

Data Mining and summaries (3-5 papers)	15%
Local sites and photographs	15%
Mini paper from summaries	20%
Poster completion	30%
Poster presentation	30%

## Class Participation

### The Student Can Expect from the Instructor:

1. Email response within 24 hours during the normal work week. Holidays and vacations excluded.
2. Email during the weekend will be answered on Monday.
3. Exams to be graded and returned in a timely manner.
4. Enthusiasm for the subject and encouragement to help you when you need it.
5. A fair grading system with feedback.
6. Learning concepts that tie to the real world around us.
7. Respect for you as a learner.

## Online/Web-Enhanced Course Supplementary Information

Virtual Office Hours	None
Library Information	Library Phone 423-585-6903
	<u>WSCC Library Website</u>
	<a href="http://helpdesk.ws.edu">http://helpdesk.ws.edu</a>
Technical Support	Helpdesk Phone 423-318-2742
	<u>WSCC Helpdesk.es.edu/</u>
	<a href="http://helpdesk.ws.edu">http://helpdesk.ws.edu</a>

Web Addresses/Resources	None
Guidelines for Communication: Email, Discussion Posts, Chat	Refer to eLearn

## Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

Expectations: Satisfactory performance in college courses generally asks for two hours of study outside of class for each hour in class. This estimate applies to an "average" student expecting an "adequate" (=C) grade. Students aiming higher or those with academic problems should expect to spend more effort than the minimum. Should you procrastinate, not read ahead of time or expect to cram everything on last days before exams this course may not be for you.

## Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
  - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
  - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
  - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
  - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
  - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
  - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or

electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).

- e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
- f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
- g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
- h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.

## Student Resources

### TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.walters.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)  
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.walters.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.walters.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)  
[ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab](https://www.walters.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)

### TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\)](https://helpdesk.walters.edu)  
[helpdesk.walters.edu](https://helpdesk.walters.edu)

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)  
[ws.edu/student-services/disability/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)

## SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

## College Policies

### STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/catalog/)  
[catalog.ws.edu/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/catalog/)

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/admissions/registration/)  
[ws.edu/admissions/registration/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/admissions/registration/)

### PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract

between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

## **COURSE GROUND RULES**

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.
- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

## **FINANCIAL AID**

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

## **CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY**

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](#)

[ws.edu/home/](http://ws.edu/home/)

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](#)

[ws.edu/set/](http://ws.edu/set/)

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

## **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)