

Instructor

- Abby Conover, M.A. - aconover@umn.edu – Moos 5-220 (Department of Biology Teaching and Learning)

Course Questions

If you have general questions about the course that are not answered by reading the syllabus or Moodle, please submit them to the Course Questions Forum on the Moodle so that questions and responses can be read by all students.

Course Website: University of Minnesota Moodle 3.0 (<http://ay17.moodle.umn.edu>)

Course Meeting Time: CBS Common Time (Fridays, 12:20 – 1:10pm)

Course Meeting Location: Guild Meeting and Choice Week workshop locations are posted on Moodle

Learning Goals

Nature of Life is designed to aid the success of each student entering CBS. Throughout this four-semester course series, you will:

- Engage with questions of your identity, motivation, and aspirations (e.g. What matters to me? Who do I want to become? How will I get there?);
- Develop skills in critical reflection and metacognition;
- Build social and professional networks at the U; and
- Enrich your undergraduate experience by using resources and experiencing events that interest you.

Required Materials

- BIOL 1805 Moodle Site: <http://ay17.moodle.umn.edu>
- Your individual BIOL 1805 GoogleDoc (will be shared to your Google Drive by course administrators)

Course Grading Criteria and Workload

Nature of Life is a two-year course sequence (BIOL 1805/1806 & BIOL 2905/2906) awarding 2 credits total. You will earn .5 credit after passing each semester. Each course is graded on a Satisfactory/No Credit (S/N) basis.

Each course in the NOL series has been designed to align with the University's workload formula of 2 hours of outside-class work for every 1 hour in lecture, (e.g. a 3 credit class = 9 hours total spent in lecture and studying per week to earn a passing grade; students who earn higher-than-average grades typically spend more time on task than that.)

Because BIOL 1805 is .5 credits, you should expect to spend an average of 1.5 hours per week on the course, including Guild Meetings, which are held for 50 minutes on Fridays from 12:20-1:10pm. Some weeks you may spend a bit more time on the course; some weeks you will spend a little less. Always, the amount of time you spend on the course will be proportional to its impact. In other words, **you will get out of Nature of Life what you put into it.**

BIOL 1805 Moodle

The BIOL 1805 course Moodle is where you will find all important and current information about the course. In the first week of the semester, you should review it thoroughly and refer back to it regularly as the semester progresses. In particular, you should note these sections:

Guild Meeting Dates and Locations - The dates and locations for the nine required Guild meetings are posted on the Moodle under the "Guild Meetings" tab, sub-tab "Guild Meeting Dates and Locations."

Course Calendar and Deadlines - A week-by-week course calendar with deadlines for all written work is posted on the Moodle under the "Course Information" tab, sub-tab "Course Calendar and Deadlines."

Course Components

Category	Description
<p>Complete NOL@Itasca program.</p>	<p>Participate in all program activities and complete exam at Lake Itasca Biological Laboratories & Station.</p>
<p>Attend CBS College Day during Welcome Week.</p>	<p>Participate in CBS College Day activities on Thursday, August 31, 2017.</p>
<p>Meet all four Writing Deadlines during the semester.</p> <p>Each Writing Deadline consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Assigned Writing • A Choice Point Reflection <p>Details and reflection prompts for each Assigned Writing are located in your BIOL 1805 GoogleDoc.</p> <p>To complete Choice Points Reflections, you must attend an event or activity offered during a Choice Week (or something you select from the menu on Moodle), and write a brief reflection about the experience. See the "Choice Points" tab on Moodle for full details.</p>	<p>1. My Values in Action + Choice Point Reflection A – Due Sunday, September 24 by 11:59pm <i>Assigned Writing:</i> Your values are central to who you are and who you hope to become. This assignment will help you clarify your values and articulate how they can help you overcome challenges you will encounter during college. <i>Choice Point Reflection A:</i> Choose and complete an activity, and enter your reflection.</p> <p>2. Time Management Plan + Choice Point Reflection B – Due Sunday, October 15 by 11:59pm <i>Assigned Writing:</i> Time is a precious resource. How are you spending yours? This assignment will help you examine and improve your own time management skills for maximum academic and personal success. <i>Choice Point Reflection B:</i> Choose and complete an activity, and enter your reflection.</p> <p>3. First-Year Checkback Writing + Choice Point Reflection C – Due Sunday, November 5 by 11:59pm <i>Assigned Writing:</i> Good planning and clear goals are keys to success; CBS academic advising can help you with both. This assignment will help you maximize the benefit of your First-Year Checkback advising appointment and give you practice using Graduation Planner, an important tool for your academic planning. <i>Choice Point Reflection C:</i> Choose and complete an activity, and enter your reflection.</p> <p>4. SGL 1:1 Meeting + Choice Point Reflection D – Due Sunday, December 3 by 11:59pm <i>Assigned Writing:</i> As a part of BIOL 1805, you're matched with a Sophomore Guild Leader who grades your written work in the Nature of Life courses and offers support to you during your first year in CBS. For this assigned writing, you'll meet individually with your SGL to check in about your transition into CBS. <i>Choice Point Reflection D:</i> Choose and complete an activity, and enter your reflection.</p>
<p>Attend All-Guild and Individual-Guild meetings held during Common Time.</p>	<p>The CBS Guilds help you build your experience in CBS by connecting you with fellow students, faculty, and staff. Throughout the semester, Individual-Guild meetings and All-Guild meetings will take place during Common Time (Fridays from 12:20-1:10pm).</p> <p>Fall semester Guild competition: You will be matched with a study group of up to four other people in your Guild with whom you share one of your fall classes. (Wherever possible, study groups will be formed in Chemistry, Math, Physics, or Foundations.) Each time your study group meets, you'll earn points for your Guild. The two Guilds earning the most points at the end of the semester will earn a water bottle featuring the Guild icon.</p>

How to earn an “S” in BIOL 1805

Earning an “S” in BIOL 1805 is straightforward: you must **earn the minimum number of points in each of the two coursework categories** listed in the chart below (Writing Deadlines (Assigned Writings and Choice Point Reflections) and Guild Meetings). It is your responsibility to monitor your progress in the course and ensure that you are on track to earn an S.

Coursework Category	Number of Items and Points Value	Maximum Points Possible in Category	Minimum Points Required in Category to Earn an “S”
Writing Deadlines	Each Writing Deadline is worth 20 points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigned Writing 10 points/submission Choice Point Reflection 10 points/submission 	80	70
Guild Meetings	9 meetings @ 10 points/meeting	90	80

How are points for Writing Deadlines (Assigned Writings + Choice Point Reflections) determined?

Each time you enter a Writing Deadline submission in your 1805 GoogleDoc, you will receive written feedback in your GoogleDoc from the Sophomore Guild Leader who reads and responds to your work. Your SGL will also enter a point-value grade for the writing in Moodle based on the criteria below:

Completed	Quality of Submission	Points
By posted due date	Submission represents a “good faith effort” by answering all questions in the reflection prompt and demonstrating thoughtful engagement with the topic. Writing aligns with the process of metacognition: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What? (What happened? What did I do? What did I expect and what was different?) So what? (Why does it matter to me? Why does it matter to others involved? What is the significance?) Now what? (What am I going to do as a result of what happened? What did I learn and how will I apply it?) 	10
By posted due date	Response does not address all questions in the reflection prompt; answers seem rushed and not carefully thought through; responses are short, incomplete, or lack obvious effort.	5
Nothing entered*	If nothing is entered by the due date, you will receive zero points for that writing deadline. * An important note about Writing Deadlines: you must meet all four Writing Deadlines in the course in order to pass BIOL 1805. Deadline management is fundamental to your success as a CBS student; the structure of each Nature of Life course reinforces this critical skill.	0

How are points for Guild Meetings determined?

Guild meeting points are attendance-based, and you are expected to attend every meeting held during the semester. When you attend a Guild meeting, you earn 10 points. If you must miss a Guild meeting, regardless of the reason, you receive 0 points for that meeting.

Course and University Policies

Academic Integrity in Nature of Life Courses:

As in all your academic courses at the University, your work in BIOL 1805 is governed by the Student Conduct Code. Your honesty and academic integrity is expected and subject to the terms of the Scholastic Dishonesty code below.

Code Subd. 1. Scholastic Dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarism; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, misrepresenting, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Student Conduct Code:

The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code. To review the full Student Conduct Code, please see:

http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf.

Disability Accommodations:

The University of Minnesota views disability as an important aspect of diversity, and is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

- If you have, or think you have, a disability in any area such as, mental health, attention, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical, please contact the DRC office on your campus (UM Twin Cities - 612.626.1333) to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.
- **If you are registered with the DRC and have a disability accommodation letter dated for this semester or this year, please contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in this course.**
- Students with short-term disabilities, such as a broken arm, can often work with instructors to minimize classroom barriers. In situations where additional assistance is needed, students should contact the DRC as noted above.
- If you are registered with the DRC and have questions or concerns about your accommodations please contact your access consultant/disability specialist.

Mental Health and Stress Management:

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and may reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Student Mental Health Website: <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu>.