

IB 299: Physiology Merit Section

Wednesdays 4-5:50 PM, Natural History Building, Room 2090

IB 299 Merit Instructor: Sarah Winnicki

Pronouns: They/Them

Email: sarahkw2@illinois.edu |

Student hours: Thursdays 1-3PM in NHB 2090, email to request additional hours (in-person or on Zoom)

Contacting me: I tend to check emails Monday-Friday 9AM-6PM and I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible. Please send follow-up emails if I have not responded within 48 hours.

Course Coordinator: Dr. Lily Arias

Email: larias@illinois.edu

Office: NHB 3010

Course description: This section is a companion to the IB 202 Physiology lecture. In merit sections we will engage with lecture material in a community, group learning setting. Students will engage with the lecture material to make deeper connections with the content instead of being given lectures or direct answers. Students are expected to work closely with each other to solve problems using sound biological knowledge and reasoning. While the current plan is to meet in person, we may decide to move to Zoom if conditions with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic necessitate it.

Weekly responsibilities (15 points/week):

- **Attendance:** Merit sections are driven by group participation; attendance is mandatory.
- **Weekly Quiz (5 points):** Each class will begin with a ~10-minute quiz covering material from the previous IB 202 (Physiology) lectures. Quizzes will be graded for accuracy.
- **Weekly Worksheet (10 points):** Each week, in groups we will work through a worksheet designed to have you engage with the material and your classmates. You are expected to complete the week's work within the discussion time; the worksheets will only be graded for completion, but feedback will be provided. Most weekly worksheets will have an activity component in which students are expected to share knowledge and discussion with the class as a whole. Participation will be

evaluated by the TA and/or peer review with points being assigned for full participation, completed group tasks without individual participation, and no participation by the student (10/5/0pts respectively).

- **Break:** We will take a 10 min break of class usually halfway through the class. 2 hours is a long time to focus on just one thing, whether it's in person or staring at a screen.

Grading Policy: Grades for the merit section will be based on the category breakdown above each week (totaling 15 pts/week). Your IB 299 semester grade will be out of 210 points (14 school weeks, excludes Spring Break) and will not be curved (A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = 0-59%). Unexcused absences will result in 0 pts for the week.

Course schedule: Any changes to the course schedule will be communicated via email and in-person class reminders.

Week	Date	Tentative Plan
Week 1	17 January	Discussion: key concepts
Week 2	24 January	Discussion: Respiration/Circulation
Week 3	31 January	Discussion: Respiration/Circulation
Week 4	7 February	Mock Exam 1 Discussion: Osmoregulation/Secretion
Week 5	14 February	Discussion: Osmoregulation/Secretion
Week 6	21 February	Discussion: Metabolism/Digestion
Week 7	28 February	Mock Exam 2 Discussion: Metabolism/Digestion
Week 8	6 March	Discussion: Maintenance/Exercise
	13 March	<i>Spring Break: No Class</i>
Week 9	20 March	Discussion: Animal nervous system
Week 10	27 March	Discussion: Animal nervous/sensory systems *Online-only (no in-person class) *
Week 11	3 April	Mock Exam 3 Discussion: Animal Sensory Systems
Week 12	10 April	Discussion: Reproductive Systems
Week 13	17 April	Discussion: Endocrine systems/immunity
Week 14	24 April	Mock Exam 4 Discussion: Immunity
Week 15	1 May	<i>IB 202 Final Exam Day</i>

Absences: If you anticipate being absent, email me prior to class (sarahkw2@illinois.edu). If you are unable to email me prior, you must email me the same day, or you will incur a loss of points for the week. Points for absences will not be excused without a valid reason and proper documentation (e.g. doctor's note, emergency dean's note). That said, if you are feeling ill (even if you are unsure it's COVID), do not come to class. Your, your classmates', and your instructors' health are a priority and given advance notice, we may be able to have you join the class via Zoom. Please be on time to not disrupt your group members. You cannot make up participation points or quiz points due to unexcused tardiness.

Merit Section Expectations:

- **Be prepared for discussions:** Students are expected to engage with the material in Merit, rather than review the material for the first time. Time should be spent solving problems using group work and discussion instead of simply studying the material. Coming to class late or unprepared will strongly impede the learning process for both yourself and your group members. By studying the material beforehand, you will be more easily able to build connections and ask specific questions on the lecture content.
- **Actively participate:** There will be many opportunities for students to communicate and teach ideas to their group members. The best method to check for understanding is to teach other people. By talking about the material out loud, students can identify concepts that are difficult to understand and work through them as a group. Communicating ideas in your own words is an important skill to learn both as a student, and as a future professional in the workforce.
- **Understanding > Right answers:** Making mistakes early is one of the best ways to learn new material. If you get something wrong, don't feel embarrassed or discouraged. Instead, use this opportunity to identify your gaps in understanding and to build a stronger conceptual framework on the material.

Inclusivity Statement: The effectiveness of this course is dependent upon the creation of an encouraging and safe classroom environment. Exclusionary, offensive or harmful speech (such as racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, etc.) will not be tolerated and in some cases will be subject to university harassment procedures. We are all responsible for creating a positive and safe environment that allows all students equal respect and comfort. I expect each of you to help establish and maintain an environment where you and your peers can contribute without fear of ridicule or intolerant or offensive language.

Student Accommodations: Students who require assistance to participate in this class must provide the instructor with the Letter for Academic accommodation drafted by the DRES staff. The instructor will assist with the provision of accommodations when reasonable and necessary. Follow this link to learn more about student accommodations and DRES (www.disability.illinois.edu/academic-supports/accommodations/academic-accommodations). To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603, email disability@illinois.edu or go to the DRES website. If you are concerned you have a disability related condition that is impacting your academic progress, there are academic screening appointments available on campus that can help diagnosis a previously undiagnosed disability by visiting the DRES website and selecting "Sign-Up for an Academic Screening" at the bottom of the page. If you are interested in obtaining information to improve writing, study skills, time management or organization, the following campus resources are available to all students: Writer's Workshop Undergrad Library 217-333-8796

Academic Integrity: It is the responsibility of each student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Follow this link to learn what behaviors are considered infractions to the academic integrity policies. <https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-402/>