



## Biology Department

### BIO 6083 Thesis A,B,C,D,E,F (6 units)

2021

Meeting day/times: TBA	Instructor title and name: Dianne Anderson
Meeting location: TBA	Phone: 619-849-2705
Final exam: N/A	E-mail: dianneanderson@pointlome.edu
Office: Rohr Science 146	Office location and hours: by appointment

### PLNU Mission

#### To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In BIO 6083, students write a thorough literature review and bibliography related to their chosen biology education problem, then design, carry out, and analyze the results of their original research, draw conclusions, and propose implications of their findings. This process culminates with the completion of the student's written thesis, as well as a public presentation of the research. Students register for each thesis unit (6083 a through f) in sequence corresponding to the 6 units necessary to complete the thesis requirement. Students may register for as many as three thesis units in a single semester (i.e., 6083a, 6083b, and 6083c) or as few as one unit. At the end of each semester a grade of Credit/No Credit is issued reflecting the student's satisfactory progress toward thesis completion. If in the final semester (BIO 6083f) of thesis enrollment the student

has not completed all requirements for the thesis, the student is automatically enrolled in thesis extension status for each subsequent semester until the thesis is completed. Graded Credit/No Credit. A thesis extension fee is charged (see fee schedule) for each semester of thesis extension.

This course involves a great deal of independent work by the student, as well as periodic meetings with the thesis advisor for direction. Each student will be assigned 2 additional faculty members to serve on the thesis committee. These committee members will read and comment on the thesis proposal as well as the final thesis draft, and will attend and provide feedback on the oral defense of the thesis. Together, the three professors will determine if the student earns the credit and is awarded the final thesis unit.

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (one for each unit of BIO 6083)**

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- BIO6083a: Prepare proposal (including purpose, question(s), theory, methodology, and lit review), and clear project proposal with committee
- BIO6083b: Finalize protocols and write, then submit IRB proposal
- BIO6083c: Collect data
- BIO6083d: Analyze data, and write results section
- BIO6083e: Write conclusions and finalize thesis report
- BIO6083f: Prepare and submit journal manuscript, and give oral defense of project

### **PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSED IN THIS COURSE**

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Three of the four PLO's will be assessed by three professors using the rubric at the end of this document upon completion of the thesis project:

1. Discuss major concepts and theories in biology.
2. Carry out and communicate various experimental methods and types of data analysis.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and skills in critical thinking, such as analysis and synthesis, as applied to primary literature in the field of biology, as well as in science education.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES**

There are no required textbooks or supplies for this course, but the document "PLNU Biology Thesis Guidelines" provides detailed information as to how the thesis work should be done. It is important that students read these guidelines before beginning their thesis, and then refer to the document as their work progresses.

### **GRADING**

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Credit/No credit is assigned based on the satisfactory completion of unit as described above; no letter grades are given.

Incompletes will only be assigned under extremely unusual circumstances.

## GENERAL PLNU POLICIES

### PLNU SPIRITUAL CARE

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#### Mission Valley:

PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as a whole person. To this end we provide resources for our Graduate and Adult Degree Completion students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. At the Mission Valley (MV) campus we have an onsite chaplain, Rev. Gordon Wong, who is available during class break times across the week. If you have questions for, desire to meet or share a prayer request with Rev. Wong you can contact him directly at [mvchaplain@pointloma.edu](mailto:mvchaplain@pointloma.edu) or [gordonwong@pointloma.edu](mailto:gordonwong@pointloma.edu). Rev. Wong's cell number is 808-429-1129 if you need a more immediate response.

In addition, on the MV campus there is a prayer chapel on the third floor which is open for use as a space set apart for quiet reflection and prayer.

### PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

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Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

### PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

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Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

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While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center, located in the Bond Academic Center ([DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu) or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

#### **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

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Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Graduate and Professional Studies Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

#### **Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition**

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. Instructors will determine how many asynchronous attendance days are required each week.

Hybrid courses:

At Point Loma Nazarene University, attendance is required at all scheduled classes. Adult Degree Completion courses are taught in the hybrid format, which means some class meetings will be face-to-face and some will be online. Attendance in the face-to-face classes is to be for the entire time of the class. Arriving late or leaving early will be considered a partial absence. A day of attendance in an online class is determined as

contributing a substantive note, assignment, discussion, or submission that adds value to the course as determined by the instructor. Three days of attendance are required each week.

#### Face-to-face Portion of the Hybrid course

In blended or hybrid courses, if a student misses one face-to-face class then the faculty member will send an email to the student and the Director of Student Success warning of attendance jeopardy. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If a student misses two face-to-face classes, the faculty member or Vice Provost for Academic Administration (VPAA) will initiate the student's de-enrollment from the course without further advanced notice to the student. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of "F" and there will be no refund of tuition for that course.

#### Online Portion of the Hybrid Course

If a student misses two online classes (fails to contribute to a discussion board) during the course, then the faculty member will send an email to the student and the Director of Student Success warning of attendance jeopardy. There are no exceptions to this policy.

If a student misses three online classes (fails to contribute to a discussion board by the due date) during the course, then the faculty member or Vice Provost for Academic Administration (VPAA) will initiate the student's de-enrollment from the course without further advanced notice to the student. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of "F" and there will be no refund of tuition for that course.

- 1 missed F2F class = warning
- 2 missed F2F classes = de-enrollment
- 2 missed online classes = warning
- 3 missed online classes = de-enrollment

Students taking hybrid/blended courses lasting over 14 weeks are expected to attend each week of the course. Attendance is defined as logging into the course each calendar week to check on updates and announcements. In addition, students must participate in the academic graded activities during the calendar week the assignments/activities are due. Students must also attend all scheduled face-to-face meetings. Students who do not attend at least once in any given calendar week will be issued an attendance warning. Students who do not attend at least once in any two consecutive weeks in the online will be dropped from the course retroactive to the last date of recorded attendance.

Students who anticipate being absent for an entire week of a course should contact the instructor in advance for approval and make arrangements to complete the required coursework and/or alternative assignments assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

#### **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

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In order to be successful in the online environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the [Technology and System Requirements](#) information. Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact [student-tech-request@pointloma.edu](mailto:student-tech-request@pointloma.edu).

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.

