

Course Change Request

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 10/03/23 2:49 pm

Viewing: **BIOL 424 : Female Reproductive Biology & Health**

Last edit: 10/10/23 10:00 am

Changes proposed by: volmo

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

In Workflow

- 1. BIOL Undergraduate Representative
- 2. SC Curriculum Committee
- 3. SC Assistant Dean
- 4. Assoc Provost- Undergraduate
- 5. Registrar-Courses
- 6. Banner

Approval Path

- 1. 10/04/23 8:11 am
Geraldine Grant
(ggrant1): Approved for BIOL Undergraduate Representative

No

Effective Term: Fall 2024

Subject Code: BIOL - Biology

Course Number: 424

Bundled Courses:

Is this course replacing another course? No

Equivalent Courses:

Catalog Title: Female Reproductive Biology & Health

Banner Title: Female Reprod Bio & Health

Will section titles vary by semester? No

Credits: 3

Schedule Type: Lecture

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 3

Repeatable: May be only taken once for credit, limited to 3 attempts (N3) **Max Allowable Credits:** 3

Default Grade Mode: Undergraduate Regular

Recommended Prerequisite(s):

Recommended Corequisite(s):

Required Prerequisite(s) / Corequisite(s) (Updates only):
BIOL213

Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):

And/Or	(Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level)	Concurrency?

Registration Restrictions (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:

Field(s) of Study:

Class(es):

Level(s):

Degree(s):

School(s):

Catalog Description:

This course is designed for students who have an interest in human female reproductive anatomy and physiology. Material will cover a variety of related topics including an introduction to endocrine system function, anatomy of reproductive system, hormonal regulation of uterine and ovarian cycles, meiosis,

fertilization, development of reproductive structures, physiological changes during pregnancy, parturition, postpartum, and with age. Factors that affect fertility and selected pathologies will also be discussed.

Justification:

What: Creating a new course

Why: This course has been offered by our departments as a BIOL417 Selected topics in biology course twice (Spring 2022, and Spring 2023). Since this course has been well received by students, we would like to add it to our catalog of consistently taught courses.

Does this course cover material which crosses into another department? No

Learning Outcomes:

- Introduce students to the anatomy and physiology of the female reproductive system
- Describe the role of the endocrine system in the health and function of the female reproductive system
- Describe early events of pregnancy, including meiosis, fertilization, and development of reproductive structures
- Explain the physiological changes that come with pregnancy, parturition, postpartum, and aging
- Explore factors that impact fertility and cause other abnormalities of the female reproductive tract

Will this course be scheduled as a cross-level cross listed section? No

Attach Syllabus

[BIOL 417 SYLLABUS SPR2023.pdf](#)

Additional Attachments**Staffing:**

Brenda Tondi, Allison Tomson, Denise Hunnell, Alexandra Masterson

Relationship to Existing Programs:

N/A

Relationship to Existing Courses:

N/A

Specialized Course Categories:**Additional Comments:**

The syllabus attached is from the last time the course was taught (Spring 2023).

Reviewer
Comments

Key: 18309



**BIOL 417-003
FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY & HEALTH
SPRING 2023
Monday 1:30-4:10pm (1010 Horizon Hall)**

Note: Information in this syllabus is subject to change according to the needs of the class and at the discretion of the instructor.

**Dr. Brenda Tondi
Associate Professor**

Email: btondi@gmu.edu

When communicating via email, only use your GMU email and please include the following in your email: full name and specific course (BIOL 417).

I will not respond to messages sent from, or send messages to, a non-Mason email address.

Office: 1213 Exploratory Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 10:30-11:30am; Thursday 1:30-3:00pm
(and by appointment – in-person or virtual via Zoom)
Office Phone: 703-993-9427

Lecture Materials: Lecture material will be available on Blackboard to assist you in note taking but should NOT be used as a substitute for attending class.
Access Blackboard from myMason portal, and click on Courses tab. Locate the course from Course List. Lecture material will be found in Course Content.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This is a 3-credit course designed for students who have an interest in human female reproductive anatomy and physiology. Material will cover a variety of related topics including an introduction to endocrine system function, anatomy of reproductive system, hormonal regulation of uterine and ovarian cycles, meiosis, fertilization, development of reproductive structures, physiological changes during pregnancy, parturition, postpartum, and with age. Factors that affect fertility and selected pathologies will also be discussed. (Note: There are no established prerequisites, but it is designed as an upper-level biology elective course and will adhere to expectations for that level.)

BLACKBOARD COURSE MATERIALS:

Access Blackboard from myMason portal <http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu> and click on Courses tab. Locate the course from Course List. Multiple features will be utilized in the course, including:

Home Page: Announcements will be utilized to serve as reminders of evaluations and other notifications.

Syllabus and Schedule: Information including syllabus and lecture schedule
If the campus closes or class is canceled due to weather or other concern, students should check Blackboard for Announcements and Email for updates on how to continue course work and information about any changes to evaluations or assignment due dates.

Course Content: Documents and references related to lecture topics

My Grades: Access to scores for all evaluations

Course Evaluations: Available to students towards the end of the semester

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Human Reproductive Biology, (4th edition), Richard E. Jones and Kristin H. Lopez, Academic Press/Elsevier Inc., 2014.
ISBN: 978-0-12-382184-3

EVALUATION/GRADING:

You will earn one final grade for this course. This final grade will be determined by the lecture instructor based on the percent of possible 530 points that you can earn. These points will be earned as follows:

3 Exams @150 points each	450 Points
5 Quizzes @ 20 points each	100 Points
(Drop the lowest quiz score)	(-20 Points)
TOTAL	530 Points

Dates for all exam evaluations are provided in the Schedule and posted in Blackboard.

Dates for quizzes may or may not be provided.

GRADING SCALE: Final grades will be based on the following percentages. Individual exam scores and final grades will not be normalized (no curving of grades).

A	89.5-100%	D	59.5-69.4%
B	79.5-89.4%	F	≤59.4%
C	69.5-79.4%		

QUIZZES:

Five quizzes will be administered over the duration of the course. They may be announced or spontaneous and may be closed note or allow some degree of open resource. You may drop the lowest quiz score from grade calculation. There are no accommodations provided for missed quizzes.

EXAMS:

Exam Content and Format: In preparation for exams, you should utilize your text, lecture documents and notes, and any documented resources. Exams may include multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, essay and problem-solving questions. All exams must be taken at the scheduled class time (M 1:30-4:10pm), or according to the university Final Exam Schedule.

If an exam date is cancelled for any unforeseen reason (such as inclement weather), the exam will be given during the next class period.

Late Arrival to an Exam: If you arrive after a student has finished their exam and left the testing room, you will **NOT** be allowed to enter the testing room and take the exam. Your prompt arrival on examination days is required to maximize your ability to complete the exam.

Make-up exams? If you must miss an exam, you should contact your instructor immediately. Failure to contact the instructor within 24 hours of the exam will result in a zero for the exam, unless the student can document extenuating circumstances. If a student has a valid and **DOCUMENTED** absence from an exam, a make-up exam will be provided. For documentation of medical absences from an exam, a health care provider must provide a signed note that includes the following:

1. Name and contact information for the health care provider
2. Date student was seen by the health care provider
3. **Dates for which the student is excused** – The dates for which you are excused must include the date the exam was given in order or qualify as a valid excuse.

No details of the student's medical condition are required. It is the student's responsibility to make sure all of the above information is included in the documentation. Documentation that fails to provide ALL

information outlined above will be considered inadequate to justify a make-up exam and the student will receive a zero for the exam.

Make-up exams are in **ESSAY/SHORT ANSWER FORMAT** and arranged by an agreement between you and the instructor. You are only given the opportunity to take **ONE** make-up exam during the semester. If you are a member of a university-sponsored group (athletic team, debate team, musical, dance or drama group, etc.), it is important that your coach/director be aware of your academic responsibilities in this course. Please discuss the course policies with your coach/director; of particular importance are the Exam Schedule and Exam Policy.

It is the responsibility of the student to provide your instructor with the dates of major holidays on which you may be absent due to religious observances within the first two weeks of the semester. Refer to the [Religious Holiday Calendar](#).

ODS (Office of Disability Services) ACCOMMODATIONS:

All accommodations must be verified by proper and current documentation by ODS.

It is required that you meet with your instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss your accommodations to insure proper coordination with ODS, you and your instructor. Accommodations will not be provided retroactive of the date provided on the ODS documentation; no variations in accommodations will be accepted without additional documentation.

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474.

PUBLISHING/REDISTRIBUTION OF COURSE MATERIALS:

Some lecture slides, notes, or exercises used in this course may be the property of the textbook publisher or other third parties. All other course material, including but not limited to slides developed by the instructor(s), the syllabus, assignments, course notes, course recordings (whether audio or video) and examinations or quizzes are the property of the University or of the individual instructor who developed them. Students are free to use this material for study and learning, and for discussion with others. Republishing or redistributing this material, including uploading it to web sites or linking to it through services like YouTube, violates the rights of the copyright holder and is prohibited. There are civil and criminal penalties for copyright violation. **Publishing or redistributing this material in a way that might give others an unfair advantage in this or future courses may subject you to penalties for academic misconduct.**

HONOR CODE:

The Honor Code is an integral part of university life and will be vigorously adhered to in this course. On the application for admission, students sign a statement agreeing to conform to and uphold the Honor Code. Students are responsible, therefore, for understanding the code's provisions. If you do not recall the provisions of this Code, see the excerpts below and/or review them in the GMU University Catalog – [Student Rights and Responsibilities/Honor System and Code](#).

Honor Code: *To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.***

Student Responsibilities: *Students should request an explanation of any aspect of the professor's policies regarding the Honor Code that they do not fully understand. They also have an obligation not only to follow the code themselves, but also to encourage respect among their fellow students for the provisions of the code. This includes an obligation to report violations by other students to the Honor Committee.*

If you ever have questions about what is and is not appropriate, be sure to ask for clarification. ***Failure to adhere to verbal and written instructions regarding evaluation protocol will be considered an Honor Code violation and may result in a grade of F for the course.***

Evaluation Policies:

This list is not an inclusive list of all possible honor code violations, but it is meant to provide guidelines for the student in preparation for evaluations. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss with the instructor any actions that are questionable prior to those actions.

- Wrongful submission of quiz or exam responses is not acceptable.
- All extraneous items, everything except the Exam, Scantron form or Quiz and writing utensils, will be placed in areas designated by the instructor.
- No electronics (cell phones, watches, cameras, ear/headphones of any variety, and the like) are allowed to be available to the student during evaluations. If any electronic devices are observed during the exam, the instructor will collect the exam at that point, you will be dismissed from the testing room, and your score will reflect what has been completed at that time. This will be considered an automatic honor code violation.
- If a student is expecting a possible emergency notification via cell phone, the student must notify the instructor, and the instructor will monitor the phone during the evaluation.
- Students may not wear a cap or hat with a forward oriented brim during evaluations. Hoodies cannot be worn hanging over the face.
- Coats/jackets/outerwear are to be placed with the backpacks/extraneous items, and not in the seating area. It is the student's responsibility to wear appropriate clothes for the room climate.
- No beverages and/or food items are allowed during evaluations. If there is a medical need, please discuss with the instructor prior to the exam.
- No tissue packages are allowed during evaluations; tissues will be provided by the instructor.
- No containers for writing utensils are allowed during evaluations; pens/pencils must be free; highlighters are not acceptable to be used on the exam paper; do not write outside the exam margin.
- Students may only write on approved materials. For example, table or chair surfaces, body parts, clothing and accessories are NOT approved materials.
- If you need to leave the evaluation room before the end of the allotted time for the evaluation, the exam will be collected, and your score will reflect what has been completed at that time.
- Once time has ended for the exam, all writing on the exam must cease. Continuing to write after the exam has ended, either at your seat or while in line to turn in your exam, will be considered an honor code violation.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES:

Mason values diversity and seeks to create and sustain inclusive learning environments where all are welcomed, valued, and supported.

A list and description of **Student Support Resources on Campus** is available at the [Student Support Services](#) link.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual or interpersonal misconduct: *As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Non-Confidential Employee," and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, complicity, and retaliation to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.*

MASON Alert System: This system serves to provide students with emergency information of various kinds. You may sign up for these alerts at <https://alert.gmu.edu>.

BIOL 417-003 SPRING 2023
FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY & HEALTH SCHEDULE OF TOPICS/EVALUATIONS

DATES	TOPIC AND/OR EVALUATION	TEXT REFERENCE
Jan. 23	Introduction to Endocrine System; Female Anatomy	Chapter 1, 2
Jan. 30	Female Anatomy; Meiosis	Chapter 2
Feb. 6	Ovarian and Uterine Cycles	Chapter 3
Feb. 13	Reproductive System Development	Chapter 5
Feb. 20	EXAM #1	
Feb. 27	Fertilization; Pregnancy	Chapter 9, 10
Mar. 6	Pregnancy Complications	Chapter 10
Mar. 13-19	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES	
Mar. 20	Parturition	Chapter 11
Mar. 27	Breastfeeding; Postpartum	Chapter 12
Apr. 3	EXAM #2	
Apr 10	Contraception	Chapter 13
Apr. 17	Endometriosis; Abortion; Breast Cancer	Online resources
Apr. 24	Sexually Transmitted Infections; Cancers of Reproductive Organs	Chapter 17
May 1	Sex Differences in Pathologies; Additional Factors that Affect Fertility	Chapter 16
Monday May 15	FINAL EXAM 1:30-4:10 PM	

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 6: Last day to drop classes (100% tuition refund)

February 13: Last day to drop classes (50% tuition refund)

February 14–27: Unrestricted withdrawal period (100% tuition liability)

February. 28–April 3: Selective withdrawal period

(This schedule is subject to change according to the needs of the class and at the discretion of the instructor.)