



## OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

### Course Description Format Change Proposal

To: Curriculum and Program Review Committee

From: Brad Maclsaac, AVP Planning & Analysis, and Registrar

Re: Undergraduate Academic Calendar Course Descriptions – Format Change

Date: February 17 2017

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**Motion:** That CPRC recommend to Academic Council the adoption of an institution-wide course description format that lists the credit hour and contact hour only, effective for the 2017-18 Undergraduate Academic Calendar.

In an effort to ensure consistency and accuracy of the academic calendar, the Office of the Registrar is proposing an institution-wide format for course descriptions. Some faculties have been updating their course descriptions to include the instructional method. A course's instructional method can vary from section to section and from term to term. This causes inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the academic calendar.

Benchmarking of other Ontario universities' course descriptions was conducted to determine the level of detail provided (see Appendix A). The majority of the universities do not include the instructional method and limit the descriptions to credit hours and contact hours. It should be noted that students will still have the opportunity to view the actual instructional method by logging into MyCampus or using the UOIT Class Schedule Search prior to registration.

In response to concerns raised by CPRC related to the tracking of past instructional methods used, we have confirmed that this information is recorded in Banner based on the course and semester it was delivered. This form of tracking began in 2013-14. To request any historical instructional method information, a Data Request can be sent to the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis (OIRA).

If approved Section 16 of the calendar will be revised as follows:

#### Section 16 – Proposed Version

Contact hours are divided into lecture (lec), laboratory (lab), tutorial (tut), ~~online (web),~~ and other (oth) hours. A course with a listing of 3 cr, 3 lec, 3 lab, 1 tut, ~~1 web, 2 oth~~, is weighted at three credit hours with three hours of lectures, three laboratory hours, and one hour of tutorial, ~~one hour of online attendance, and two other contact hours per week.~~ Contact hours may consist of a variety of instructional methods. ~~Courses offered in condensed format will have the number of contact hours prorated accordingly.~~

Institution	Example	Credit Hour?	Contact Hour?	Instructional Method?	Definition Guide
Algoma	BIOL 1506 Biology I This introductory course explores selected topics in biology as applied to prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Cell biology, genetics, respiration, photosynthesis, and evolution will be discussed. (LEC 3, LAB 3) (3 cr)	Yes	Yes	No	
Brock	Topics essential to contemporary biology: molecular biology, biological energy conversion, how plants and animals adapt, and genetics and the evolutionary process. Lectures, 3 hours per week; lab/workshop, alternating weeks, 3 hours per week.	No	Yes	No	
Carleton	BIOL 1003 [0.5 credit] Introductory Biology I - A concepts and applications course focusing on cell organization, metabolism, genetics, and reproduction. Normally for students interested in understanding the fundamental processes that underlie cellular biology and their relationship to organism function, who are not registered in a B.Sc. Honours program.	Yes	No	No	
Guelph	BIOL*1020 Introduction to Biology F (3-2) [0.50] This course will introduce important concepts concerning the organization of life, from cells to ecosystems. The dynamic and interactive nature of all living systems will be emphasized. This course will be valuable for students without Grade 12 or 4U Biology who are interested in environmental issues, medicine, advances in biotechnology and related topics.	Yes	Yes	No	(3-2) Lecture hours - Lab hours
Lakehead	An introduction to the study of the structure, function and organization of animal life. Discussion of the evolution and classification of major invertebrate and vertebrate animal phyla, animal body plans and reproductive strategies.; Credit Weight:0.5; Offering:0-0; 3-3	Yes	Yes	No	3-3; 3-0 would indicate 3 lecture hours in each term, 3 lab hours in the first term only
Laurentian	This is an introductory course that addresses selected topics in biology as applied to prokaryotes and eukaryotes. Cell biology, genetics, respiration, photosynthesis, evolution and ecology are discussed. (lec 3, lab 3) cr 3.	Yes	Yes	No	
McMaster	3 unit(s); Structure, molecular composition and function in sub-cellular and cellular systems.; Three hours (lectures, web modules), one lab (two hours); one term	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Institution	Example	Credit Hour?	Contact Hour?	Instructional Method?	Definition Guide
Nipissing	Hours: Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory work per week for one term.; Credits: 3; Description: This course examines the fundamentals of biology at the molecular and cellular levels. This course is also offered as BIOL 1011.	Yes	Yes	No	
Ottawa	BIO1109; Principles of Biology; (3,0,0) 3 cr.; An introduction to major biological concepts including: the cell; origins and chemistry of life; energy capture and its use in biological systems; heredity and genetics; biodiversity and its origins; evolution, and systematics of major groups of organisms and how they function and interact with each other.	Yes	Yes	No	
Queen's	BIOL102: Introductory Biology of Cells (Fall term); An introduction to the basic themes and concepts of modern biology spanning organizational levels from molecules to cells in an evolutionary context.	No	No	No	
RMC	The course is designed to present the fundamental principles of chemistry as illustrated through science and engineering applications. The course begins with a review of stoichiometry, chemical theory of bonding (orbitals, hybridization, Lewis structures), introductions to each of organic (nomenclature, functional groups, polymers), inorganic (metals, catalysts) and environmental chemistry. The course continues with the study of gases, chemical kinetics, acid-base equilibria, colligative properties and solubility. Thermodynamics, including the First Law, energy, work and heat, enthalpies of reaction, Second Law, entropy changes in simple physical and chemical processes and Gibbs free energy are studied. The final topic is electrochemistry (redox reactions, electrochemical cells, batteries, fuel cells and corrosion). Laboratory experiments and tutorials reinforce and supplement lecture material.; Contact Hours: 3, 2, 5; Credits: 2	Yes	Yes	No	The estimated number of hours per week, the course requires. The first number indicates the hours in the classroom. The second number indicates the hours of laboratory or practical work. The third number indicates the estimated hours of at-home study.
Ryerson	A systematic approach to the complexity of the human body. Lectures include integumentary system, defense mechanisms, cardiovascular, lymphatic and respiratory systems; exercise; the male and female reproductive systems; pregnancy; skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, digestive and urinary systems; senses.; Lect: 3 hrs.; GPA Weight: 2.00; Billing Units: 1/1	Yes	Yes	No	

Institution	Example	Credit Hour?	Contact Hour?	Instructional Method?	Definition Guide
Trent	ENLS 5100H: Cell biology and genetics; This core course, which may serve as the mandatory half credit required by all first year MSc students, will challenge participants to examine their philosophy of science with particular reference to their own research in cell biology and genetics. Students also present and defend their research proposals. This credit may not be taken in addition to any of the other ENLS core courses. Excludes WEGP 500H.	Yes	No	No	
UofT	BIOB12H3 Cell and Molecular Biology Laboratory. A practical introduction to experimentation in cell and molecular biology. Lab modules will introduce students to concepts and techniques in the general preparation of solutions and buffers, microbiology, molecular biology, biochemistry, microscopy and data manipulation and communication skills. This core laboratory course is the gateway for Cell & Molecular biology specialists to upper level laboratory offerings.	No	No	No	
UOIT1	BIOL 1010U Biology I: Molecular and Cellular Systems. This course examines the evolutionary basis of life at the cellular level. Topics will include the basic structure and function of cells, cell energetics and respiration, photosynthesis, the structure and function of DNA, the control of gene expression, cell division and the evolution of multicellularity. 3 cr, 3 lec, 3 lab (biweekly).	Yes	Yes	No	
UOIT2	HLSC 1811U Social Determinants of Health. Examining the social determinants of health is essential because health inequalities cannot be explained by lifestyle choices alone. In this course, historical, social, political, and economic forces that influence health and health inequalities will be discussed. Demographic factors such as education, employment, income levels, ethnicity, and gender will be examined in light of their contribution to issues such as racism and sexism that can lead to health inequalities among groups. A key component of this course will be to explore the literature that focuses on specific determinants such as housing, food security, poverty, access to care, and health issues. 3 cr, 1.5 lec, 1.5 web.	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Institution	Example	Credit Hour?	Contact Hour?	Instructional Method?	Definition Guide
UOIT3	BIOL 2030U Cell Biology. Provides a basic knowledge of the structural and functional properties of cells. Emphasizes the mechanisms by which signalling molecules and the process of signal transduction integrate and co-ordinate the functions of many individual cells in a multi-cellular organism. Explores factors regulating the cell cycle and growth. 3 cr, 3 lab (biweekly). This course is offered in hybrid format, involving 1.5 lec, 1.5 online lectures and self-learning material.	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Waterloo	BIOL 101 LEC 0.50; Biology in the Modern World; This course will introduce a variety of fundamental concepts of biology, with the goal of improving scientific literacy. Topics will include the scientific method, biodiversity, genetics, evolution, physiology, and ecology.	Yes	No	No	
Western	The principles of biology taught using an integrative, question-based approach. Topics include inheritance, evolution and ecology. This course is intended for students registered in the Faculty of Science.; Extra Information: 2 lecture hours, 3 laboratory/tutorial hours. 0.5 course.	Yes	Yes	No	
Wilfred Laurier	BI110 Unifying Life Processes; 0.5 Credit; Hours per week: Lecture/Discussion: 3 Tutorial/Seminar: 2 (biweekly); The unity underlying all life forms is explored through examination of the cell, and the biological chemicals, structures, and processes that govern cell organization, metabolism, communication, integration and reproduction. Major topics include respiration and photosynthesis; regulation of the cell cycle; features of multicellularity; DNA structure, function, and repair; gene expression and regulation; mitosis and meiosis; patterns of inheritance; microbial genetics.	Yes	Yes	No	
Windsor	55-100. Biology of Organisms; Genetics, energetics, and the diversity of life. Properties of living organisms from the level of the cell through tissues, organs and organ systems, to the functioning, integrated organism. This course is offered on-campus and as a distance course (previously 55-102). (2 lecture hours a week.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Institution	Example	Credit Hour?	Contact Hour?	Instructional Method?	Definition Guide
York	SC/BIOL 1000 3.00 Biology I - Cells, Molecular Biology and Genetics; An introduction to major unifying concepts and fundamental principles of biology, including evolution and cell theory. Topics include cells, biological energetics, metabolism, cell division and genetics. The laboratory and lecture components must be passed independently to pass the course. Three lecture hours per week; three laboratory hours in alternate weeks. One term. Three credits.	Yes	Yes	No	