# Biology of Sex and Death Lab

Last Updated: Mon, 01/05/2026

**Course prefix:** BIOS

**Course number:** 1220

**Section:** A1, A2, A3

**CRN (you may add up to five):**
33000 32998 32999

**Instructor First Name:** Shana

**Instructor Last Name:** Kerr

**Semester:** Spring

**Academic year:** 2026

**Course description:**

Students learn biology through the lens of the formation and collapse of biological systems, organized around questions pertaining to life, sex, and death.

**Course learning outcomes:**

- Perform all steps of the scientific method including:
  - Develop a testable (falsifiable) hypothesis
  - Design and carry out an appropriate experimental design to test a hypothesis
  - Select and use an appropriate statistical test to analyze experimental data
  - Create appropriate visual representation (graph, table, etc) to effectively present analyzed results
  - Interpret analyzed results to support or reject a hypothesis
  - Effectively and convincingly communicate experimental findings and interpretations
- Critique the effectiveness of and offer improvements for a graphical representation of scientific data
- Critique the value and credibility of information sources.

**Required course materials:**

This course is taught without a commercial textbook, and all course readings and other resources will be provided through Canvas.

**Grading policy:**

Your lab grade is 25% of your overall course grade. Your lab grade is comprised of the components described below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pre-lab assignments* | 20% |
| Lab Participation (includes activities below) | 15% |
| On-time, on-task attendance during lab | |
| Contributions to group projects | |
| Self- and group evaluations | |
| Peer feedback on group presentations | |
| Other in-class assignments not in another category | |
| Graph Evaluations (individual assignments) | 15% |
| Experimental Design Plans (1 individual and 3 team assignments) | 25% |
| Research Presentations (3 team assignments) | 25% |

**Total:**
**100%**

*Pre-labs are graded for thoughtful completion rather than accuracy. Late pre-labs will not be accepted without approval for an excused absence.

Together these assignments comprise 100% of the lab grade, which is 25% of your overall course grade.

**Attendance policy:**

This course meets in person and has required, graded attendance; 100% attendance is expected for each lab for the entire lab period. Absences from lab may be considered excused or unexcused as outlined below. You should notify the instructor and your section TAs as soon as you are aware of any potential absence, and before the missed lab if you have any expectation of absence ahead of time. If you miss a lab, you are still responsible for completing any associated assignments.

- **Excused absences:** Excused absence requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and require appropriate documentation supporting the absence request. *Please note that any medical documentation should be submitted to the Dean of Students via the Class Absence Verification Form (select "Class Absence Verification") rather than to your course instructors*. Select "Class Absence Verification" for documentation of an absence, including missed exams. Examples of potential excused absences include illness, illness or death in your immediate family, and participation in official

university activities. For excused absences, missed assignments and makeup lab assignments will typically be due within one week of the original due date.
- **Unexcused absences:** There are no make-up opportunities for unexcused absences. Vacation, work commitments, social events are not considered acceptable reasons to miss lab. *Each unexcused absence will lower your final grade by half a letter grade*.

**Academic honesty/integrity statement:**

All students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Code, which can be viewed online at https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Be aware of your obligations and expectations associated with the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code and Student Code of Conduct ( http://www.honor.gatech.edu). Academic dishonesty includes cheating, lying about course matters, plagiarism, submitting someone else's work as your own, stealing classroom materials, or helping others commit a violation of the Honor Code. Consistent with the), refusal to comply with any safety requirements, including wearing safety glasses, will be considered a violation of the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy. Plagiarism includes any form of representing the words or ideas of others as your own. Suspected violation of the Academic Honor Code in any form may be referred to the Office of Student Integrity for adjudication.

**Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):**

**This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the STEM area.**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I ask scientific questions or use data, mathematics, or technology to understand the universe?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will use the scientific method and laboratory procedures or mathematical and computational methods to analyze data, solve problems, and explain natural phenomena.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Inquiry and Analysis
- Problem-Solving
- Teamwork