

Physiology and Pharmacology
Physiology 4620A Endocrine and Reproductive Physiology

Course outline for Fall 2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

2. Course Overview and Important Dates:



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
In person	Tuesdays from September 14 th to December 7 th 2021	12:30 PM – 2:30PM VAC-100

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 8	November 1 - 7	December 8	December 9	December 10 - 21

* November 12, 2021: Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course without penalty

3. Contact Information



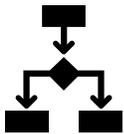
Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Dr. Andrew J. Watson RM 257 MED Sci BLDG	awatson@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant	Contact Information
Sebastian Vanin Moreno	svaninmo@uwo.ca

4. Course Description and Design

Physiology 4620A reviews selected topics in the field of Endocrine and Reproductive physiology. This course does not attempt to be a comprehensive course in the sense that no attempt is made to cover all aspects of endocrine and reproductive physiology. The format of the course will be a series of topics with learning materials (lectures; review and primary literature articles on each topic) and weekly live sessions discussing each selected topic with the entire class. Students are expected to read all learning materials for each topic before each weekly session and be prepared to contribute to the general discussion with all class participants.

Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
In Person	Tuesdays from September 14 th to December 7 th 2020	12:30 PM – 2:30 PM VAC 100



- Attendance at sessions is required
- A recording will be provided for in person sessions

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update you're your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

NOTE: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at times indicates in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the instructor.

5. Learning Outcomes

General course objectives and expectations:

A student who has completed Physiology 4620Aa/5620A should be able to:

- discuss the current state of knowledge of those areas of endocrine and reproductive physiology covered by the course; (reading and discussing review articles; primary literature; completing written assignments; answering essay type questions).



- evaluate critically the problem formulation, methodology, results, and conclusions in selected research literature using external criteria (conclusions of others) and internal criteria (appropriateness of methodology, significance of results, consistency of conclusions); (paper critique and review assignments).
- make hypothetical predictions relating to the implications of the results and conclusions in selected literature. (midterm and final exam).
- Students are expected to come to each class having read all session materials (recorded lectures; review and primary literature articles assigned to each session topic) **before hand** and be prepared to discuss topics in sessions each week as follows:

6. Course Content and Schedule

Date	Topic
Sept. 14 th	Why study reproductive biology? Neuroendocrinology: The HPO Axis
Sept. 21 st	Sex Determination/ Sex Differentiation
Sept. 28 th	Puberty
Oct. 5 th	Reproductive Cycles
Oct. 12 th	Ovary
Oct. 19 th	Testes (midterm available to start October 18 th , and submit b hr. midterm exam; take home open book exam; essay style) (25%); First Take-home exam assignment open on course owl site; write an abstract 1 page (10%)
Oct. 26 th	Fertilization
Nov 1 st -5 th	Fall Student Break Week
Nov 9 th	Preimplantation Development
Nov 16 th	Implantation (First Take home submitted); second take home assignment opened on course owl site; write a 2-page paper critique; (15%)
Nov. 23 rd	Maternal Recognition of Pregnancy
Nov 30 th	Placentation
Dec 7 th	Contraception/ Fertility Treatment (second take home submitted)
Final Exam period	December 2021 st - Final exam (50%)

7. Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students are highly recommended to participate during weekly sessions; Owl forums will be monitored no more than twice a week by the TA.
- Students can also participate by interacting in the forums with their peers

8. Course Learning Materials

At least one current review article and 2 primary research articles on each session topic will be linked to each weekly session. The content of these articles is meant to provide a syllabus for the learning of each topic the course will consider. Students are expected to come to class having read all course materials associated with each session. All learning aids contain information that will allow the student to write comprehensive answers to questions posed on midterm and final course exams. These course materials replace the use of a class textbook as all topics will focus largely on current findings associated with each topic.



9. Course Evaluation:

The course evaluation will be broken down as assessed as follows:

Component	Due Date	% of Final Mark
Midterm Test	Oct 19 th , 2021 take home open book exam; essay style	25%
Abstract Assignment due	Nov 16 th , 2021 at 11:55 AM	10%
Paper critique Assignment due	Dec 7 th , 2020 at 11:55 AM	15%
Final Examination	Dec Exam period	50%

Students will have access to the take home midterm at midday on October 18th and then will have 24 hrs to complete this essay style test. Students will download the questions from OWL and prepare a PDF file answer sheet that will be uploaded back to the OWL site by the student on or before midday October 19th.

This exam will consist of answering 3 mini-essays ie 1 page each, answering questions based on the first 5 weeks of class material. Students will answer the questions using their laptop computers and saved as a **PDF file**. It will be an open book exam, but **students must not plagiarize** and will be expected to answer each question in their own words using their own ideas and thoughts on each subject. Once the exam is ready for submission students will upload the exam answer file immediately to OWL under the assignments tab. These file names must include the student's "first initial, surname & 1st midterm", for identification purposes. These documents will be reviewed through Turnitin to determine originality.

A first written assignment requiring each student to prepare a maximum of 350-word abstract based upon a series of result outcomes that will be opened on the course owl site on October 19th session and must be returned by uploading **an MS word file** to the assignment link on Owl on November 16th by 11:55 AM. These file names must include the student's "first initial, surname & 1st assign", for identification purposes.

A second written assignment will require each student to write a 2-page paper critique of a selected research journal article. The articles will be provided to students on November 16th

by opening the 2nd assignment folder on the course owl site. These assignments must be returned by December 7th, 2021 at 11:55 AM by **uploading an MS word file** to the assignment link on Owl. These file names must include the student's "first initial, surname & 2nd assign", for identification purposes.

All information including rubrics and resources or guides for completing each assignment will be available on the assignment tab in owl.

The final examination (date and location are scheduled by Western) is a 2.5hrs open book exam as the midterm examination. It will consist of a mixture of essay-type (maximum 1 page), and short answer (one paragraph) questions dealing with the entire course materials and related readings. It will be scheduled during the final examination period. As for the midterm exam, students will answer the questions using their laptop computers and upload the file as **a PDF file to OWL**. It will be an open book exam, but **students must not plagiarize** and will be expected to answer each question in their own words using their own ideas and thoughts on each subject. Once the 2.5 hours is up students will upload the PDF file to the assignments tab on OWL where the file will be evaluated for originality. These file names must include the student's "first initial, surname & final exam", for identification purposes.

- All assignments are due at 11:55 AM EST on the date indicated above for each assignment
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have unlimited submissions to Turnitin
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without a self-report or submitted and approved medical documentation to academic counselling will be subject to a late penalty 5%/day
- Late assessments with a self-report should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; the weight will be transferred to the final grade
- The weight of a missed midterm test will be transferred to the final exam' a make-up test if necessary, will be scheduled for the final exam

If the final make-up assessment is missed, the student will receive an INC and complete the task the next year the course is offered

10. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site at least weekly
- Regular updates will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) when necessary
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use Live Classroom Tuesday sessions
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors or teaching assistants

11. Office Hours:



- Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom as requested by student emails to the Instructor
- Students will be able to set up an appointment with Dr. Watson by Emailing a request for a Zoom Meeting to awatson@uwo.ca

12. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL

13. Professionalism & Privacy:



Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

14. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

15. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a **self-reported absence** or via the **Academic Counselling** unit. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, quizzes, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review details of the [university's policy on academic consideration for student absences](#).

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, and you should contact academic counselling. Science and BSc students can contact academic counselling through the Help Portal: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on

the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Academic Offenses

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Discovery Credit Statement

Students are permitted to designate up to 1.0 Discovery Credit course (or equivalent) for pass/fail grading that can be counted toward the overall course credits required for their degree program. The details of this policy and the deadlines can be found [here](#).

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

16. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy (for in-person tests and exams)

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to ensuring that testing and evaluation are undertaken fairly across all our departments and programs. For all tests and exams, it is the policy of the School that any electronic devices, i.e., cell phones, tablets, cameras, or iPod are strictly prohibited. These devices **MUST** be left either at home or with the student's bag/jacket at the front of the room and **MUST NOT** be at the test/exam desk or in the individual's pocket. Any student found with one of these prohibited devices will receive a grade of zero on the test or exam. Non-programmable calculators are only allowed when indicated by the instructor. The program is not responsible for stolen/lost or broken devices.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark “bumping” will be denied.

17. Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Academic Counselling \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)