Biology Registration Newsletter for Fall 2021 Courses

This newsletter contains the information most relevant for registration for Fall 2021 courses. A detailed description of policies, graduation requirements, *etc*. can be found in the Biology Student Handbook: https://biology.tcnj.edu/resources-for/current-students/biology-student-handbook/

I. Registration Logistics

A. **Registration period.** Registration windows are open April 6th – 16th. The opening of your specific window, both date and time, can be found in PAWS and is based on earned course units. The last day to register for Fall 2021 is the end of the first week of classes of Fall 2021, though many courses will be closed long before then (see C., below).

B. **"Meet" with your advisor, as possible.** You will be prevented from registering until a "registration hold" is removed from your PAWS account. Given our primarily remote operations, each faculty member will be advising students in the way that works best for their situation and their students' situations. Be patient.

C. **Closed courses.** If you are unable to register for a course section because it is full or the seats are reserved for other students, you may put your name on the wait list. Wait list protocols vary by department and are summarized here: https://biology.tcnj.edu/resources-for/current-students/

Biology wait lists are being handled as described here: https://biology.tcnj.edu/waitlists-for-fall-2021/

You cannot put your name on a wait list until your registration window has opened. Do not ask to be signed into a course above the cap unless there are exceptional circumstances (*e.g.*, you will not graduate on time), and note that Chemistry and Physics courses cannot accept anyone above the cap.

D. **Off-campus study.** Off-campus study (*e.g.*, a summer course) at a NJ county college is regulated by NJ Transfer (njtransfer.org). Off-campus study at a non-NJ community college or a domestic four-year college must be approved by the chair of the department in which the course(s) would be offered at TCNJ. Any Biology major interested in studying abroad should contact the Office of Global Engagement and speak to their advisor well before they wish to travel abroad. Any course to be taken abroad for biology option credit must receive approval of Dr. Pecor before you enroll in the abroad course. Domestic or abroad, consult with Dr. Pecor regarding online (distance learning) laboratory courses.

E. **Holding seats.** Registering in a course section in order to hold a seat for another student is a violation of TCNJ's Academic Integrity Policy for both the student holding the seat and the student taking the held seat. Course registration will be monitored by the chair for anomalies suggestive of seat holding.

F. **PAWS ID.** Please include your PAWS ID number in any correspondence that concerns registration, enrollment, graduation requirements, or problems with your transcript.

G. **Independent Study.** If you know that you will be conducting research with a TCNJ faculty member for credit (BIO 393/493/494/495/496) in Fall 2021, you are asked to submit your Independent Study form via email to Dr. Pecor at any time starting April 6th. This is especially relevant if you only plan to take three courses in Fall 2021. **DO NOT** enroll in a course that you have no intention of taking. The form is located here:
https://recreg.tcnj.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/166/2019/10/Independent-Study.pdf

Confirm your enrollment with your mentor in terms of course number and course units, and send the completed form (minus your signature and the mentor's signature) to Dr. Pecor via email: pecor@tcnj.edu

II. Courses Offered

A. Fall 2021 (OE = organisms & evolution)

BIO 201	Foundations of Biological Inquiry
BIO 211	Biology of the Eukaryotic Cell
BIO 221	Ecology and Field Biology
BIO 231	Genetics
BIO 300	Course Assistant in Biology
BIO 301	Human Anatomy and Physiology I*
BIO 312	Microbiology
BIO 315	Plants and People
BIO 325	Biological Materials
BIO 370	Topics in Biology: Herpetology (OE)
BIO 393	Independent Research in Biology I
BIO 413	Microscopic Anatomy and Techniques
BIO 420	The Ecology and Evolution of Plant-Animal Interactions (OE)
BIO 434	Molecular Biology of Gene Expression
BIO 441	Plant Genetics
BIO 445	Cancer Genetics
BIO 490	Student Teaching Biology
BIO 493/494	Independent Research in Biology II/Honors
BIO 495/496	Independent Research in Biology Capstone/Honors
BIO 498	Biology Seminar

* Not available as a major option for most Biology students.

B. Spring 2022 options courses likely to be offered (not guaranteed)

(OE = organisms & evolution)

BIO 302	Human Anatomy and Physiology II*
BIO 332	Biology of the Vertebrates (OE)
BIO 342	Biology of the Invertebrates (OE)
BIO 360	Oceanography
BIO 399	Biology Research Internship

BIO 455	Ecological Developmental Biology
BIO 470	Topics in Biology: Bacterial Signal Transduction
BIO 470	Topics in Biology: Animal Behavior
BIO 470	Topics in Biology: Comparative Transcriptomics and Metabolomics
BIO 470	Topics in Biology: Conservation Genetics
BIO 471	Genomics and Bioinformatics
BIO 480	Neurobiology

* Not available as a major option for most Biology students.

III. Notes on Selected Courses

This is a brief reference for courses that are either new or have special attributes. Be sure to refer to PAWS for descriptions of all courses.

A. BIO 300 Course Assistant in Biology. There will be opportunities for students to serve as Course Assistants in Fall 2021. Being a course assistant provides advanced students with experience mentoring students in introductory and options courses. Course Assistants earn either 0.25 or 0.5 course units of elective credit, depending upon the expectations for the course with which they are affiliated. The courses needing assistants will be advertised later in the Spring 2021 semester.

B. BIO 301 & 302 Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II. Students who plan to pursue Physical / Occupational Therapy or Physicians' Assistant programs or are in an education program may count one of these two courses as a Biology major option with the chair's approval. These courses cannot serve as an option for most students and are not recommended for medical school preparation.

C. BIO 370 Topics in Biology: Herpetology. The study of amphibians and reptiles from anatomical, physiological, behavioral, ecological, and evolutionary perspectives. Lecture only.

D. BIO 393 Independent Research in Biology I. This course offers students an opportunity to learn about techniques used for biology research. It is taken typically during the sophomore year. Under the direct supervision of a faculty member, students engage in original research experiments, generating new knowledge in the laboratory and/or field. This course is designed to give the student an opportunity to explore research methods and experimental techniques needed to develop an independent research project. Students are permitted to repeat the course one time, if more exploration is needed, or they may proceed directly to BIO 493 to develop an independent project, in collaboration with the faculty mentor. Interested students should contact individual faculty members with whom they are interested in working in order to register for Independent Research.

E. BIO 493/494 Independent Research in Biology II. This course involves laboratory or field research under the direction of a faculty member at TCNJ and can be taken for up to 1 course unit/semester (a two-semester project is recommended). Typically, juniors and seniors enroll in Independent Research II. Interested students should contact individual faculty members with whom they are interested in working in order to register for Independent Research.

F. BIO 495/496 Independent Research in Biology Capstone. This course may substitute for BIO 498 Biological Seminar as the capstone course, but not as a biology option course. Students who wish to take BIO 495 Independent Research in Biology Capstone or BIO 496 Honors Independent Research in Biology Capstone should enroll in these classes during their ***final*** semester of independent research. This course involves pursuit of an original research project under the direction of a supervising professor. Results and conclusions serve as the basis of an oral or poster presentation to faculty and students as well as a written paper that has gone through multiple drafts and submitted to the faculty mentor and archived by the Department of Biology. Prerequisites: Completion of at least one course unit of BIO 493 or BIO 494 under the same instructor and a minimum overall GPA of 2.5.

G. BIO 498. At present, we are unsure which professors will teach BIO 498 in the fall and what the topics for the seminars will be. Enroll in a section that complements your other courses, and the professor and topic will be shared once that information is available.