ABS 302: Ethical and Policy Issues in Biology

Instructor Information
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Course Description
Environmental policy and ethics in the practice of biology. The course covers ethical reasoning, policy formulation, and regulatory agencies using examples from biotechnology and the environment.

This course is offered by the College of Letters and Sciences. For more information about the college, visit our website: https://cls.asu.edu/.   If you have questions or concerns, please send your inquiry tocls@asu.edu.

Course Level Objectives
At the completion of this course students will be able to identify issues currently being addressed in Applied biology, understand basic environmental framework that currently guides our policies, and develop an appreciation for the ethical questions facing our citizens as they relate to biology and the environment.

Course Textbook and Materials
All readings and assignments will be posted on MY ASU Blackboard. There are no required textbooks for this course.

Email and Internet
Students must have an active ASU e-mail account and access to the Internet. *All instructor correspondences will be either posted on the Blackboard Announcement board or sent to student's ASU e-mail account.* Students should plan on checking the course Blackboard website or the MyASU Blackboard site regularly for course related messages.

Course Attendance/Participation
Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings and reviewing all information required for that module. Attendance in an online course means logging into blackboard on a regular basis and participating in all of the activities that are posted in the course.

Studying and Preparation Time
The course requires students to spend time preparing and completing assignments. A two-credit course requires 90 hours of student work. Therefore expect to spend approximately 5-6 hours a week preparing for and actively participating in this course.

Course Format
This is an *i*course consisting of four modules on different aspects of ethics and policy issues in biology. The core of the class consists of instructional programs that are available on MyASU Blackboard. Each module consists of a series of readings and presentations related to the module content topic that are organized so that students can efficiently complete the activities and quizzes for each module within the time allotted. This course requires students to have access to a computer that has high speed access to the Internet.

Course Overview and point structure
1. **ABS 302 is divided into four topical modules.**
   o Each module is worth 100 points and consists of a mixture of readings, video presentations from relevant topics relating to ethical and policy issues in biology today, and short assignments requiring students to form ethical opinions or defend a position.
   o Each module is accompanied by a study guide which will guide students through their online experience.
   o Modules will be delivered sequentially over the course of the semester and will be available for approximately 3-4 weeks. Students should paste the deadline dates in a convenient area to ensure proper time to finish each module.
2. **To begin the online course experience**,
   o Click on "Introduction" tab. View the introduction video, read the syllabus and take the online syllabus quiz. (Not counted towards grade).
   o Click on the "Content" tab and select the appropriate module (1-4) that is currently available
   o Click on "study guides" and select the study guide which accompanies the appropriate module.
   o Readings and videos for each module are available directly through study guides or under the "Content tab"

3. **Study guides** are available for each module (under "Study Guides " in blackboard)
   o Include all reading and internet links for the selected module.
     (Material will also be available separately in the "content" tab within the "Readings" and "Videos" section of each module.)
   o Provide instructions for completion of essay questions, blogs or other writing assignments (if required).
   o It is strongly recommended that students complete the study guide before they attempt the quiz as most of the quiz questions will be taken directly from this document.

4. **Completion of module:**
   o All modules will require completion of the end of module quiz on assigned readings and videos.

o   Some modules may require that students complete a short essay question, conduct an internet search, conduct an interview or other short activity or contribute and respond to blogs.

o   Points will be accumulated based on student input on both the quiz and associated activities.

o   By the end of each module deadline, students will be expected to have completed the module content and associated activities.

Point Structure:

1. **Blog:** Post opinion on a particular topic and/or respond to other students blogs. (5-15 points)

   ▪   **This may not be required for *every* module.**
   ▪   This exercise provides students with the opportunity to state their own opinion and debate issues.
   ▪   All comments made must be respectful in nature. The student may lose up to 50 points for disrespectful behavior and may be required to drop the class if rude or inappropriate behavior is displayed. Courtesy and respect are the key ingredients! ☺

2. **Essay Response:** (15-20 points)

   ▪   **This may not be required on every module.**
   ▪   Topic may involve student's assessment of case studies or a reflection on assigned readings or videos
   ▪   Essays will be brief in nature and will provide students with the opportunity to search for facts, debate issues and come to an ethical decision
   ▪   Specific directions will be posted on study guides.
   ▪   Length: keep it brief. 2-3 pages , 4-5 paragraphs. Site 2-3 sources at end of document. I will primarily be concerned with *your thoughts* and how you arrived at your opinion.

3. **Completion of online quiz for each module** (65-100 points) The Quiz is designed to test student knowledge on assigned readings and videos. Quizzes will have the following format:

   ▪   Consist of: True/False, multiple choice and short answer questions.
   ▪   Time and Deadlines:
       o   Once the quiz for the particular module has been opened students will have approximately 2 hours to complete each quiz
       o   Students must complete the quiz in one sitting.

   ▪   In order to be successful, students should have their study guide available when taking the quiz as most of the test questions will be taken directly from the study guide.
   ▪   All Assessments will be submitted through blackboard before the deadline date and time (midnight).

   ▪   Questions and concerns about grades or grading procedures must be addressed within one week of the assessment grade being posted

<u>Extra Credit</u>: 25 points will be offered for one module only (Student choice). Extra credit assignment will consist of outside research, interview or activity pertaining to ethical issues in Biology

5. <u>**Module content availability, assessment deadlines and point distributions**</u> are provided below**. All module content is due at midnight.**

Content **May include blog or essay question**	**Availability**	**Deadline for completion**	**Point value** **for module assessment and assigned activities**
Syllabus Quiz			6 points(not counte towards grade)
Module 1	January 11-February 7	Sunday, February 7 midnight	100
Module 2	February 8-March 6	Sunday March 6 midnight	100
Module 3	March 7-April 3	Sunday April 3 midnight	100
Module 4	April 4- May 1	Sunday May 1 midnight	100
Total			400 points

Read this special note: The module deadlines are fixed and **NO** extensions will be granted to students after 7 days before each of the module deadlines posted above. For example, the first module deadline is Sept 20th which means that after August 13th, **NO** extensions will be granted regardless of conditions or circumstances. Moreover, extension requests before this deadline are not guaranteed. The course administrator reserves the sole right to grant or deny a student's request for a module extension**.** Under the unusual situation or circumstances in which the course administrator does agree to grant a deadline extension, the extension interval given to students is generally 3 days in order to able to **receive full credit**.

Final Grades
The assignment of final student letter grades will be based on a percentage of points earned on module assignments and quizzes. The letter grade will correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course module requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

      A   90 to 97% (98% and above, A+)

B	80 to 89%
C	70 to 79%
D	60 to 69%
E	below 60%

Student's grades for the assessments and creative assignments will be posted electronically in the myASU Gradebook.

Student Conduct Statement
As ASU instructors, our penchant is to assume best intentions on behalf of the students in this course. However, as need arises we are compelled to remind all in the course that the practice of academic dishonesty is a violation of the ASU Academic Integrity Policy. According to the policy, students must "act with honesty and integrity, and must respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments".

In accordance with the ASU Academic Integrity Policy, when a violation has occurred such as in cases of plagiarism or use of materials from the Internet or any other source without full and appropriate attribution, we the instructors may lower the grade of an assignment or assessment or assign the student a grade of XE for the course.

Technical Support Contact Information
If you are experiencing technical issues, contact the ASU Help Desk using the following information:

Email: helpdesk@ecollege.asu.edu
Phone: 480-965-6500, option 6

For ASURITE User ID, password or activation assistance, contact the ASU Help Desk using the following information: Email: helpdesk@asu.edu
Phone: 480-965-6500, option 1. For information on systems outages see the ASU systems status calendar, please visit http://syshealth.asu.edu/.

Accessibility Statement
In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Disability Resource Centers (DRC) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. DRC staff coordinate transition from high schools and community colleges, in-service training for faculty and staff, resolution of accessibility issues, community outreach, and collaboration between all ASU campuses regarding disability policies, procedures, and accommodations.Students who wish to request an accommodation for a disability should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for their campus.

Tempe Campus	Polytechnic Campus
http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/	http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/
480-965-1234 (Voice)	480.727.1165 (Voice)
480-965-9000 (TTY)	480.727.1009 (TTY)

West Campus	Downtown Phoenix Campus
http://www.west.asu.edu/drc/	http://campus.asu.edu/downtown/DRC
University Center Building (UCB), Room 130	University Center Building, Suite 160
602-543-8145 (Voice)	602-496-4321 (Voice)
	602-496-0378 (TTY)