Transfer Student Orientation (BIOL 112)

Welcome to the biology program at Iowa State University! Some of you are students who have transferred to biology from another institution, while others have transferred to biology from another major on campus. In either case, we’re glad to have you here and we hope you find biology to be as awesome as we do!

You’re probably asking: why do I have to take this course anyway? Our goals with this course are simple: to assist you with the transition to being a biology major at Iowa State and help you become aware of the opportunities available within our major. It is a required course to complete the biology major here, and we hope you will learn something interesting!

Meet Your Instructors!

Emily Kapler
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103 Bessey Hall
(515) 294 - 8628

Jim Colbert
jtcolber@iastate.edu
113 Bessey Hall
(515) 294 - 9330

“Most of biology boils down to sex and death.”

― Jim Colbert

If you would like an appointment to meet with us, please talk to Sue Sprong in the Student Services office (103 Bessey Hall) or call her (515-294-1064).

When and Where

Transfer Student Orientation (BIOL 112) meets on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in Bessey Hall Room 210, and our agenda is as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>January 14th</td>
<td>Introduction to BIOL 112</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>January 21st</td>
<td>Change, Stress, and Coping Skills</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>January 28th</td>
<td>Resources and Opportunities in Ames and ISU</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>February 4th</td>
<td>Plotting your Course in Biology</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>February 11th</td>
<td>Opportunities in Biology</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>February 18th</td>
<td>Connecting with Professors: Faculty Panel</td>
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Expectations and Grading

Transfer Student Orientation is a required or “R” course, which means it isn’t worth any credits but is required for graduation as a biology major at Iowa State. It is graded on a low-stress, Satisfactory/Fail (S/F) basis. To pass this class, miss no more than one class period and complete all class assignments by the midterm (Monday, March 9th). We also expect you to actively participate in class discussions or activities.

Course assignments will include:

- Participation in one approved activity and writing a two paragraph reflection about it on Blackboard
- Researching a resource for a mini-presentation during Week 3
- Reviewing your degree audit and/or transfer credit evaluation to complete two worksheets passed out during Week 4

Blackboard

We will be using Blackboard for course communications. Options for approved activities will be posted here, as well as further instructions for the reflections, copies of the worksheets, and some of our course presentations.

Social Events and Activities

This semester, we are going to be offering a few social activities that occur for one hour after class (6:30 pm to 7:30 pm) when there is not Biological Sciences Club (BSC) meeting. These can count for your required approved activity, and we hope that you might find a few of them to be fun ways to relax and unwind at the end of the day. We are open to suggestions, but right now we are considering:

- Week 3: making and decorating paper snowflakes
- Week 5: watching a biology-related documentary