

Fall 2021

**Course Syllabus  
Biology Department  
Midwestern State University**

**History of the Biological Sciences - BIOL 5011**

M 5:30 – 6:20 PM - BO 215

**Instructor:**

Dr. Mike Shipley BO 218C

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Office hours: MW 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM;

T 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM; or by appointment.

**Required Text:**

Moore, John A. 1993. **Science As a Way of Knowing: The Foundations of Modern Biology**. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.  
ISBN-13: 978-0674794825

**Course Objectives:**

Literature & History of the Biological Sciences (BIOL 5013) was a graduate-level course designed to immerse students in the methods of scientific writing and publication along with a look at the rich history of the life sciences. The course has been broken down into two courses: Writing in The Biological Sciences (BIOL 5012), which focuses on the primary scientific literature and scientific writing, and this History of The Biological Sciences course (BIOL 5011), which explores the history of the discipline of biology. Major events in the development of the biological sciences will be emphasized with the goal of allowing students to place their research interests and career goals in the context of a historical perspective.

## Assignments:

- 1). Lead a discussion on 2 chapters from *Science as a Way of Knowing* by John Moore. Both will be a round table type discussion with you as the discussion leader.
- 2). A take-home quiz over a discussion on “The History of the Internet”. Handouts will be given.
- 3). Write a Short Paper on a topic not extensively covered in *Science as a Way of Knowing*. The paper should be 4-5 pages long, typed and double-spaced, and should include a bibliography section (that does not count in the page length). The professor will approve the paper topic in advance, and the completed paper is due November 29. On that evening, also be prepared to share (10 minutes max) with your fellow students about the content of your paper.

## Grade Determination:

The grade for this class will be based on the student’s performance as discussion leader, their interaction as a participant while other students lead the discussion, the grade of their internet quiz, and the quality of their short paper. The breakdown for the grade is as follows:

<b>Discussion</b>	-	<b>70%</b>
<b>Internet Quiz</b>	-	<b>10%</b>
<b>Short Paper</b>	-	<b><u>20%</u></b>
		<b>100%</b>

There is no set standard for each letter grade in this course. This course will be graded on a competitive basis among all students from BIOL 5011.

## Attendance and Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings, to be punctual, attentive, and active! Students should refer to the current MSU Handbook and Activities Calendar for university policy on academic dishonesty, class attendance, student rights and activities.

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage at <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.