

FALL 2026

FIRST YEAR FAQ

Welcome to first-year Biology, BIOL 1213: Applications in Biology! This course focuses on building skills that are used by professional biologists. We will explore some techniques that are commonly used in molecular biology, ecology and physiology, as well as provide a basis in statistical techniques and understanding scientific literature.

This is a lab-only course and there is no lecture component. If you plan to take any second-year Biology course, you must complete the first-year BIOL courses: **BIOL1211** (Molecular and Cell Biology), **BIOL1212** (Organismal and Ecological Biology) and **BIOL1213** (Applications in Biology).

Please note that there are different sections of this course; please go to the lab room (**Science 139**) on the day and time for which you are registered. We will go over all of the course requirements on the first day of class, but if you would like some answers before then, please see below for some general information.

BIOL 1213

Applications in Biology

Course co-ordinator:
Dr. Laura Weir



Course website

Saint Mary's University uses Brightspace for course websites. The BIOL 1213 Brightspace site will be opened in the first week of September. Plan to check Brightspace regularly throughout the term for essential information, pre-lab readings, lab procedures, and important announcements.

For help with Brightspace, please contact the **EIT help desk** at hdesk@smu.ca.

Is there a lab manual?

The lab manual and pre-lab reading will be provided through Brightspace or in the lab.

What equipment/resources do I need?

You will need a lab coat and safety glasses. These are on sale at the University bookstore. You will need to wear your lab coat, and have your safety glasses available in your lab coat pocket, each time you enter S139.



Saint Mary's
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SCIENCE

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To participate in labs, the University requires that you complete Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System training (this is usually abbreviated to WHMIS). This training is to introduce you to potential hazards in the lab and is required for many Science courses. It is available through Brightspace. We will discuss this when we first meet in the lab.

When does the course start?

This course has two different sections that meet once per week on different days. **There are no BIOL1213 labs/classes in the first week of classes.** Please see the table below for the dates that each section will begin.

Section	First day of class
1A (Tuesday)	September 15, 2026 2:30 pm - 5:29 pm
1B (Wednesday)	September 16, 2026 2:30 pm - 5:29 pm

Attending class

Attendance is mandatory because being present is essential for your success in this course. The majority of the course activities must be completed during your laboratory period and these activities can't be rescheduled. There is no substitute for regular attendance.

There will be many opportunities to practice your skills during the laboratory period—we have designed this course to provide you with the fundamentals that you will need as you move through your biology undergraduate programme. It is important to take advantage of these opportunities for development, and be present and engaged during your laboratory period. Be curious and ask questions, and you should have a very successful and positive experience in the course. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in early September.

