

Annual Assessment Report  
**Biology**  
2015

## **I. Executive Summary**

The Biology major has been focusing on course-by-course assessments.

**Biol 114L: Anatomy and Physiology**

I am going to explore the inclusion of iWorx Systems for labs.

**Biol 119L: Ecology and Evolution**

This year I implemented several new labs that the students enjoyed – especially the bird carcass lab, which was part of a national effort to determine how often bird fatalities occur on college campuses. Although we found no dead birds, the students overwhelmingly described that lab as one of the best activities of the semester. We will continue that lab next year, and I will look for more labs where the students are a part of a larger experiment.

**Biol 126: Genetics**

**Biol 130L: Biology of Organisms**

This course also implemented several new labs. Many of the Biology of Organisms labs were plant based, which was getting boring for me and for the students. This year I created a new lab on Daphnia, small crustaceans that are easily maintained in the lab and that are easy to manipulate in experiments. Students learned how to use the search engines on the Wells College library site to find primary literature, and then using those articles designed and implemented their own Daphnia experiments. The experiment culminated in lab report that involved all the standard sections of a scientific paper. Hopefully this experience will better prepare students for upper division lab courses.

**Biol 305: Plant Diversity and Evolution**

This was the first year this course was taught without a lab, and the transition didn't go as smoothly as I had hoped. In the future I will incorporate more hands on activities in lecture and will cut out some material that wasn't necessary because it was previously covered in Biology of Organisms.

### **BIOL 330L Anatomy and Physiology II**

I would like to include a field trip to NYCC's cadaver lab to provide students with a hands-on experience with human anatomy. This will supplement the dissections of non-human animals.

### **BIOL 331 Developmental Biology**

I would like to include a field trip to an active developmental biology lab at Ithaca College to provide insight into some of the techniques and methodologies used in the field.