

“The Natural World” (NAWO) courses explore major scientific questions which have engaged scientists over the years. Students learn to engage in creative problem solving and scientific thinking while becoming familiar with cutting edge topics in the sciences.

**NAWO courses will enable students to:**

- Understand the steps involved in scientific research
- Understand different types of research methods
- Understand how hypotheses are formulated and tested
- Evaluate scientific claims and supporting evidence

*The text above should be included on your syllabus.*

**SYLLABUS GUIDELINES:**

**NAWO courses should:**

- address topics from more than one scientific field
- be designed for both science and non-science majors
- focus on topics relevant to daily life and/or current events

**When preparing your syllabus, please keep in mind the following:**

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- If the class is taught by more than one instructor, there should be a clear and stated connection between the topics covered
- [No more than 60% of the final grade should be determined by exams.]
- Attendance in Core courses is mandatory. We encourage instructors to count class participation in some way towards the final grade.

**Proposed syllabi should include:**

- all formal assignments and tests, and how much each will count towards a final grade
- approximate page numbers for assigned reading

*Please keep in mind that Core courses should privilege in-depth study over coverage of multiple topics or areas. It is more important for students to learn scientific thinking skills and tools for analysis than to have mastered a topic in its entirety. We encourage*

*instructors to carefully consider the pacing of their classes with this in mind, with attention to what non-science students can reasonably be expected to accomplish.*

\*\*The expectation is that students will receive instructor feedback in the form of multiple graded assignments paced throughout the semester. By mid-semester, students should have had graded feedback on at least one of these assignments.

NOTE: Determination of “Honors” designation for Core courses occurs after a course has been approved in a given category. Designated Honors sections will then be asked to include: more challenging writing assignments, with increased length; additional critical readings; opportunities for revision of written work; increased emphasis on class participation; whenever possible, opportunities to continue the learning outside of the classroom.