

Biology 101: General Biology Fall, 2012 Class Syllabus

Course and Instructor Information

Meeting times: Lecture (all sections): M W 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm TNR 170
 Lab section 7: W 12:00 pm - 2:50 pm TNR 254
 Lab section 8: Tu 2:00 pm - 4:50 pm TNR 254
 Lab section 9: Th 2:00 pm - 4:50 pm TNR 254
 Final Exam: Tuesday, December 18 8 am - 10 am

Instructor: Dr. Matt Rogge
Office: TNR 441
Phone: 346-2506
Email: mrogge@uwsp.edu

Office hours: Monday and Friday 10-11 am
Other times by appointment

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of biology, how it is studied, and how it impacts your life on a day-to-day basis.

What You Should Acquire from this Class

Students will understand that...

- Biology is driven by observation and analysis of the natural world, and that these observations and analyses can be repeated and verified by experimentation.
- Their lives depend on biological processes that can be observed, described, and in some cases manipulated.

Questions to Ask Yourself Throughout the Class

- Why is an understanding of biology important to me?
- How does a fundamental understanding of biology affect the way I view and interact with my environment?

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

Students will...

- Identify the resources required for life (basic biochemistry).
- Describe the diversity of life that has evolved to acquire those resources (speciation/evolution).
- Recognize how those organisms interact with each other and their environment (ecology).

Skills:

Students will...

- Distinguish between groups of organisms based on observable traits.
- Apply their knowledge of biology to current events in order to have an informed viewpoint.
- Express their observations in a constructive manner to aid others in understanding the natural world.

Dispositions:

Students will...

- Recognize the scientific basis for our fundamental knowledge of biology and how life “works”.
- Appreciate the diversity of life and its importance in providing an environment suitable for us to live.

Required Texts

Reece, J. B., M. R. Taylor, E. J. Simon, and J. L. Dickey. 2012. Campbell Biology Concepts and Connections, 7th Edition. Benjamin Cummings/Pearson, Boston, MA. available from text rental

Biology 101 Laboratory Manual, available for purchase from the bookstore

Attendance

Attendance in lecture is strongly recommended to ensure exposure to all material covered in class, but no formal attendance will be taken. Attendance at exams is **REQUIRED**. Make-up exams will only be administered in the event of illness or emergency, which will also require documentation. If you are aware ahead of time of a conflict with the exam period, a meeting with the instructor is required to discuss the situation, and rescheduling **may** occur at the **INSTRUCTOR’S** discretion.

Attendance in the lab is **REQUIRED**. Prelab and lab reports are due during each lab. These reports aid in your understanding of the lab that is happening that day as well as ensuring you took away important concepts from the hands-on portions of the lab. The work associated with the lab also makes up more than one-third of your grade. Reports **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED** if you do not attend the lab; however, if you have a legitimate excuse for missing a lab (illness, funeral, etc.) with documentation for the absence, see the instructor to discuss the absence.

Grading

Your grade will be determined by the total points possible. Grades will not be curved. If you feel an error has been made in grading, you have 48 hours from the time you received the grade to contact the instructor with your reasoning. The student will meet with the instructor to discuss the grading, and the entire exam will be regraded and returned.

Exams will cover the material covered in lecture in addition to material covered in lab. There will be no lab exams. In lieu of lab exams, however, there will be a project required (see below).

Exam 1 – 120 pts (100 lecture, 20 lab) **October 10, 2012 TNR 170 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm**
Exam 2 – 120 pts (100 lecture, 20 lab) **November 14, 2012 TNR 170 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm**
Exam 3 – 120 pts (100 lecture, 20 lab) **December 12, 2012 TNR 170 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm**
Exam 4 (comprehensive final) – 120 pts (100 lecture, 20 lab) **December 18, 2012 TNR 170 8:00 am - 10:00 am**

The lowest exam score will be dropped. If you opt to take the final, only one of the first three exams may be dropped.

Prelab assignments – 5 pts each (75 total, the two lowest scores will be dropped)

Lab reports – 15 pts each (225 total, the two lowest scores will be dropped)

Project – 140 pts **Details for the lab project will be provided at a later date, no later than the week of Sept. 24.**

Total points: 800 points

Grades will be calculated by dividing the total points received by the total points possible and multiplied by 100. All grades will be rounded **UP**. The following scale will be used to assign a final grade.

| | |
|------------|----|
| 93 to 100% | A |
| 90 to 92% | A- |
| 87 to 89% | B+ |
| 83 to 86% | B |
| 80 to 82% | B- |
| 77 to 79% | C+ |
| 73 to 76% | C |
| 70 to 72% | C- |
| 67 to 69% | D+ |
| 63 to 66% | D |
| 60 to 62% | D- |
| <60% | F |

Expectations

YOU are responsible for attending lecture and lab sessions in order to ensure exposure to all the material covered. **YOU** are responsible for asking questions for clarification of topics that you do not fully understand. **I** am more than willing to meet with you outside of class to further explain any topics. **YOU** can stop by during office hours or call/email/see me after class to set up an appointment outside of office hours. If there is any way I can assist you in this class, do not hesitate to ask, and I will do my best to help.

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. Visit here for more information:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP "Student Academic Standards and

Disciplinary Procedures” section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

Access for all Students

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP’s policies, visit:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me **AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE**. I am happy to help in any way that I can, but you need to be registered. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here:

<http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

Cell Phones

Please turn off/mute/set to vibrate any electronic devices that could interrupt class (lab or lecture) before class begins. If it is a personal emergency, feel free to excuse yourself from the class and communicate outside of the classroom.