**Course Information: BIOL-1308 – General Biology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>BIOL-1308</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>GENERAL BIOLOGY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goals**

**Course Goals**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. To develop an understanding of the basic biological principles that affect daily life.
2. To introduce the diverse forms of life found on planet Earth.
3. To gain knowledge in the structure and functioning of plants, animals, and microorganisms.
4. To provide general information on the basis, patterns and new developments in genetics, inheritance of traits, and immunology.
5. To give insight into the interrelationships between all living organisms and their environment.
6. To impart an understanding of the scientific method used by scientists.
7. To develop a level of scientific literacy in biology sufficient to comprehend new developments and medical reports as presented in current publications and television programming.

**Purpose and Text Book**

**Introduction**

PURPOSE: This is an introductory course that covers the fundamentals of biology. This course is designed to satisfy the science elective for Applied Science degrees. BIOL 1308 does NOT satisfy a laboratory science requirement.

TEXTBOOK: Essentials of Biology, by Sylvia S. Mader, 2nd edition. The textbook will be necessary to complete assignments.

A word about internet classes: Internet classes are very appealing because they allow students to complete a course within their own schedule. However, the downside is that the failure rate for
internet classes is high. The only reason for a high failure rate is that students do not get their work turned in on time. It is too easy to wait until the last minute to complete assignments. Students must remain vigilant and get assignments turned in timely and regularly. Also, this course requires intensive reading and writing.

Unit details

The course is divided into 12 learning modules plus three written assignments. For the learning modules, you will study the chapter and take an assessment (quiz) on defined dates for the chapter. Then there are three written assignments. Each written assignment will cover 1 or 2 chapters in the text, as well as require some internet research.

The written assignments for each unit will be posted several weeks before the due date on this web site......the details for each unit will be listed there.

Each learning module will have an on-line multiple choice quiz (or they are also called assessments). The assessments (quizzes) will only be available on specific dates. The dates for each module quiz are listed in the syllabus. You can only take the module quiz on the dates specified. Most assessments (quizzes) will be 25 questions...you will have 40 minutes to complete the assessment.

For each learning module, you will need to study the chapter and understand the material. Each module will have several resources available to help you study the chapter. You will find those resources under the learning module tab. Then, you will have an assessment (quiz) over that information. Each assessment has a pre-assessment and post-assessment available. These are just for practice and study purposes so you have some practice questions. The pre and post assessments ARE NOT REQUIRED AND DO NOT COUNT TOWARD YOUR GRADE!

Summary

So, to sum it up. You will have three written assignments to turn in. You will also have 12
Assessment information

The assessments are open book, but they are detailed and cover a lot of material. To do well on the assessment, you must study the learning module ahead of time and will need to make an outline or take notes. Also, some computers will disconnect you from the internet after a time of inactivity. It is possible that while you are taking an assessment the internet connection will become inactive and disconnect. If your computer does this, you need to reset your inactivity time period to a longer time frame. You might want to set it to disconnect only after 3 hours of inactivity.

You must take the assessment on the days specified in the syllabus. You can take the quiz as early as 4 AM on the Monday and have until 11:55 PM on the last day (either a Wednesday or Thursday) to complete the quiz. If you miss an assessment, then you will receive a zero for that quiz. But do remember, you get to drop your lowest two quiz grades.

NOTE: TO TAKE AN ASSESSMENT, YOU MUST HAVE RESPONDUS LOCKDOWN BROWSER ON YOUR COMPUTER. TO LOG INTO AN ASSESSMENT YOU MUST BE USING THAT BROWSER. THE WEBCT HOME PAGE AND MYSPC BOTH HAVE LINKS TO DOWNLOAD THE BROWSER!

More on assignments

Introduction Once the assignments for the unit are graded, I will post the grades on this web site. If you would like to see your comments about your grade, you must e-mail me and request them. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Let me repeat this, late assignments will not be accepted. If your computer malfunctions or there is a problem with sending e-mail, that is your responsibility. If you miss an assignment or if is late, you will receive a zero for that assignment. Do not wait until the last minute to turn in your assignment. When turning in your assignments, e-mail them directly to me.
As Biology students, it is your responsibility to explain, tell me, what is going on, what that cell part is doing, etc? You may not assume that I can read your mind or that I have just read the material that you have read. I will only grade what I read, so be sure to explain your answers thoroughly. If your answer fails to deal with the issues in the question, then you have failed to properly answer the question. These answers must be in your own words. I do not want answers that are copied or paraphrased from the textbook or a web site. This is plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero. Remember that your work replaces your in-class time. I do not expect short answers for these questions. You will not receive credit for the class if only minimalist effort is given. Also, remember that spelling, grammar, syntax are all important. I will not grade work that is full of typos and other errors.
AGAIN, NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

| Learning modules, assessment date, and Chapter covered |

Below is a list of the Learning modules, what chapter they will cover, and the dates that you can take the quiz:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapter covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>June 7 - 10</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>June 7 - 10</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>June 7 - 10</td>
<td>Chapter 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>June 14 - 17</td>
<td>Chapter 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>June 14 - 17</td>
<td>Chapter 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>June 14 - 17</td>
<td>Chapter 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>June 21 - 24</td>
<td>Chapter 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>June 21 - 24</td>
<td>Chapter 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>June 21 - 24</td>
<td>Chapter 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>June 28 - 30</td>
<td>Chapter 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>June 28 - 30</td>
<td>Chapter 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>June 28 - 30</td>
<td>Chapter 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Written Due Date Chapters covered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment #</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Chapters covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Chapter 11 and 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Chapter 17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### More information

I expect all assignments to come to me via e-mail. I use Windows XP and have the latest versions of Microsoft Word. You can send me your assignment via straight e-mail, or as an attachment that my computer can read. I will also accept typed assignments delivered to my office for students who prefer that method. I will not accept any assignments sent to me on disk. It is the student's responsibility to send me e-mail that my computer can "understand".

After you have read the syllabus, you must e-mail me that you have read and understand the syllabus.

Just because this is an internet class where we never have to meet face-to-face or talk on the phone does not mean that you cannot contact me outside of the internet. Please feel free to telephone me or stop by my office.

If I determine that you do not have sufficient points to pass the course, I might drop you from the course if you do not drop yourself. Beware, however, you may be dropped from the course with a grade of F. So please, if you are not passing, drop yourself from the course.

Your work for this class is expected to be your own. You cannot copy someone else's work, work with someone to complete the assignments, or turn in another person's work. That is cheating. Anyone suspected of cheating will be turned over to the Dean for investigation and disciplinary action. Persons caught cheating will receive a grade of F for the course, as well as face academic suspension or expulsion.

Written assignments for the units are due no later than
midnight on the due date. Be sure and allow plenty of time for your assignment to make it over the internet. Again, late assignments are not accepted.

The grade book part of the web site does not properly calculate your average only because it does not drop your lowest assessment grade. If you need to know your average with your lowest assessment grade dropped, please e-mail me and I will be happy to let you know your current status.

e-mail information

Our school server checks every e-mail for viruses. If it senses a virus threat, the e-mail is stopped. Students who use Hotmail accounts have the most problem with this. This might happen to one of your e-mails without your realizing it. If I do not respond to your e-mail, this might be the case. On school days, I generally respond to e-mails the same day. On weekends and holidays, it might be the following Monday. If you do not hear back from me, then you need to contact me by phone at my office.

Disability Statement

A student who enrolls in this class that may need classroom accommodations is strongly encouraged to schedule an intake interview with the special services department before enrolling in this class or prior to the add/drop date for this semester.

How the class is graded

Each assessment (learning module) is worth 50 points toward your final grade. Your lowest two assessment grades will be dropped. This means that you will have 10 assessments each worth 50 points toward your final grade, totaling 500 points.

Each written assignment is worth 100 points toward your final grade. You can NOT drop any written assignments.

So, you have a total of 800 possible points.

Grading Scale
Introduction

GRADING SCALE: Course grades will be assigned on the following scale based on the total points earned by the student:

Your lowest unit grade will be dropped. So, you have a total of 800 possible points.

Grade Total Points Earned

A 740 - 800 points
B 640 - 739 points
C 560 - 639 points
D 480 to 559 points
F 0-479 points

Section Instructor: Phil Ricker

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Close this window