

Syllabus: Biology 10 – Introduction to Life Science

Course Information

Instructor: Mr. Edgar Munoz

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Semester: Fall 2023

Section: 52004

Lecture Meeting: Tuesday 6:00pm-8:50pm, Life Science 17



Course Description

Biology 10 is a 3-unit biology course with 3 lecture hours per week. This is a course is recommended for non-biological science and pre-education majors. This is an introductory course using biological concepts. The organismal structure, function, inheritance, evolution, and ecology are covered. Students needing a life science lab must enroll in Biology 10L in addition to Biology 10. Not open to students with credit in Biology 3.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Apply the principles of Mendelian genetics to evolutionary theory and human medicine.
2. Understand the chemical basis of life.
3. Assess human impacts on natural systems and critically evaluate solutions to environmental problems.
 - a. By examining anatomical and physiological features.
 - b. By investigating chemical and energy relationships.
4. Classify the wide range of living organisms and identify the evolutionary mechanisms that have impacted this diversity.
5. Evaluate current scientific literature and examine how the scientific method is employed in biological research.
6. Examine the function of DNA and recognize how its discovery has impacted modern science.
7. Understand the cellular basis of life.
8. Identify levels of biological organization and apply these concepts to living systems:
 - a. By examining anatomical and physiological features.
 - b. By investigating chemical and energy relationships.

Course Requirements and Policies

Prerequisites

None – Just the desire to learn.



Required Course Materials

- OpenStax, Concepts of Biology.
(A hardcopy of the book is not required.)

Technology Requirements

- Electronic Device in class daily; laptop, tablet, smart phone.
- Check Canvas and your Reedley College email accounts regularly (Multiple times per week) for announcements.
- All lecture and lab PowerPoints, handouts, notes, schedules, grades, etc. will be posted on Canvas.

Class Policies

Attendance and Drop Policy

- Students are expected to attend person class sessions. Attendance will be taken regularly.
 - *If you miss 15 hours or more of this class throughout the semester, it will result in the lowering of your final course letter grade by one letter grade.*
- Excessive tardies (10 min late) will NOT be tolerated (three tardies equals one absence).
- Students will be dropped from this course if they do not attend the first lecture without prior notification to the instructor.
- Students will be dropped from this course if they have excessive absences of 8 hours or more of lecture by the end of the third week of instruction (January 30).
- The final drop date for this course is March 10th, 2023.
 - *It is the student's responsibility to drop this course if he/she feels necessary. The instructor will NOT drop any students after the third week of instruction.*

In-Class Conduct Policy

No cell phones should go off during this class. Please be respectful to your instructor and classmates by silencing your phone and taking phone calls outside if necessary. If they ring or are used during a test or quiz, the student will receive a 0 for that exam or quiz. You cannot make up these assignments.

Communication Expectations

Identify yourself by your real name. Be mindful of your language, and avoid including personal information, such as phone numbers or addresses, in discussion forums. All online communications should be transmitted with the intent to inform, inspire, etc. and not to offend or breach personal privacy.

Use humor, joking, or sarcasm with caution. We often rely on non-verbal cues such as facial expressions to communicate joking or sarcasm, but these cues are not always clear in an online environment. These cues can be simulated with emoticons to reduce misunderstandings.

Be Professional, Clear and Respectful. Clear and effective writing translates to clear and effective communication. Writing the way, you would speak is a good rule of thumb, use a positive tone and adhere to the same rules you would follow in face- to-face communications.

Learner Expectation

- Regular engagement throughout the semester.
- Ensure you have approximately 10 hours per week to spend on this course
- Review the assignments on the Course Schedule and print it out for easy reference as you complete each task.
- You are expected to plan your study time around the course schedule and recommended completion dates.
- While the due dates for the course are just suggestions, it is expected that all assignments will be submitted based on due dates located on McGraw-Hill Connect website.
- Check your email account regularly for updated information. Use e-mail for private messages to the instructor and other students. The discussion forum is for public messages.
- If you have questions or confusion about an assignment, act promptly!
- We are human and sometimes links or other pages need updating or become inactive.
- Read directions carefully.

Course Exams and Major Assignments

Point Breakdown

Assignment Description	Points	Breakdown
Homework & In-class Assignments	250 points	Points will vary by assignment
Participation	80 points	Must be present
Lecture Exams	400 points	4 exams @ 100 pts each
Writing Assignment	120 points	10 pts turning in rough draft on time; 10 pts for peer reviews; 100 pts for Final Draft
Final Exam	150 points	
Total	1,000 points	

Grading Policy

To calculate your grade, total all points earned and divide that number by the total points available (1,000). Course grades are non-negotiable; Instructor reserves the right to curve individual tests and/or assignments. FINAL GRADES WILL NOT BE CURVED... ALSO, I DO NOT round up your grades to the next letter grade. The final course grade is based on the following scale:

- A: 90.00% and above
- B: 80.00% to 89.99999%
- C: 70.00% to 79.99999%
- D: 60.00% to 69.99999%
- F: 59.99999% and below

LATE ASSIGNMENTS, CHEATING, AND MAKE-UP POLICY

Policy for Exams:

- Your exam score will have 10 percent deducted for every 24 hours that your work is late. For example, if you are one day late you will be penalized 10%, three days late would be 30%. If you have a medical excuse, you will be exempt from the point deduction

Policy for Assignments:

- No late assignments will be accepted without a medical excuse. After one week any missed grade may not be made up unless prior written arrangements have been made. This is to ensure fairness both to the other students and to me.

Policy for Cheating:

- Any student caught cheating will be subject to the Reedley College disciplinary procedures (see the catalog). Be aware that the procedures require a written notification to the dean that will become a part of your permanent record.

Lecture Exams

There will be 4 lecture exams and a comprehensive final exam (see the Tentative Schedule for exam dates). Each exam will include new material covered in the corresponding unit. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, matching, fill in the blank, and short answer/essay questions. Forming study groups is highly recommended. All exams will be given in class. Final Exam is cumulative.

Writing Assignment

You are required to complete one writing assignment in this course to fulfill the writing requirement of this GE course; the word count of this assignment must be over 1000 words to pass this class. Detailed instructions (including topics, formatting requirements, rubrics, due dates, etc..) for the assignment will be available on Canvas. You will submit a draft of your report for peer feedback. The instructor will grade the final version of your assignment. Note: All drafts and final reports must be submitted to Turnitin (on Canvas) for the peer feedback and grading process. If you do not fulfill the requirements of this writing assignment in its entirety, you cannot pass Biol 10.

- Plagiarism Detection: The campus subscribes to Turnitin plagiarism prevention service through Canvas, and you will need to submit written assignments to Turnitin. Your work will be used for plagiarism detection and for no other purpose. Turnitin Originality Reports will be available for your viewing.

In-class Participation

Every class session will have points associated with participation in individual and/or group activities. Activities may require (but are not limited to): 1) materials to be turned in during class (i.e., handouts), 2) online questions during class, 3) uploading information to Canvas or 4) Canvas quizzes. In-class activities/ participation points must be completed in class and CANNOT be made up.

Extra Credit

There will be some extra credit throughout the semester. These opportunities will be available to everyone in class. I do not offer extra credit on an individual basis, as it is unfair to offer credit to some students and not others.

College Policies

The university has several policies that you will be expected to adhere to in my course. The Policy on Students with Disabilities, the University Honor Code, the Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism, a statement on copyright, and the university computer requirement, portions of which are below, can all be found in the University Catalog (Policies and Regulations) and Class Schedule.

Cheating and Plagiarism

I DO NOT TOLERATE CHEATING. PERIOD. Most of you are entering into the health care field and could harm or seriously injure other human beings if you do not know the basic information in this course. The University policy reads, "Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term 'cheating' not be limited to examination situations only, but that it includes all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means.

Any student caught cheating, or plagiarizing will be subject to the Reedley College disciplinary procedures (review the Reedley College catalog section on academic dishonesty). Electronics of any kind are not permitted during exams and will result in an automatic zero for that exam.

Accommodations

Students with diagnosed disabilities should contact the Disabled Students Programs and Services' (DSP&S). Please give me a copy of the letter you receive from DSP&S detailing class accommodations you may need. If you require accommodation for test-taking, please make sure I have the letter no less than three days before the test. If you have a need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.

Diversity Statement:

"Respect for Diversity: It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you.

***Subject to Change Statement**

This syllabus and tentative schedule are subject to change with notification. It is your responsibility to check on announcements made for up-to-date assignments.

Tentative Course Schedule*

Week	Dates	Lecture	Other
1	8/7	Course Introduction Nature of Science: A way of knowing	
2	8/14	Nature of Science: Scientific Thinking Nutrition: Why do we eat?	
3	8/21	Nutrition: Photosynthesis	
4	8/28	Lecture Exam # 1 Infection: Infection Basics	
5	9/4	No Class	Labor Day Holiday
6	9/11	Infection: The Immune System	
7	9/18	Infection: Vaccines, Allergies, and HIV	
8	9/25	Lecture Exam # 2	
9	10/02	Genetics: Intro to Genetics	
10	10/09	Genetics: DNA, Genes, and Sex Cells	
11	10/16	Genetics: Punnett Squares (Autosomal vs Sex-Linked Traits)	
12	10/23	Lecture Exam # 3	
13	10/30	Evolution: Introduction	
14	11/06	Evolution: Natural Selection	
15	11/13	Evolution: Speciation	
16	11/20	Lecture Exam # 4 Ecology Introduction	
17	11/27	Ecology: Climate Change	
18	12/04	Ecology: Climate Change Effects	
Final	12/11	Cumulative Final Exam	

Other Important Dates: **Final Drop Date to avoid "W": August 25th** **Final Drop Date (with "W"):**
October 6th