

BIOLOGY LAB FOR HEALTH-RELATED SCIENCES AND NON-MAJORS
Biology 1140L-501
Spring 2024

Syllabus

Instructor:	Dr. James Farslow
Classroom:	Arts and Sciences, Room 135
Class hours:	Thursday, 10:30 – 1:15
Office:	Adjunct Faculty Offices
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 12:00 – 1:00, Zoom; Thursday, 2:30 – 3:30, UNM Valencia Adjunct Offices; or by appointment (email me).
E-mail:	jfars@unm.edu (Best way to contact me during the week. I do not respond to e-mail from Friday afternoon to Sunday evening.)

Course Description: This laboratory course for non-science majors compliments the concepts covered in the associated general biology lecture course. Students will learn quantitative skills involved in scientific measurement and data analysis. Students will also perform experiments related to topics such as biochemistry, cell structure and function, molecular biology, evolution, taxonomic classification and phylogeny, biodiversity, and ecology.

Student Learning Objectives: At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. By the end of the course, students will be able to explain why evolution is the central paradigm of biology.
2. By the end of the course, students will be able to explain the nature and process of science and use it to critically evaluate scientific information and to develop a testable hypothesis to explain phenomena of the natural world.
3. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze data, construct and interpret graphs.
4. By the end of the course, students will be able to explain the importance of water to life and apply basic chemistry to the biology of cells.
5. By the end of the course, students will be able to describe how the features of eukaryotic cellular structures and functions are related, including organelles, membranes, and the cytoskeleton.
6. By the end of the course, students will be able to use the laws of thermodynamics to explain energy transformation and describe the various metabolic energy-transformation pathways in eukaryotic cells.
7. By the end of the course, students will be able to explain the significance of meiosis, sexual reproduction, and the generation of genetic diversity and its relation to patterns of inheritance.
8. By the end of the course, students will be able to explain the goals and mechanisms of nuclear division by mitosis and its role in the cell cycle.

9. By the end of the course, students will be able to explain the structure and functions of DNA in cells and the mechanisms for replication and regulation of gene expression.

Text: None required. Materials will be available each week on Canvas for the student to print out and bring in.

Course Webpage on canvasinfo.unm.edu (Canvas): Course information including this syllabus, labs, and grades will be available via canvasinfo.unm.edu. I will also send out emails to the class periodically. Students should check email at least every couple of days, especially the evening before class.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken each class as per UNM-Valencia policy. Students risk being dropped by the instructor if they have more than four absences. It is the student's responsibility to drop the course if the student no longer wishes to attend or is unable to attend. Students are responsible for finding out what they missed in class. Class begins at 10:30 am. At 10:35 students will be considered late. Students who are late or absent may receive a **zero** for any quiz or exam administered that day. **Do not be late for exams or quizzes. You cannot makeup exams. Exception to the above with respect to assignments and quizzes:** Contact me if you have a valid excuse (illness, death in the family, car accident, etc.) to arrange a make-up quiz, but you will need to provide evidence (doctor's note, etc.). Busy traffic is not an excuse. It is my prerogative to decide whether an excuse is valid.

Academic dishonesty (from the UNM Catalog): "Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty on quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; and misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University."

Additionally:

Copying and pasting material from a webpage into your homework assignment is plagiarism. The same method you use to look up the information on the internet is probably the same method I will use to check if you copied it. All I need to do is Google your answer, and yes, I do check.

Also, if you work on homework assignments together, make sure the assignment is in your own words and with your own graphs. Don't just copy what your study partner wrote down.

Any instances of plagiarism will, at the very least, receive a zero for that portion of the assignment. This also applies to anyone who allows someone to cheat off of them.

During exams, make sure to keep answer sheets close to you or covered by the exam.

Electronic Device Usage: Students may use laptops or tablets to take notes. However, students will not use these devices for checking e-mail, web surfing, or other non-class activities during class. Cell phones will be silenced during class. No calling, talking, or texting during class. If you have an emergency call, take it outside the classroom please.

Student Behavior: Students will comport themselves as adults in an academic setting. Please do not engage in private conversations or act in an otherwise disruptive manner during class, or you will be asked to leave. If you need to ask the person next to you a question, make it short, do it quickly and quietly. I expect students to extend this courtesy to each other as well.

Students should bring notebook paper, either loose-leaf or spiral, and something to write with to class every day.

Lab Policies: No food or drink is allowed in the lab. No vaping or using tobacco products in lab. Students are responsible for cleaning up their areas by the end of class. If students leave a mess, they will lose points from the lab. Keep in mind this is a lab and you may be handling things you don't want on your skin. Long pants, closed shoes, and long sleeves are recommended.

Grading Breakdown:

Quizzes (4 best @ 25 points each)	100
Assignments (12 @ 10 points each)	120
Discussion Board (12 @ 10 points each)	120
Midterm Practical Exam	100
Final Practical Exam	100
Total points	540

Quizzes: Quizzes will be fill in the blank and multiple choice assignments that shouldn't take more than 15 minutes at the beginning of specific classes (see schedule below). The quizzes will cover material since the last quiz. Students should make sure to put their name on the quiz to receive credit. There will be 5 quizzes, and the lowest grade will be dropped. The quizzes are worth 25 points each.

Assignments: Assignments will be sets of questions from the lab and will be turned-in in class on Monday the week following that lab. Make sure your name is on the assignment to receive credit. There are 12 assignments worth 10 points each.

Discussion Board: The Discussion Board is on Canvas. There will be questions posted each week, and students will respond with at least three **substantive** sentences about the topic to

receive full credit. Do not just respond “That’s interesting” or “Okay”. If there are two parts to the question, make sure to address both parts for full credit. These discussion responses will count as 10 points each toward the student’s grade. There is usually not a right or wrong answer. The questions are intended to stimulate thinking about the subject. Students **must** post their responses by midnight on Sunday of that week for credit. Students are encouraged to respond to each other and discuss the week’s topic. The discussion board will be asynchronous, meaning that you need to remember you are sending messages that people can respond to when they are able, not a real-time conversation. Students are expected to treat each other and opposing viewpoints with respect. **No trolling.** Students will adhere to the principles of Netiquette, which can be found on the course Canvas site under Course Information. This should not, however, preclude students from disagreeing or correcting each other, but do it respectfully. I do read your responses, but because of the number of responses I usually do not respond to them.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. These exams will be practical exams. The students will answer questions at stations around the lab. Students will begin at specified stations with an answer sheet, they will have one minute to answer the question (fill in the blank), and then they will move all at once to their next station (“rotate”). After everyone has been to all the stations, the students will have the opportunity to go back to stations. There is no talking among students during practical exams. There will also be two essay questions after all students have finished with the stations.

Final grades will be awarded based on the percentage of points earned relative to total points. **Note:** Please do not think at the end of the semester that if you have a 60% going into the final exam, you only need to make an 80% on the final to pass the course. **This is incorrect.** Remember the final exam is only 100 points out of 420. If you have a 60% for the course going into the final, you will not be able to pass the course, even if you get a 100% on the final. If, on the other hand, you make 70% or higher on all coursework and exams through the semester (that includes the final), you will pass.

Grade	From	To
A+	98	100
A	93	97.99
A-	90	92.99
B+	88	89.99
B	83	87.99
B-	80	82.99
C+	78	79.99
C	70	77.99
D	60	69.99
F	0	59.99

Extra Credit: Students can earn an extra credit of 20 points once for the semester if they review a research paper from the primary scientific literature. It must be primary research, not a review or opinion article, and it must be from a peer reviewed journal. Your review should be about 1000 to 1500 words (about two to three pages). Clearly spell out at the top of your review (i.e., in your title) the title of the paper and the authors names, as well as the name of the journal, and the issue and page number of the article. See me if you are interested in this for further details. I need to approve your article before you write the review.

Students with Disabilities: Please make sure that Equal Access Services has contacted me as soon as possible to ensure that your accommodations are provided in a timely manner.

Testing Center: Use of the Testing Center will only be for those identified by Equal Access Services as requiring it, or for unusual circumstances as determined by me.

Title IX Statement. In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see p. 15 -<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Course Outline

Week	Date	Subjects	Quizzes
1	15-Jan	Course Introduction/ Scientific Method and epidemiology	
2	22-Jan	Data Collection and Graphing	
3	29-Jan	Aseptic Method	Quiz 1
4	5-Feb	Biological Molecules	
5	12-Feb	Microscopy and Cell Biology	Quiz 2
6	19-Feb	Diffusion and Osmosis	
7	26-Feb	Enzymes	Quiz 3
8	4-Mar	Midterm Practical Exam (Thursday, 7 Mar)	
9	11-Mar	Spring Break	
10	18-Mar	Cellular Respiration I	
11	25-Mar	Cellular Respiration II	
12	1-Apr	Genetics I	Quiz 4
13	8-Apr	Genetics II	
14	15-Apr	Mitosis	
15	22-Apr	Review Week	Quiz 5
16	29-Apr	Final Practical Exam (Thursday, 2 May)	

** Instructor reserves the right to make required changes during the course.