

BIOLOGY FOR NON-MAJORS
Biology 110-501
Fall 2017

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. James Farslow
Classroom: Arts & Sciences, Room 125
Class hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 – 11:45
Office: Academic Office, Arts & Sciences, ask Receptionist
Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:00 to 1:00 pm, or by appointment
Campus Phone: 505-925-8634 (only during office hours)
E-mail: jfars@unm.edu (best way to contact me)

Course Description (from course catalog): Biological principles important for the non-major in today's world. Ecological, evolutionary, molecular, and organismal topics. (Credit not allowed for both 110 and 123/124L.) Meets New Mexico Lower Division General Education Common Core Curriculum Area III: Science (NMCCN 1114).

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

1. Describe the scientific method and the characteristics of life;
2. Describe atomic structure, chemical bonds, and the four major groups of organic molecules;
3. Identify cell structures and their function, describe cellular transport, and describe metabolism and photosynthesis;
4. Describe DNA structure, the processes of replication, transcription, and translation, describe cell division, and solve genetic problems;
5. Describe how the processes of mutation and natural selection cause evolution;
6. Describe the interactions of organisms with each other and the environment;
7. Describe the characteristics that define major groups of plants and animals.

Text: "Biology for Non-Majors", Marielle Hoefnagels, 2017, McGraw Hill Publisher (ISBN 978-1-259-29498-3). Access to the "Connect" website is required for the course. The URL for the class is: <http://connect.mheducation.com/class/j-farslow-501-fall-2017>.

Course Webpage on learn.unm.edu (Blackboard): Course information including this syllabus, assignments, and grades will be available via learn.unm.edu. Additionally, there will be a **discussion board**. I will post a discussion topic by 6:00 pm Sunday each week. Students will then, at a minimum, post one response to each week's topic. This response needs to be at least three substantial sentences about the topic. Do not just respond "That's interesting" or "Okay". These discussion responses will count as 10 points each toward the student's grade. Students must post their response by 11:59 pm Saturday of that week. 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 Blackboard site under Course Information. This should not, however, preclude students from disagreeing or correcting each other, but do it tactfully.

I will also send out emails to the class periodically. Students should check email at least every couple of days.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken each class as per UNM-Valencia policy. Students risk being dropped if they have more than four (4) absences. 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 will receive a **zero** for any quiz or exam administered that day. **Do not be late for exams or quizzes.** Assignments will be printed, and turned in by the end of class on the day they are due. No late assignments will be accepted without a valid reason. Do not wait until the last minute to print assignments. Equipment malfunction (computer, printer, etc.) is not a valid excuse for late assignments. Assignments will not be emailed to the instructor. **Exception to the above:** Contact me if you have a valid excuse (illness, death in the family, car accident, etc.) to arrange a make-up or turn in a late assignment, but you will need to provide evidence (doctor's note, etc.). Busy traffic is not an excuse. It is the prerogative of the instructor to decide what is a valid excuse.

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."

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.

This also applies to anyone who allows someone to cheat off of them.

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.

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.

No vaping in class.

LearnSmart Assignments: There will be a total of 16 LearnSmart (LS) assignments. The two lowest LS grades will be dropped. LS assignments are intended for students to become familiar with the material before class. Read the chapter, then take the LS assessment for the chapter. LS assignments must be completed online by 10:00 am on the first day that chapter is discussed (see course outline), and will be available online at noon four days preceding the due date. The one exception is Chapter 1 the first day of class. The LS assignment for Ch 1 is due on Wednesday, 23 Aug, by 10:00 am.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be short handout assignments at the beginning of Wednesday's class that won't take more than five minutes. The quizzes will cover material from the previous week or class. Students should make sure to put their name on the quiz to receive credit. There will be 16 quizzes, and the lowest grade will be dropped. The quizzes are worth 10 points each.

Homework: Homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard in the Assignments folder at least two weeks before they are due. These assignments will consist of questions intended to test the student's ability to apply their understanding of concepts covered in class. Answers should be about a page (500 words) to be turned-in in class.

Exams: Three midterm exams will be administered worth 150 points each. These exams will likely consist of around 75 multiple choice or matching questions. The final exam will be of a similar format, will be comprehensive, and consist of around 100 questions.

Grading Breakdown:

3 Exams (@ 150 points each)	450
Connect/LearnSmart (14 best @ 10 points each)	140
Quizzes (15 best @ 10 points each)	150
Homework Assignments (4 @ 25 points each)	100
Discussion Board(16 topics @ 10 points each)	160
Final Exam (comprehensive)	200
Total points	1200

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 200 points out of 1200. 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, 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 25 points once for the semester if they voluntarily go to either the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque, or one of the facilities of the Albuquerque BioPark (zoo, aquarium, or botanic garden). To get the credit, students will need to print their initials on their receipt, and bring it to me in class. This is extra credit, not a required part of the course. Students are on their own if they choose to do this. The instructor and UNM-VC are not responsible for mishaps if you choose to take advantage of this.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability, please provide me with a copy of your letter from Equal Access Services as soon as possible to ensure that your accommodations are provided in a timely manner.

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 pg 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	Chapter and Subject	Assignments Due
1	21-Aug	Ch 1 - Scientific Study of Life	
	23-Aug	Ch 1 - Scientific Study of Life	LS1; Quiz 1
2	28-Aug	Ch 2 - The Chemistry of Life	LS2
	30-Aug	Ch 2 - Organic Molecules	Quiz 2
3	4-Sep	Labor Day - No Class	
	6-Sep	Ch 3 - Cell Biolgy	LS3; Quiz 3
4	11-Sep	Ch 3 - Cell Biolgy	Assignment 1
	13-Sep	Ch 4 - Energy of Life	LS4; Quiz 4
5	18-Sep	Exam 1	
	20-Sep	Ch 5 - Photosynthesis	LS5; Quiz 5
6	25-Sep	Ch 6 - How Cells Release Energy	LS6
	27-Sep	Ch 6 - How Cells Release Energy	Quiz 6
7	2-Oct	Ch 7 - DNA Structure and Function	LS7
	4-Oct	Ch 7 - DNA Structure and Function	Quiz 7
8	9-Oct	Ch 8 - DNA Replication, Binary Fission and Mitosis	LS8; Assignment 2
	11-Oct	Ch 8 - DNA Replication, Binary Fission and Mitosis	Quiz 8
9	16-Oct	Exam 2	
	18-Oct	Ch 9 - Sexual Reproduction and Meiosis	LS9; Quiz 9
10	23-Oct	Ch 10 - Patterns of Inheritance	LS10
	25-Oct	Ch 10 - Patterns of Inheritance	Quiz 10
11	30-Oct	Ch 11 - Forces of Evolutionary Change	LS11
	1-Nov	Ch 11 - Forces of Evolutionary Change	Quiz 11
12	6-Nov	Ch 12 - Evidence of Evolution, and Speciation	LS12; Assignment 3
	8-Nov	Ch 12 - Evidence of Evolution, and Extinction	Quiz 12
13	13-Nov	Exam 3	
	15-Nov	Ch 13 - Diversity of Plants	LS13; Quiz 13
14	20-Nov	Ch 13 - Diversity of Plants	
	22-Nov	Ch 14 - Diversity of Animals	LS14; Quiz 14
15	27-Nov	Ch 14 - Diversity of Animals	
	29-Nov	Ch 15 - Populations	LS15; Quiz 15
16	4-Dec	Ch 16 - Communities and Ecosystems	LS16; Assignment 4
	6-Dec	Ch 16 - Communities and Ecosystems	Quiz 16
Mon	11-Dec	Final exam 10:30 am - 12:30	

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