

BIOLOGY FOR NON-MAJORS
Biology 110-501
Fall 2018

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. James Farslow
Classroom: Arts & Sciences, Room 125
Class hours: 10:30 – 11:45, Tuesday and Thursday
Office: Academic Office, Arts & Sciences, ask Receptionist
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30 – 2:30, in the STEM Center in LRC;
Thursday, 3:00 – 3:30, in the Arts and Sciences Office;
or by appointment (email me)
Campus Phone: 505-925-8634 (only during office hours)
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 (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. Explain the value of the scientific method as a means for understanding the natural world and for formulating testable predictions.
2. Explain how chemical and physical principles apply to biological processes at the cellular level.
3. Understand basic concepts of cell biology.
4. Understand that all organisms share properties of life as a consequence of their common ancestry.
5. Understand fundamental processes of molecular biology.
6. Understand the mechanisms of evolution, including natural selection, genetic drift, mutations, random mating, and gene flow.
7. Understand the criteria for species status and the mechanisms by which new species arise.
8. Understand methods for inferring phylogenetic relationships and the basis for biological classification.
9. Recognize the value of biological diversity (e.g., bacteria, unicellular eukaryotes, fungi, plants, and animals), conservation of species, and the complexity of ecosystems.
10. Explain the importance of the scientific method for addressing important contemporary biological issues.

Text: “Concepts of Biology” available for free from: openstax.org/details/books/concepts-biology. You can download the text as a pdf.

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 substantive 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 responses by 11:59 pm Saturday 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 Blackboard site under Course Information. This should not, however, preclude students from disagreeing or correcting each other, but do it respectfully.

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 by the instructor if they have more than four (4) 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 unless they have a valid excuse. **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. Do not email assignments except in extenuating circumstances and with prior coordination with me. 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. **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 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.”

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. 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.

No vaping or using tobacco products in class.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be short handout assignments usually at the beginning of Thursday’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. When graded quizzes are returned, students will have one opportunity to correct mistakes and return the quizzes by the next class for half 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 total (500 words) to be turned-in in class.

Exams: Two midterm exams will be administered worth 150 points each. These exams will likely consist of around 75 multiple choice or matching questions and two extra credit questions worth two points each. The final exam will be of a similar format, will be comprehensive, consists of around 100 questions, and is worth 200 points, with three extra credit questions worth two points each.

Grading Breakdown:

2 Exams (@ 150 points each)	300
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	910

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 910. 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.

Please read “How to Succeed in This Course” under Course Information on Blackboard.

Remember, the Discussion Board answers are easy points that can only raise your grade as long as you provide a substantive answer.

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 name 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.

Additionally, students can earn an extra credit of 20 points for completing the Blackboard Orientation in their course list on Blackboard. At the end of the Orientation, you are supposed to receive a Completion Certificate. E-mail that certificate to me for credit by 11:59 pm, Saturday, 1 Sep 2018.

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 - What is Science?	
	23-Aug	Ch 1 - Properties and Organization of Life	Quiz 1
2	28-Aug	Ch 2 - Chemistry of Life	
	30-Aug	Ch 2 - Biological Molecules	Quiz 2
3	4-Sep	Ch 3 - Cell Structures and Function	
	6-Sep	Ch 3 - Cell Structures and Function	Quiz 3
4	11-Sep	Ch 4 - How Cells Obtain Energy	Assignment 1
	13-Sep	Ch 4 - How Cells Obtain Energy	Quiz 4
5	18-Sep	Ch 5 - Photosynthesis - Light Reaction	
	20-Sep	Ch 5 - Photosynthesis - Calvin Cycle	Quiz 5
6	25-Sep	Exam 1	
	27-Sep	Ch 9 - DNA Function and Replication	Quiz 6
7	2-Oct	Ch 9 - Transcription and Translation	
	4-Oct	Ch 6 - Cell Cycle and Mitosis	Quiz 7
8	9-Oct	Ch 7 - Sexual Reproduction and Meiosis	Quiz 8; Assignment 2
	11-Oct	Fall Break - no class	
9	16-Oct	Ch 8 - Patterns of Inheritance	
	18-Oct	Ch 8 - Patterns of Inheritance	Quiz 9
10	23-Oct	Ch 11 - Mechanisms of Evolution	
	25-Oct	Ch 11 - Evidence of Evolution and Speciation	Quiz 10
11	30-Oct	Ch 12 - Diversity of Life - Phylogenetics	Quiz 11
	1-Nov	Exam 2	
12	6-Nov	Ch 14 - Diversity of Plants - Seedless Plants	Assignment 3
	8-Nov	Ch 14 - Diversity of Plants - Seed Plants	Quiz 12
13	13-Nov	Ch 15 - Diversity of Animals - Sponges to Worms	
	15-Nov	Ch 15 - Diversity of Animals - Arthropods and Mollusks	Quiz 13
14	20-Nov	Ch 15 - Diversity of Animals - Vertebrates and Humans	Quiz 14
	22-Nov	Thanksgiving - no class	
15	27-Nov	Ch 19 - Population and Community Ecology	
	29-Nov	Ch 19 - Population and Community Ecology	Quiz 15
16	4-Dec	Ch 20 - Ecosystems and the Biosphere	Assignment 4
	6-Dec	Ch 20 - Ecosystems and the Biosphere	Quiz 16
Thur	13-Dec	Final Exam 10:30 am - 12:30	

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