Biol 1110L: Biology for Non-Majors
Fall 2026

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Office Location	Zoom
Office Hours	Mondays, 0900-1000, or by appointment
Course Number	BIOL 1110L
Section Number	501
Semester & Year	Fall 2026
Credit Hours	1
Campus/Rooms	online
Meeting Time	asynchronous

Catalog 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.

Learning Outcomes
1. Employ critical thinking skills to judge the validity of information from a scientific perspective.
2. Apply the scientific method to formulate questions and develop testable hypotheses.
3. Analyze information/data and draw conclusions.
4. Operate laboratory equipment correctly and safely to collect relevant and quality data.
5. Utilize mathematical techniques to evaluate and solve scientific problems.
6. Recognize biodiversity in different ecological habitats and communities of organisms.
7. Communicate effectively about scientific ideas and topics.

Textbooks/Materials/Resources
Required Materials

Course Webpage: We will be using the Canvas platform this year, canvas.unm.edu.

- OpenStax Concepts of Biology
- BIOL 1110L INCLUSIVE ACCESS
  Author: MCGRAW HILL, Edition: ISBN: 9781264045969
- Webcam: Use your existing webcam or purchase bookstore webcam
- Reliable internet and updated required software by the end of the first week of class

How to Contact Me
- Message me through CANVAS. **Course website** https://canvas.unm.edu/
  - Response Time is traditional business hours within 24-48 hours.
- EMAIL – kmorrissey@salud.unm.edu

Online electronic requirements
To successfully complete this course…
- Have regular access to a reliable computer or laptop.
- Have regular access to reliable, high speed internet connection.
- Have a variety of browsers installed. Recommended browsers: Google Chrome, Safari, and/or Firefox browsers. You may need to use more than one browser.

- Have a webcam either built into your computer or as an external peripheral.
- Must regularly check your UNM email account and canvas *Announcements*.

Online Etiquette

This course may require moderate online interaction. Students are required to treat other individuals with the same level of respect that they would in the live classroom. Do remember that there is a person at the other side of a discussion posting, online office hours, etc. when posting a response, question, or e-mail. In addition, you are responsible to make a sincere effort that all online postings, e-mails, etc. use the level of spelling and grammar and courteous tone that is expected in a professional college setting.

Other Requirements

- Students are responsible for all materials covered in class and in the reading assignments. Some book material that is not covered in class may still appear on examinations.
- Students are expected to do their readings before class.
- Students may be expected to seek out information on web sites or other books to further their understanding of the material covered in class.

Grading:

	Points per Assignment	Total
Lab Assignments (36 of 39)	5	180
Homework (14 of 15)	10	140
Project (1)	30	30
Exam (3)	100	300
Final Exam (Cumulative) (1)	200	200
Total		**850**

Grade	**From**	**To**
A+	98	100
A	90	97.99
B+	88	89.99
B	80	88.99
C+	78	79.99
C	70	77.99
D	60	69.99
F	0	59.99

Withdrawal: If you drop the course after the drop deadline, you will receive a grade of 'W'.

Due Dates: Thursday and Sunday each week, excluding finals week.

Exams – CLOSED NOTES/BOOK AND PROCTORED

- The purpose of these exams is to evaluate where you are in understanding the details of the concepts in 2-5 chapters/units of the material with the exception of the Final which is cumulative. See grading table for a description of the how many there are.
- Exam questions are based on material in your labs, in-class or video lectures, class activities, and texts. You will be required to synthesize material from more than one source.
- Format: Generally, hands on from materials used in class they include fill in the blank, manipulations, and often include objective, multiple choice, T/F, and matching questions.
- MAKE SURE the computer you use is reliable and the internet connection is reliable. **If you fail to take the exam during that open window, then you will get a 0 for the exam. There will be no make-ups or extensions.** University accepted excuses can be used to access an alterative that same week.
- All exams are AUTOMATICALLY set to double time. This should automatically accommodate all students with accommodation letters.

- You will be using Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor. Both require a download of software and Monitor requires a webcam. See the Electronics requirements section of the syllabus for further details. Links to these will be located on online course shell as well.
- Instructor will review the videos. All exams are closed books and closed notes.
- If something locks up during a canvas exam IMMEDIATELY email me so I can reset the exam for you before the testing window closes. **DO NOT wait until the last minute to take the exam.**

Academic Honesty
Students should consult the UNM Student Handbook for a complete explanation on Academic Dishonesty. Students who commit any form of academic dishonesty on an assignment may be assigned a grade as severe as a "0" or "F" for this assignment by the instructor, or will be informed by the instructor that the Dean of Students will be contacted to coordinate a more severe penalty for the offense (e.g. an "F" for the course, or removal from a program - in the case of limited entry programs such as exist in Health Occupations). In the latter case, a centralized record of the student's academic dishonesty incident will be maintained within the Dean of Students Office so that, if future incidents are reported, patterns of behavior can be identified and sanctioned more severely. Sanctions that may be imposed include disenrollment from the course, suspension from campus, expulsion from the institute, and other administrative actions.

The following are some forms of cheating Copying a fellow student's work or copying a previous student's work.
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- The use of AI for assignment responses.
- Any form of communication with your neighbor during a test.
- Talking to anyone but the instructor or proctor during a quiz or examination.
- Communicating via cell phones with other people during a test.
- Notes or books open during in-class exams and quizzes.
- Disclosing or soliciting examination questions to those who may have been absent from an exam.
- Plagiarism (copying entirely or whole phrases from books or websites).
- Any two students handing in assignments with word-for-word responses.

Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty
Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven
by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource in work submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource. (Add specifics about acceptable AI usage.

Veterans and Active-Duty Military Personnel
Veterans and active-duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g. upcoming deployments, drill requirements, disabilities) should communicate these, in advance, if possible, to the instructor. You can also learn about various military benefits on the VA Education Benefits website.

Federal and University Required Syllabus Information

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506

UAP 2720 and 2740. Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the Arcoiris
Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression,

and gender identity). All instructors are “responsible employees” who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740

Title IX: The University of New Mexico and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and providing an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. The University’s programs and activities, including the classroom, should always provide a space of mutual respect, kindness, and support without fear of harassment, violence, or discrimination. Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of assigned sex at birth, sex characteristics, pregnancy and pregnancy related conditions, sexual orientation and gender identity. If you have encountered any form of discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. You can access the confidential resources available on campus at the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (https://loborespect.unm.edu), the Women’s Resource Center (https://women.unm.edu), and the LGBTQ Resource Center (https://lgbtqrc.unm.edu). If you speak with an instructor (including a TA or a GA) regarding an incident connected to discrimination on the basis of sex, they must notify UNM’s Title IX Coordinator that you shared an experience relating to Title IX, even if you ask the instructor not to disclose it. The Title IX Coordinator is available to assist you in understanding your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html and CEEO’s website.

If you are pregnant or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition, you may contact UNM’s Office of Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity at ceeo@unm.edu. The CEEO staff will provide you with access to available resources and supportive measures and assist you in understanding your rights.

Student Support: Confidential services for students are available at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. The Women’s Resource Center supports all students, including those who are pregnant or are parents. UNM’s lactation stations are marked on the UNM campus map.

Mandated by University Accreditation (alter as needed to suit your section):

Credit-hour statement: This is a three credit-hour course. Class meets for three 50-minute sessions/two 75-minute sessions of direct instruction for fifteen weeks during the Fall 2024 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of six hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

or

Credit-hour statement: This is a three credit-hour course delivered in an entirely asynchronous online modality over 8 weeks during the Fall 2024 semester. Please plan for a *minimum* of 18 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments.

Thriving and finding support: Students are especially successful at UNM when they take advantage of support
and get involved in campus and academic life. The Student Life tab on the student and instructor MyUNM login page provides direct links to well-being resources, including financial capability, mental health, food, jobs, and resource centers. The Student Life tab on MyUNM will help you identify academic resources like peer tutoring and opportunities like study abroad. You can contact academic advisors and resource advisors for information and guidance via Student Hub on MyUNM. I look forward to providing you with information about academic opportunities related to our class and to helping you find support resources

Land Acknowledgement: Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of

our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: http://undocumented.unm.edu/.

Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves presenting material as your own that has been generated on a website, in a publication, by an artificial intelligence algorithm (AI), by another person, or by otherwise breaking the rules of an assignment or exam. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource (such as an AI, article, a friend's work, or a website) in work submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish between your original work and the material taken from the resource.
Student Support: Many students have found that time management workshops or work with peer tutors can help them meet their goals. These and other resources, including support on how to cite a source, are available through Student Learning Assistance at the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Wellness: If you do need to stay home due to illness or are experiencing a wellness challenge, please take advantage of the resources below. You can communicate with me at [ ] and I can work with you to provide alternatives for course participation and completion. Let me, an advisor, or another UNM staff member know that you need support so that we can connect you to the right resources. UNM is a mask friendly, but not a mask required, community. If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please do not come to class.

Student Support: Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) at (505) 277-3136.
TimelyCare: Free 24/7 virtual care services (medical, emotional support, health coaching, self-care, basic needs support).
LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (505) 277-2911: help with contacting faculty and managing challenges that impact your UNM experience.

Respectful Conduct Expectations: I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with University expectations [and/or classroom community agreements]. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. [Insert number] or more unexcused absences may result in permanent removal and a drop from the course (see attendance policy). The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Assessments
1	17 - August	Syllabus & Lab Safety	
2	24 - August	Scientific Method	
3	31 - August	Metric System	
4	7 - September	Microscopy	
5	14 - September	Enzymes	Exam 1
6	21 - September	Cell Structure and function	
7	28 - September	Diversity	

8	5 - October	Microbiology	
9	12 - October	DNA and RNA	Exam 2
10	19 - October	Central Dogma	
11	26 - October	Mitosis	
12	2 - November	Meiosis & Chromosomal Inheritance	
13	9 - November	Patterns of Inheritance, Human Inheritance	Exam 3
14	16 - November	Genetics	
15	23 - November	Evolution and Natural Selection	
16	30 - November	Projects Due	
17	7 - December	Final	Final exam

Note: Instructor reserves the right to make required changes during the course.
Due Dates: Thursday and Sunday each week, excluding finals week.