

BIOLOGY FOR NON-MAJORS
Biology 110-501
Spring 2018

Syllabus

Instructor:	Dr. James Farslow
Classroom:	Health Sciences, Room 101
Class hours:	Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 – 11:45
Office:	Academic Office, Arts & Sciences, ask Receptionist
Office Hours:	Monday, 9:45 to 10:15 Wednesday, 12:00 to 1:00 pm, or by appointment (email me)
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 result in 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 Connect will **not** be required.

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 responses 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 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 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. 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.

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.

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. When graded quizzes are returned, students will have one opportunity to correct mistakes for half credit and return the quizzes by the next class. There will be 15 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: 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, consists of around 100 questions, and is worth 200 points.

Grading Breakdown:

3 Exams (@ 150 points each)	450
Quizzes (14 best @ 10 points each)	140
Homework Assignments (4 @ 25 points each)	100
Discussion Board (15 topics @ 10 points each)	150
Final Exam (comprehensive)	200
Total points	1040

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 1040. 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 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.

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 (In parentheses are older text)	Assignments Due
1	15-Jan	Martin Luther King, Jr, Holiday - No Class	
	17-Jan	Ch 1 - Scientific Study of Life	
2	22-Jan	Ch 1 - Scientific Study of Life	Quiz 1
	24-Jan	Ch 2 - The Chemistry of Life	Quiz 2
3	29-Jan	Ch 2 - Organic Molecules	
	31-Jan	Ch 3 - Cell Biology (2 Feb last day to drop with refund)	Quiz 3
4	5-Feb	Ch 3 - Cell Biology	Assignment 1 Due
	7-Feb	Ch 4 - Energy of Life	Quiz 4
5	12-Feb	Exam 1	
	14-Feb	Ch 5 - Photosynthesis	Quiz 5
6	19-Feb	Ch 6 - How Cells Release Energy	
	21-Feb	Ch 7 - DNA Structure and Function	Quiz 6
7	26-Feb	Ch 7 - DNA Structure and Function	
	28-Feb	Ch 8 - DNA Replication, Binary Fission and Mitosis	Quiz 7
8	5-Mar	Ch 8 - DNA Replication, Binary Fission and Mitosis	Quiz 8; Assignment 2 Due
	7-Mar	Exam 2	
9	12-Mar	Spring Break - No Class	
	14-Mar	Spring Break - No Class	
10	19-Mar	Ch 9 - Sexual Reproduction and Meiosis	
	21-Mar	Ch 10 - Patterns of Inheritance	Quiz 9
11	26-Mar	Ch 10 - Patterns of Inheritance	
	28-Mar	Ch 11 (12) - Forces of Evolutionary Change	Quiz 10
12	2-Apr	Ch 11 (12) - Forces of Evolutionary Change	Assignment 3
	4-Apr	Ch 12 (13) - Evidence of Evolution, and Speciation	Quiz 11
13	9-Apr	Ch 12 (13) - Evidence of Evolution, and Extinction	Quiz 12
	11-Apr	Exam 3	
14	16-Apr	Ch 13 (16) - Diversity of Plants	
	18-Apr	Ch 14 (17) - Diversity of Animals	Quiz 13
15	23-Apr	Ch 14 (17) - Diversity of Animals	
	25-Apr	Ch 15 (18) - Populations	Quiz 14
16	30-Apr	Ch 16 (19) - Communities and Ecosystems	Assignment 4
	2-May	Ch 16 (19) - Communities and Ecosystems	Quiz 15
Wed	9-May	Final exam 10:00 am - 12:00	

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