

**Syllabus for BIOL 1110L:
Biology for Non-Majors
UNM Valencia Spring 2026**

I.

General Information	Items
Instructor Name:	Elisa DiMenna PhD
Email:	edimenna@unm.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 630-730 by Zoom
Course Number:	BIOL 1110L
Section Number:	501
Semester & Year:	Spring 2026
Credit Hours:	1
Campus/Rooms:	Asynchronous online
Meeting Time:	Asynchronous online

BIOL 1110L. General Biology Laboratory 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 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. This will largely serve as a repository for documents that will be handed out physically in class (the syllabus, homework assignments, class activities, etc. Downloadable copies of the lecture slides will be available here as well. You will mostly be able to find these items in the 'files' tab of the course Canvas page.

- 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

Grading Categories	Points per Assignment (Some exceptions/are indicated on assignment)	Total Points*
Final Project - 1	30	30
Virtual Labs and Interactives, Quizzes and Tests - 48	10	480
Total Points		510
Points dropped		-20
Point total for final grade		440

Instructor Specific Syllabus Information

Student – Privacy and Rights

- For any interactive, web conferencing session that may be recorded, you may choose to not attend the live session and instead watch the recording at a later time, or you may choose to *attend the live session with anonymity*.
- To Protect your Privacy, be anonymous, during a virtual classroom session you may choose to:
 - Not use or display your name
 - Not show video of yourself
 - Not use the audio option for speaking
 - Use the chat box to ask questions without showing your name

How to Contact Me

- EMAIL – edimenna@unm.edu
 - Response Time is traditional business hours within 24-48 hours. On weekends or holidays leave up to additional 48 hours response.
- If you use your UNM email to contact me remind me exactly which class you are in. If I don't respond, contact me again! Non-UNM email accounts are often routed by the UNM servers into the junk email folders.

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.

UNM Campus Open Computer Labs

Check website www.unm.edu for availability and hours.

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

1. All graded items delivered or completed in class are due as described below and all online versions (if needed) will be due by the Sunday of that indicated week by 11:59pm. The only exception is that Grades, including Finals, due on the last week of class will be Due on Thursday at 11:59pm of that week. It will be the last day and time materials for the course can be accepted.
2. There are no extensions or makeups since there are so many graded items in this course and there are multiple dropped items.
3. Your final grade will be the direct percentage of your total score of all possible points in the course. 20 or more points will be dropped from the overall points possible prior to this calculation.
4. All items in the class are available prior to the due date from the start of the class and can be turned in early.

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.

- 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.

Other Information

Policy for Cancellation of Classes

If there should be a cancellation of class due to inclement weather or disaster, check the local television news or radio stations. Most cancellation information is posted by 6AM and you will be emailed directly or announcements posted on our online classroom's announcements section.

In the event College closures or schedule changes occur during final exams, faculty whose exams, projects, or other graded work due dates are affected by a delay or closure follow the option adopted by their instructional division.

Options may include but are not limited to:

Exams or quizzes may be moved online, rescheduled or due dates extended depending on the college schedule change (ex. Going to remote learning for 2 weeks vs. a one-day snow closure would have different options used). As a last resort, grades going into an end of term closure will become the final grades.

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

SYLLABUS INFORMATION

Required by Federal Law:

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 (<https://arc.unm.edu/>) at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone at 505-277-3506.

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.

Student Support: Resources to support study skills and time management are available through [Student Learning Assistance](#) at the Center for Teaching and Learning in Zimmerman Library or online.

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.

Connecting to Campus and Finding Support: UNM has many resources and centers to help you thrive, including opportunities to get involved in campus life, research experiences, mental health resources, academic support such as tutoring, resource centers for people like you, free food at Lobo Food Pantry, jobs on campus and financial capability support. Your advisor, staff at the resource centers and Dean of Students, and I can help you find the right opportunities for you.

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 for Bio 1110L Lab for Non-Majors Spring 2026

* Since There are many drops in this course, there are no extensions.

Week	Dates	Turn in these Graded Items online by Sunday by 11:59 pm
1	1/19-1/25	Lab Safety - Week 1
2	1/26-2/1	Scientific Method and the Study of Biology - Week 2
3	2/2-2/8	Scientific Method - Part 2 - Week 3
4	2/9-2/15	Metric Measurement – Week 4
5	2/16-2/22	Intro to Microscopy - Week 5 Biology 1110L - Test 1 Thinking like a Scientist (Weeks 1-3) 2 attempts/webcam
6	2/23-3/1	Cellular Structures - Week 6
7	3/2-3/8	Diversity of Life - Week 7
8	3/9-3/15	Enzymes - Week 8
9	3/16-3/22	Spring Break – Woo!
10	3/23-3/29	Microbiology - Week 10 Biology 1110L - Test 2 Microscopy and Lab Math (Weeks 4-5) 2 attempts/webcam
11	3/30-4/5	DNA, Transcription and Translation - Week 11
12	4/6-4/12	Cell Division - Mitosis - Week 12
13	4/13-4/19	Cell Division - Meiosis - Week 13
14	4/20-4/26	Population Biology and Natural Selection - Week 14
15	4/27-5/3	Genetics and Human Inheritance - Week 15
16	5/4-5/10	Final Projects - Week 16 Biology 1110L - Test 3 biodiversity, ecology and communities of organisms
17	5/11-5/14 Thursday is the last day	Final Project Submission - Week 17 DUE THURSDAY 11:59PM