

## **BIOL 1140: Biology for Health Sciences**

### **Spring 2026 Syllabus**

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Kimberly Morrissey
<b>Classroom</b>	Arts and Sciences, Room 133
<b>Class hours</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:45
<b>Office</b>	Adjunct Faculty Offices
<b>Office hours</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:15-10:15, or by appointment.
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:kmorrissey@salud.unm.edu">kmorrissey@salud.unm.edu</a>

**Course Description:** This introductory biology course for students interested in health science careers focuses on the concepts of chemistry, cell biology, metabolism, genetics, and regulation of gene expression.

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

1. Explain the central ideas and process of biology, including the organization of life, evolution, selection and adaptation of the scientific method.
2. Explain the role of science and critical thinking in society.
3. Apply basic chemistry to the biology of cells.
4. Describe the structures and functions associated with eukaryotic cells and compare/contrast to prokaryotic cells.
5. Describe the components and mechanisms of cellular metabolism.
6. Describe DNA structure and replication, including mutation and DNA repair.
7. Explain the central dogma of genetic information flow, explain gene expression and how it's regulated.
8. Explain the relationships between sexual reproduction, genetic diversity, and inheritance.
9. Describe and contrast the processes of mitosis and meiosis.
10. Describe patterns of inheritance and human genetic disorders.
11. Explain homeostasis and identify major tissues, organs and organ systems and their function.

**Required Technology:** You will need a computer or tablet, reliable internet connection, Microsoft suite (PowerPoint and Word) and Adobe Flash Player.

**UNM Canvas** ([canvas.unm.edu](http://canvas.unm.edu)): The webpage contains resources you need to succeed in the course. Information including this syllabus, projects, activities and grades will be available via [canvas.unm.edu](http://canvas.unm.edu). I will also send out emails to the class periodically. **Students should**

**check email daily.** You are responsible for all announcements, assignments and any changes to the syllabus that will be posted on the webpage.

**Academic dishonesty:** 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.

**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](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](http://oeo.unm.edu)). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

**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. If you require accommodations, please contact me as soon as practical.

**Testing Center:** Use of the Testing Center will only be for those identified by Equal Access Services as requiring it, or for unusual circumstances as determined by me.

**Grading:**

	Points per Assignment	Total
Post-Reading Questions (20 of 23)	5	100
In Class Engagement Activities (25 of 27)	2	50
Collaborative Assignments (25 of 27)	8	200
Group Projects (2)	75	150
Exams (3)	100	300
Final Exam (Cumulative) (1)	200	200
<b>Total</b>		<b>1000</b>

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	60.99
F	0	59.99

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

**Late assignments:** Late assignments will only be accepted within 7 days following the due date. Exams will not be accepted 1 week after the Exam was given in class. No assignments will be accepted before Fall Break in the second half of the semester. No Assignments in the second half of the semester will be accepted after the last day of class.

**Post-Reading Questions:** Post-reading questions are due **before** class on Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30am. Each assignment is worth 5 points each, and the lowest 3 assignments will be dropped. This assignment is open book. Late -2pts. Only accepted within 7 days late.

**Class Engagement:** Class engagement activities are due **before** the end of class. Each assignment is worth 2 points, and the lowest 2 assignments will be dropped. Late submissions are not accepted.

**Group Projects:** Group projects are designed to promote collaboration and application of course concepts. Projects are due on the dates indicated in the class schedule and are worth **75 points** each. Groups are self-assigned and must consist of 2–4 students. All group members are expected to contribute meaningfully. **Late submissions are not accepted.**

**Collaborative Assignments:** Collaborative Assignments begin during class and may be worked on in small, assigned groups. Outside of class, students may continue working collaboratively or complete the assignment independently. Each student must submit their own work, in their own words, unless otherwise specified. Assignments are due on Sunday at 11:59pm. Each assignment is worth 8 points, and the lowest 2 assignments are dropped. Late -3pts. Only accepted within 7 days late.

**Exams:** There are three exams and one final cumulative exam. Exams are worth 100 points each and the final exam is worth 200 points. You will be given one class period to complete each exam. Exam will only be given in class, unless student has Accommodations arranged through the Office of Student Affairs.

**Missed exam policy:** If you miss an exam, contact the instructor. Un-excused absences on an exam/ quiz date will result in a grade of zero for the assessment. In such an instance please contact me as soon as possible to arrange a potential make-up.

### Tentative Schedule Spring 2026

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	20-Jan	Intro and Syllabus	1
	22-Jan	Scientific Method - Chemistry	1
2	27-Jan	Introduction to Chemistry	2
	29-Jan	Introduction to Chemistry	2
3	3-Feb	Introduction to Chemistry	2
	5-Feb	Cell Membrane	4
4	10-Feb	Cell Membrane	4
	12-Feb	Exam	1, 2, 4
5	17-Feb	Energy and Enzymes	6
	19-Feb	Cellular Respiration	7
6	24-Feb	Cellular Respiration	7
	26-Feb	Cell Cycle & Mitosis	5.1-5.3
7	3-Mar	Cell Cycle & Mitosis	5.1-5.3
	5-Mar	DNA Structure & Replication	25.1-25.2
8	10-Mar	DNA Structure & Replication	25.1-25.2
	12-Mar	Exam	6, 7, 5.1-5.3, 25.1-25.2
9	17-Mar	Break	
	19-Mar	Break	
10	24-Mar	Meiosis	5.4-5.6
	26-Mar	Genetic Inheritance	23
11	31-Mar	Genetic Inheritance	23
	2-Apr	Chromosomal Inheritance	24, Project 1 due
12	7-Apr	Chromosomal Inheritance	24
	9-Apr	Cell Biology & Structure: Endomembrane	3
13	14-Apr	Gene Expression	25.3-25.5
	16-Apr	Gene Expression	25.3-25.5
14	21-Apr	Projects Due: Mitosis vs Meiosis	
	23-Apr	Genetic Disorders	
15	28-Apr	Exam	25.3-25.5, 23, 24
	30-Apr	Human Organization	11
16	5-May	Human Organization	11
	7-May	Cell Biology & Structure	3
Final	12-May	Review	
	14-May	Final Exam	

Note: Instructor reserves the right to make required changes during the course.