

BSC2010: General Biology I; Section B51

Professor Information

Instructor: Maureen Walter
University Instructor
Phone: (305) 919-5898; Do NOT leave voice mail message...send email
Office: Academic 1, Room 380; BBC
Office Hours: Tu-Th 8.00-10.00am & By Appt.
walterm@fiu.edu

E-mail:

Syllabus content is subject to change. Any such changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard website

Course Description and Purpose

Natural Sciences

Our technologically dependent world requires an understanding of the processes that led us here. Learning the basic concepts and ideas of scientific fields provides contact with not just those fields but with how science is done. In these courses, students study the scientific method through examination of the foundational theories of modern scientific thought. Students apply scientific principles and theories to problem solving, evaluate scientific statements, and incorporate new information within the context of what is already known.

Emphasizing the essential connection between theory and experiment, the hands-on laboratory experience provides the context for testing scientific theories.

Students will be able to describe the scientific method through examination of the foundational theories of modern scientific thought.

For biology, we will consider four big ideas. The first is a simple statement that evolution “drives the diversity and unity of life.” The others emphasize the systematic nature of all living things: that they use energy and molecular building blocks to grow, respond to information essential to life processes, and interact in complex ways.

Course Objectives

Conceptual Understanding Outcomes

Students will understand:

- fundamental concepts that characterize biology, including key vocabulary, concepts, and theories from various life science fields, as well as concepts that link to other disciplines;
- how knowledge of biology has developed, including the historical development of scientific knowledge, the interrelationships between biology and other disciplines, and the impacts of society and technology on the acquisition of new knowledge;
- how to utilize a variety of learning skills, including critical thinking and decision-making skills, and communication skills for analyzing learning, and sharing information with others; and
- how science works, including science process (how to do science) and tentative and creative nature of scientific inquiry

Policies

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

As a member of the FIU community you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Code of Conduct](#).

In-Class policies:

1. **No computers or cell phones out during lecture.** If you have a specific reason for needing to be able to receive a cell text during a lecture, you **MUST** speak to me before that lecture session and you must sit in the first row in the lecture hall. This requirement is the same if you need to use a computer for taking lecture notes. Any student seen using a cell phone or a computer without having received permission will be asked to leave the class for that session.
2. Clicker questions will be embedded in the lectures. Each student is to do their own work to answer the clicker questions. If I decide to allow students to confer with each other for clicker questions, I will tell you at the start of lecture.
3. NO talking during lecture except when I tell the class it is OK to discuss a topic or Clicker question.

Course Co-requisites

Students are required to take BSC2010Lab the same semester they are taking BSC2010 Lecture. Students may not drop either the Lecture or the Lab without dropping the co-requisite course.

Information concerning the BSC2010 Labs on BBC is found at the following: <http://faculty.fiu.edu/~brinnr/>

Textbook

Biology in Focus Modified Mastering Biology

Urry, Cain, Wasserman, Monorsky, Reece

Pearson, 2nd Edition, 2016

ISBN-13: 9780134433769

You may purchase your textbook at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

Expectations of this Course

This is a web-assisted course, which means much of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in a web-assisted course are the same for a traditional course. This course requires a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make it more demanding for some students.

Mastering Biology online work

Course Detail

Course Communication

Students will receive Course announcements by email and through the Course Canvas website. It is extremely important that you check your FIU email account on a regular basis so you do not miss important information. You can message me through Canvas and through my FIU email: walterm@fiu.edu. You may also call my office. But if I do not answer, do NOT leave a voice message. Just email me. All emails MUST include the course in the subject line and the text portion must include your complete name and ID number.

Discussion Forums

If any Article Discussion is assigned during the semester, it will be announced in class and on Blackboard. The Discussion Board is also an excellent way to reach out to other class members if you are putting together a student group.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Assessments

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments in either Mastering Biology or Blackboard, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer

you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

THE DAYS OF THE EXAMS

PLEASE BRING TWO SHARPENED #2 PENCILS WITH ERASERS AND YOUR STUDENT ID WITH YOU TO ALL EXAMS. All other materials will have to be placed at the front or back of the class, so it is best not to carry anything to the room on exam day. NOTE: this includes, hats, cell phones, beepers, purses, backpacks, tissues, sweaters and jackets, calculators, lunch boxes--everything except pencils. Please turn off all cell phones. You will be asked to remove your hats.

NO ELECTRONIC DEVICE MAY BE OUT IN THE CLASSROOM DURING THE EXAM, FOR ANY REASON. NOT FOLLOWING THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN A F FOR THE COURSE.

We will check your student ID or some other picture ID before you are allowed to turn-in your exam and leave. Do not forget to bring one. If you do not normally carry ID with you, take a picture of your ID with your cell to show the Proctor when you turn in your Exam.

You must put your name and ID number on your exam. It will be turned in when you are finished. No one can leave unless they have returned the exam. You may write on the exam, but answers filled in on the printed Exam will not be used to generate points, so be sure to fill in your scantron carefully and correctly. You will be given a scantron. When you are finished, you must return ALL materials given to you during the test whether filled-out or not. No talking until you leave the classroom.

You will have a 2 week period after an Exam to come in and review your test. After the two weeks have passed, test materials will be disposed of.

ARRIVING LATE

If you arrive to an exam more than 30 minutes late, or after the first student finishes the test (whichever comes first) you will not be allowed to take the exam. Grades are posted on this website as quickly as possible, so please do not email me asking when I am going to post them.

MAKE-UPS

In order to qualify for a makeup there must be a valid and documented excuse approved by the Instructor. Students who simply do not show up for the exam will not be allowed to take a makeup exam. Makeup exams are always 100% essays, not multiple choice, and must be taken within one week of the missed exam unless the student is under documented medical care. Examples of unacceptable excuses: poor performance, common cold, family problems, psychological problems, transportation problems, etc. Examples of acceptable excuses: documented medical emergencies, documented death of members of immediate family, and jury duty (you must notify me as soon as you receive the jury notice...NOT the day of the exam or

after the exam.) There is NO makeup opportunity for missed supplementary assignments and NO makeup will be offered for the Final Exam.

Assignments

You will be using the Modified Mastering Biology program in conjunction with the Pearson text to do online Assignments. These Assignments will have published due dates. It is your responsibility to be sure to complete this work by the due date and time. The Homework Assignments on Mastering will be used to generate a separate Exam score. The points earned in the Extra Credit Mastering Assignments within the Chapters covered by an Exam will be added to that specific Exam score, not to exceed 100.

5% of grade may come from misc. assignments. This can include in-class activities, Mastering Biology work, and/or Blackboard quizzes. There are no make-up opportunities for missed in-class activities, including iClicker questions. If no misc. assignments are given during the semester, the 5% of the grade will revert into the Exams' portion of the grade.

In-Class Sessions

This course has two meetings per week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-12.15. The class sessions will consist of lectures with embedded clicker questions and other possible in-class activities. Links to lectures covering the various Chapters' material will be included on Canvas. The iClicker questions will represent 20% of your overall grade. There is NO makeup opportunities for missed in-class activities.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Weight
Exams (In class: 4 sectional and 1 cumulative plus one exam score Generated by Mastering Biology Homework)	6	75%
iClicker in-class questions		20%
Misc. Assignments (may include Mastering Biology and in-class assigned activities; if none are used, the 5% will revert to the Exams portion of the grade)		5%
Total	N/A	100%

Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Course Calendar

Semester Schedule (subject to change)

Proposed Range of Dates for Material to be Covered and Exams

Date	Tasks
	Start of Semester
	Chapter 1: Introduction: Evolution and the Foundations of Biology
August 20- September 6	Chapter 3: Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life
	Chapter 4: A Tour of the Cell
	Chapter 5: Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling
September 11	EXAM 1
	Chapter 6: An Introduction to Metabolism
September 13- October 2	Chapter 7: Cellular Respiration and Fermentation
	Chapter 9: The Cell Cycle
	Chapter 10: Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles
October 4	EXAM 2
	Chapter 11: Mendel and the Gene Idea
	Chapter 12: The Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance
October 9 - November 1	Chapter 13: The Molecular Basis of Inheritance
	Chapter 14: Gene Expression: From Gene to Protein
	Chapter 15: Regulation of Gene Expression
November 6	EXAM 3
	Chapter 19: Descent with Modification
	Chapter 21: The Evolution of Populations
November 8-27	Chapter 22: The Origin of Species
	Chapter 23: Broad Patterns of Evolution
November 29	EXAM 4
December 6 (?)	CUMULATIVE EXAM

Important Information

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)

*The professor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus at any time during the semester.