

Independent Study – Biology
BSC 1005 – 1 credit hour

THIS IS A GENERIC SYLLABUS FOR THE COURSE – FOR A TERM-SPECIFIC SYLLABUS, GO TO THE D2L CLASSROOM FOR THE COURSE

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Course Description: The course is designed to (1) allow a student to complete part of a course taken elsewhere and thereby complete general education requirements, or (2) to go deeper into special areas of interest. In practice (and unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor), the course covers the first six of the textbook. Students work at their own pace, complete quizzes on each chapter, and then take a comprehensive exam covering all six chapters.

Required Textbook: *Inquiry into Life*, 15th edition, by S. Mader and M. Windelspecht

Grading: (grading procedure is subject to change but, in the event of a change, notice will be given)

Thirty percent (35%) of the course grade will be determined by online quizzes taken through the Desire2Learn (D2L) virtual classroom software. Each chapter has a quiz and the quiz can be retaken as many times as desired with only the highest scoring attempt counting towards the grade. The remaining seventy percent (65%) of the course grade will be determined by a comprehensive exam covering all six chapters. Overall course grades will be determined by the following scale:

90 – 100 % = **A**
80 – 89 % = **B**
70 – 79 % = **C**
60 – 69 % = **D**
0 – 59 % = **F**

Grades will NOT be given out over the phone or email. You can check your final course grade online through RaiderNet on NWFSC's web page.

Last day to register or to drop with a refund: [changes with semester]
Last day to change to audit or to drop with a grade of "W": [changes with semester]
Last day of class: [changes with semester]

Course Policies:

Students are expected to show regular progress in the course by completing online quizzes.

Ideally, a student should be completing AT LEAST one chapter per week, although there is some flexibility to this measure. The course is eight weeks long and it is expected (and STRONGLY advised) that the student should NOT wait until the final week to begin making progress in the course. At least one quiz completion IS REQUIRED during the first week of the course to establish

“attendance” (as defined for an online course). Although the instructor will send out periodic reminders, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that sufficient progress is being made.

Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and will ***NOT*** be tolerated. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing any material will receive an automatic **F in the course** and a referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action (which may include suspension or dismissal from the college). Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices, information from another student or student’s paper, any use of any electronic device, and any unauthorized communication of information, including collaborating. ***A ZERO tolerance policy will be employed for any instance of cheating!!***

Should a student wish to withdraw from the class (for any reason), it is the ***student’s*** responsibility to withdraw before the withdrawal deadline (listed above). Otherwise the student will receive an “F”. The instructor cannot withdraw the student and must report a grade for any student still enrolled at the end of the semester. In addition, students are responsible for adherence to all college policies and procedures, including those related to academic freedom, cheating, classroom conduct, computer/network/email use and other items included in the NWFSC Catalog and Student Handbook. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed in the NWFSC Catalog and Student Handbook (<http://catalog.nwfsc.edu/>).

Students are expected to take the exam at the time and date agreed upon with the instructor. If a student fails to take the exam at the scheduled time, the instructor reserves the right to offer the exam at a 20% grade reduction (this will be at the instructor’s discretion).

If the college closes for inclement weather or other emergency, the date for any exams due during the closure period will be postponed. A revised schedule will be posted on the website once the college re-opens.

If you have a disability for which accommodations may be appropriate to assist you in this class, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services in the Student Services Center (Building 410) on the Niceville Campus. The counselor for Students with Disabilities may be reached by calling 729-6079 (TDD 1-800-955-8771 or Voice 1-800-955-8770) or by email at fernandt@nwfsc.edu.