



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

## **BSC1005, section 10403 - General Biology**

4 Credits, Fall Semester 2015

Monday/Wednesday 2:30-4:20 PM

Science Building 350 (formerly S), room 121

### **Instructor**

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**Northwest Florida State College's Mission Statement:** Northwest Florida State College improves lives. We deliver outstanding educational programs that are relevant, accessible, and engaging for students of all ages and provide exceptional cultural, athletic, and economic development activities for the communities served. We commit to excellence, creativity, integrity, and service.

**Teaching Philosophy:** My primary goal as your instructor is to facilitate a comfortable learning environment where you can challenge yourself and others to succeed. I want you to ask the "why" questions and to integrate these "why" inquiries to explore your curiosity and develop a comprehensive understanding about the biological sciences. I bring enthusiasm to the classroom and encourage you to do the same. In doing so, we can learn and teach together.

### **Course Overview**

A comprehensive introduction to living systems including cell structure and function, animal and plant anatomy and physiology, genetics, and evolution and ecology processes. Understanding of living systems is achieved through application of the scientific method. Course is recommended for students not majoring in biological studies.

### **Course Objectives**

Given participation in the course, students have the opportunity to engage in the mastery of the following objectives:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of the unity and diversity in living systems.
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the biological sciences and how this expanding knowledge contributed to improved hygienic, preventive, and curative medicinal practices.
- 3) Demonstrate competence with the terminology of the field in order to better understand and communicate biological information that is current and relevant to our societal wellbeing.
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the interrelationships between man the entire biological world of our environment and appreciation of man's niche in that environment.
- 5) Demonstrate an understanding of basic anatomy and physiology of plants and animals especially in relation to man's anatomy and physiology.
- 6) Develop basic computer skills.

## **Course Structure**

Each week we dissect components of a biological concept through lecture, activities, interactive experiences, and self/team discovery processes. Student engagement is vital to success in this course. Students prepare material (e.g., readings, videos, and activities) prior to each class in order to participate in lecture and then effectively apply the learned material the latter portion of class.

*There are no prerequisites for this course.*

## **Course Materials**

Mader, S.S. and M. Windelspecht (2014). *Inquiry into Life*, 14<sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw Hill. New York, NY.

Supplemental readings will be provided to students.

## **Course Requirements**

*Weekly Explorations* - Every Wednesday, exploration activities are provided in class. Exploration activities present diverse avenues to prepare and discover topics to be covered the next week in class. Exploration activities must be uploaded to the course Desire to Learn (D2L) site or may be submitted to the instructor via email by Monday's class (2:30 PM CST).

*Midterm Evaluations* - There are two midterm evaluations for the course. Midterms measure conceptual and applied understanding of course material. Midterm evaluations are not cumulative and will be administered during the allocated class period.

*Final Evaluation* - The final evaluation is non-cumulative and administered on the assigned final exam date, December 14 from 2:00 PM- 3:50 PM, in building 350, room 121.

*Innovation Project and Presentation* - Students work in teams to develop a solution to a biological conundrum, which highlights how the biological sciences apply to understanding life. These solutions will be presented in class. Details of project and presentation will be discussed in class.

*Reflection for Enhancement* - Upon completion of the class, a 500-750 word reflection is written highlighting the impact of the class and whether the class expanded your ability to succeed as a professional.

*Engagement* - Active participation is critical to the course. Students are asked to embrace this idea and provide thought provoking perspectives and researched facts about the biological sciences. Student will be evaluated on depth of thought, direction of perspectives, and overall benefit to the class and our collective learning.

*Random Acts of Kindness* - Every student has the opportunity to award up to 5 points to other students for great perspectives, interesting contributions, assistance in class, etc. Each student may earn up to a total of 10 points total during the semester.

## **Course Evaluation**

Evaluation assesses the degree to which the student fulfills the assigned requirements for each of the below assignments. The course grade is calculated as the number of points earned out of the 1000 total points possible for the course.

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Points</b>
Weekly Explorations (13* 15 points)	195
Midterm Evaluation 1	100
Midterm Evaluation 2	100
Final Evaluation	150
Innovation Project & Presentation	250
Reflection for Enhancement	100
Class Engagement	100
Random Acts of Kindness	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

**Course Grading Scale:**

- A 900-1000 points
- B 800- 899 points
- C 700-799 points
- D 600-699 points
- F ≤ 599 points

Northwest Florida State College's Grading Policies can be found at:

<http://www.nwfsc.edu/Students/Enrollment/RecordsRegistration/Grades.cfm>

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Your input and evaluation is vital to help the instructor enhance the course for future semesters. Students will be notified when evaluations are available.

**Course Policies:**

**Absences and Missed Class Work:** It expected you attend every class session. If you know you will be absent from class, please contact the instructor at least one week in advance. If your absence is unexpected, you need to provide written documentation to support your absence (e.g., if you are sick, a doctor's note with justification is needed). Northwest Florida State College accommodates recognized religious observances. Students are excused from these days without penalty if the instructor is notified of the absence at least one week in advance.

For missed material and work, please contact instructor to develop a make-up plan. Missed work for excused absences will be accepted with no penalty if completed by the extended deadline. For unexcused absences, missed work will be accepted with a 10% penalty for each calendar day late until one week expires after the due date. Work will not be accepted for credit one week past the due date. Unless prearranged, there are no make-up opportunities for midterm, final evaluations, or innovation projects/presentations. If the midterm evaluation, final evaluation, or innovation project/presentation are missed, the instructor must be contacted within 24-hours to discuss options. The final evaluation may not be taken early. Please plan your schedules accordingly.

**Emergency College Closure:** If the college closes for inclement weather or other emergencies, course activities will be rescheduled when the college reopens. Students will not be penalized for rescheduling as a result of adjustments, but students are responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

**Children in the Classroom:** As a courtesy to other students and the learning process, children are not allowed in class sessions. Health and safety concerns prohibit children from accompanying adult students in any lab, shop, office, or classroom or other college facility where potential hazard

exists. If a child-related emergency causes absence in class, please contact instructor within 24-hours. See Northwest Florida State College's Children on Campus Policy in the Student Handbook: <http://catalog.nwfsc.edu>

**Proactive Mindset:** Please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss problems with the course material or performance in class. Your performance and success are extremely important to the instructor and Northwest Florida State College, so please contact the instructor to discuss your concerns as soon as they arise.

**E-Learning:** All students are expected to check the Desire to Learn (D2L) shell for this course. Please ensure you have access to this service. Grades are posted here.

**Campus Code of Conduct:** College students are citizens of the local, state, national governments and of the academic community. Therefore, students are expected to conduct themselves as law abiding member of each community at all times. If this code of conduct is abused, disciplinary action will be taken as noted in the Northwest Florida State College's Student Handbook.

It is expected students be honest in all work and action. Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated in this course. Faculty members have a duty to promote ethical behavior and avoid practices and environments fostering cheating or plagiarism. Please bring any incidents of dishonesty to the instructor's attention.

**Software Use:** All faculty, staff, and students are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator.

**Campus Helping Resources:** Students experiencing crises or personal problems interfering with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the college's counseling resources. Please contact your instructor or the Dean of Students for support.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Support Services on the Niceville campus. The Office of Disability Support Services provides documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Contact: (850) 729-6079 or reference [www.nwsfc.edu/d](http://www.nwsfc.edu/d)

## Tentative Course Timeline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Accompanying Text Reading</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Week 1	Syllabus What is the study of life?	Chapter 1 (Wed)	
Week 2	Process of Science Cell Biology	Chapter 2,3 (Wed)	Exploration 1 (Mon)
Week 3	Cell Biology	Chapters 4,5 (Mon) Chapter 6,7 (Wed)	Exploration 2 (Mon)
Week 4*	Plant Biology *No Class 09.07	Chapter 8,9,10 (Wed)	Exploration 3 (Wed)
Week 5	Plant Biology	Chapter 8,9,10 (Mon)	<b>Midterm Evaluation 1 (09.16)</b>
Week 6	Human Biology	Chapters 11,12 (Mon) Chapters 13 (Wed)	Exploration 5 (Mon)
Week 7	Human Biology	Chapter 14 (Mon) Chapter 15 (Wed)	Exploration 6 (Mon)
Week 8	Human Biology	Chapter 16 (Mon) Chapter 21, 22 (Wed)	Exploration 7 (Mon)
Week 9	Human Body Control	Chapters 17, 19 (Mon) Chapter 18 (Wed)	Exploration 8 (Mon)
Week 10	Genes/DNA	Chapters 23, 24 (Mon) Chapters 25, 26 (Wed)	Exploration 9 (Mon)
Week 11	Review		<b>Midterm Evaluation 2 (10.28)</b>
Week 12	Diversity of Life	Chapter 27 (Mon) Chapters 28,29,30 (Wed)	Exploration 10 (Mon)
Week 13	Diversity of Life *No Class 11.11	Chapters 31,32 (Mon)	Exploration 11 (Mon)
Week 14	Ecology	Chapters 35,36 (Mon) Chapters 33,34 (Wed)	Exploration 12 (Mon)
Week 15*	Biodiversity & Sustainability * No class 11.25-11.27	Chapter 37 (Mon)	Exploration 13 (Mon)
Week 16	Innovative Projects		Project Presentations
Week 17	Innovative Projects		Project Presentations Reflection Paper (Wed)
Week 18	<b>Final Evaluation- Thursday December 10 AM- 11:50 AM, Building 350, Room121</b>		

\*Syllabus schedule subject to change