

BSC 1005 – General Biology (CRN 20793) – 3 Credit Hours
Spring 2025

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- Professor: Mrs. Shelby Rathel
- Email: Shelby.rathel@walton.k12.fl.us
- Phone: (850) 892-1230 extension 4279
- Office Location Paxton High School – Building 200– Room 201
- Class Location Paxton High School – Building 200– Room 201
- Class Days: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
- Class Times: 8:50-9:40
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: [Canvas class shell](#)
- Final Exam: May 5th

Course Description

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The principles of biology are included. Human Biology is emphasized. The effect of humans on the environment is considered wherever appropriate. (NO LABORATORY – Not for majors in Biology.

Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes

NS-1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method, distinguishing between fact, scientific law, hypotheses, and theory; and recognizing the difference between scientific and non-scientific explanations.

NS-2: The student will interpret data, given in problem form or obtained experimentally, in order to demonstrate problem-solving skills (critical thinking), develop testable explanations, or distinguish the difference between correlation and causation.

NS-3: The student will demonstrate fundamental knowledge of the terminology, major concepts, and theories within the biological sciences.

NS-4: The student will relate scientific discoveries and theories to broader areas of human concern.

Course Materials

Textbook: free online text *Concepts of Biology*

<https://openstax.org/details/books/concepts-biology>

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend class regularly, as well as to arrive and depart on time.

Students who stop attending class or are not able to pass the course due to attendance expectations stated in the syllabus may receive a failing grade which may impact the receipt of

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federal aid in subsequent courses. Students traveling for college approved activities will not be penalized academically but will be responsible for missed work. Except for absences related to college approved activities (e.g. academic competitions, FCAT testing, athletic events, etc.), this attendance policy is not intended to distinguish between excused and unexcused absences (e.g. emergencies, illness, or other unavoidable reasons for missing class). Reading the newspaper, sleeping, leaving halfway through class, or any other such activity will be considered the same as being absent. Any missed materials (notes, handouts, etc.) are the responsibility of the student (NOT the instructor). In other words, you have to get missed materials from a classmate, not from Mrs. Rathel

Attendance Confirmation

Active participation and academic engagement are expectations of enrollment in this course. Faculty confirm each student's attendance in class after the schedule adjustment period ends. Students who have not attended class or otherwise engaged academically in the course through the submission of an academic assignment or through participation in a curricular activity may be withdrawn from the course for nonattendance.

Students who are withdrawn for nonattendance or nonparticipation early in the course may request to be reinstated in the course by contacting their instructor by email. Reinstatement in the course is at the instructor's discretion during the first three weeks of class and is not guaranteed. Reinstatement requests occurring after this three-week period may be submitted to the instructor for consideration; however, additional administrative approval will be required to grant the reinstatement. If you are withdrawn from a course due to nonattendance and are not granted reinstatement in the course, please contact a Student Success Navigator for assistance.

Classroom Conduct

Cell phones, pagers, and such other electronic devices MUST be turned OFF during exams!

Communication by any type of electronic device is strictly prohibited during exams. Where emergency or employment situations *require* access to such devices, arrangements must be made *in advance* with the instructor. At the instructor's discretion, students may be required to temporarily deposit electronic devices with the instructor for the duration of the class. 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 zero** for the assignment (and the score MUST be counted – meaning it cannot be used as the drop score), a **deduction of 10% on the final course grade**, and a **referral to the Vice President of Academic Affairs** for disciplinary action (which may include suspension or dismissal from the college). Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using

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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/>).

Grading Scheme and Procedures

Exams will consist of 90% of the grade with 10% coming from quizzes. The date of each exam will be announced in class approximately a week before the exam. At the end of the semester, there will be a comprehensive final exam. All exams are weighted equally. Your lowest score will be dropped. Quizzes will be every Friday and students can use notes.

A = 90 – 100 %

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = less than 60 %

Make-up Work

NO make-up exams, with the exception of participation in official school-sponsored events or military deployment. You must discuss your absence within **TWO** days of the missed exam to be eligible for a make-up exam. If at all possible, discuss your absence *before* the exam. If a student fails to take the make-up exam by the date agreed upon with Ms. Cain, the chance to take the make-up may be withdrawn and/or the score earned may be reduced by 20 percentage points.

Instructor Communication

My main form of communication is through the Remind app (code is included in the back of this syllabus). When grades are put in Focus, I will notify you through Remind. I need your cooperation to check Focus for the current grades. If you cannot access Focus, please talk to me. Unfortunately, due to time constraints and current teacher requirements, I am unable to contact every parent and guardian as often as I would like. I must rely on you as the parent or guardian to reach out to me. I expect all students to communicate effectively with their parents and take responsibility for their grades.

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Assignment Schedule

*Note these are subject to change.

Exam One:

- An introduction to biology (Chapter 1)
- Basic chemistry (Chapter 2: sections 2.1 and 2.2)
- The biologically important macromolecules (Chapter 2: section 2.3)
- Cell structure and function (Chapter 3: sections 3.1 to 3.3)
- Plasma membrane and cellular transport (Chapter 3: sections 3.4 to 3.6)

Exam Two:

- Energy and enzymes (Chapter 4: section 4.1)
- Cellular respiration (Chapter 4: sections 4.2 to 4.5)
- Photosynthesis (Chapter 5)
- Cell division - mitosis and meiosis (Chapters 6 and 7)
- Genetics (Chapter 8)
- Molecular Biology (Chapter 9)

Exam Three:

- Evolution and its processes (Chapter 11)
- Plants (Chapter 14)
- Invertebrate animals (Chapter 15: sections 15.1 to 15.5)
- Vertebrate animals (Chapter 15: section 15.6)

Exam Four:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology, part I (Chapter 16: sections 16.2, 16.3, 16.5)
- Immunology (Chapter 17)

Exam Five:

- Everything from all other tests and
- Community ecology (Chapter 19: section 19.4)
- Conservation biology (Chapter 21)

Technical Skills and Specialized Technology

Students can use their own device(s) or school devices with which to access this class's online materials. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving email with attachments, students might be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. In addition, students will need one or more of the following resources:

- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)
- [PowerPoint Viewer](#)
- [Windows Media Player](#)
- [QuickTime Player](#)
- [Adobe Flash Player](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- Webcam

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Lecture Recordings

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a College course intended to present information or teach about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures is not permitted. Except as detailed in the Catalog, recordings may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. To read and fully understand your rights and responsibilities when recording, visit the Catalog.

Emergency College Closure

In the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the schedule, requirements, and procedures in this course are subject to change. If the College closes for inclement weather or other emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college re-opens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized as a result of the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

Academic Continuity Plan

Northwest Florida State College is dedicated to protecting the health and wellbeing of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Academic Integrity

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 *Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook*. Students should be familiar with the rights and responsibilities detailed in the current *Northwest Florida State College Catalog and Student Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious breach of student responsibilities and may trigger consequences which range from a failing grade to formal disciplinary action. NWFSC prohibits the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to generate text that students represent as their own independent creation.

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Student Dispute Resolution

NWFSC aims to deliver high-quality instructional experiences. In the event of a concern regarding a class, students should first attempt to resolve the matter with the instructor. If a resolution cannot be reached following a reasonable effort to resolve the dispute informally, students may seek out additional counsel in Academic Leadership through a formal process by submitting a Formal Grievance/Appeal form. Students seeking to file a Final Grade Grievance must do so within 30 days of the final grade being posted.

Campus Resources

The College is committed to offering quality resources to aid in your success as a student. Review your LMS online classroom for information on these resources such as the library, tutoring, testing, military and veteran services, etc.

Accommodation Resources

To obtain disability-related academic accommodations, students with disabilities must contact the Accommodation Resource Center at arc@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6014. Upon request of accommodations, students will be asked to provide medical documentation that supports their disability request. If students are concerned that they may have an undiagnosed, disability-related condition that impacts their academic progress, it is recommended that they see a licensed medical professional for a diagnosis. Please contact the Accommodation Resource Center with any questions or concerns relating to permanent or temporary student disabilities.

Students who have been approved for accommodations through the ARC are encouraged to work with their professor on facilitation. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.

Student Counseling Services

Northwest Florida State College has partnered with Bridgeway Center, Inc. to provide mental health resources and counseling services to all actively enrolled students. All actively enrolled students are eligible to receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student. A menu of services and resources is available at www.nwfsc.edu/studentcounselingservices. Bridgeway Center Confidential Helpline: (850) 833-7500, Select Option 1 - Open 24 hours/day

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Children in the Classroom

Minor children are not permitted in labs, shops, construction/repair sites, classrooms, offices, labs, or other areas where potential hazards exist, unless enrolled in classes or activities scheduled at the site. In an emergency or other compelling situation, students or staff may bring children to class or the workplace on an incidental, individual basis, provided the instructor receives advance approval from the department chair or program director. In such cases, the children must be directly supervised at all times by the parent/adult and must not disrupt or distract the flow of college work, services or instruction. The full [Children on Campus](#) policy statement appears in the College Catalog.

Student Handbook

The complete NWFSC Student Handbook can be found at <https://catalog.nwfsc.edu/>

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!