

General Biology I - BSC1010

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

SPRING 2017

Class meeting times: **11.00AM - 12.15 PM Tu/Th; Ac#1, 194**

Instructor: **Maureen Walter**
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Office Hours: TuTh: 8-10AM & 12.30-1.30PM
Or e-mail for Monday or Wednesday appointment

**** The information given on this syllabus and other pages on the website is subject to change.**

Introduction

***NOTE:** This course is designed for science majors. It is challenging and potentially difficult for non-science majors or those without adequate background to do well in this course. This syllabus is subject to change. Please check the on-line syllabus often for possible modifications and changes to exam dates which are announced in class).*

LIFE SCIENCE CATEGORY DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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.

CONDUCT

I expect all students to behave as reasonable adults just like in any university classroom in any other school. In such a large class, it is important to have respect towards the Instructor and fellow classmates. Inconsiderate, disrespectful, dishonest, or disruptive behavior, as I or your fellow classmates perceive it or as is described in the Student Handbook, is unacceptable in this course. Carrying on personal conversations during the class is a disruptive behavior. I reserve the right to ask you to leave or have you removed if you exhibit such behavior. Official disciplinary procedures as outlined in the Student Handbook may follow.

USE OF COMPUTERS AND CELL PHONES DURING LECTURE

No computers or cell phones may be used during the lecture. I provide a pdf copy of the Powerpoint lecture on the website. Some students print this out and use it to take notes. If you are registered with Disabilities and that office indicates (through an official email to me) that you need to be able to use your computer for taking notes, then you will be permitted to do so.

SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES!!!! If you need to be contactable during a lecture, then put you cell on vibrate and leave the class to take the call.

Students may put their cell or a recorder on the podium to record the lecture.

FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

I expect all students to **follow the directions** outlined in this syllabus or announced in class. I am not responsible for issues resulting from lack of knowledge due to students not checking these resources. Also, not having access to these web resources is not an excuse since they are readily available on campus .

EMAIL AND PHONE

I teach multiple courses, so you must include your **name and course** within the subject line of any email. Also, if there is a running correspondence, please include the previous emails so that I know what we are talking about. Feel free to call my office, but please, please, do NOT leave voice mail messages. I will respond to emails in a timely manner.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected for every class.

REQUIRED TEXT & EQUIPMENT

TEXT: (1) *Biology* by Raven & Hickman, McGraw Hill, 10th edition (11th edition is out but you do not need to purchase it); i-Clicker

(mandatory)

You do not need to purchase a new textbook. There are many online venues that sell used textbooks. The 10th edition would be the best to use, but the 9th edition will work. Important: If you are planning on taking BSC1011 here on this campus either in the Spring or in the Summer A term, purchasing a second hand textbook will work for that course also. BUT, if you are planning on taking BSC1011 on MMC, you may need to purchase the new text with the included Connect program. You can get in touch with those faculty members who teach the course to make your decision.

CHEATING POLICY

Please read the "Student Handbook" regarding cheating. Procedures for both formal and informal procedures can be found under the section "Academic Misconduct" in the "Conduct & Policies" chapter. Anyone caught cheating (in any form) will be removed from the class, will be given an "F" for the course, and will have a formal Student Misconduct report filed with the University .

PLTL

PLTL is not offered to the BBC BSC1010 students.

EVALUATIONS & LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

If you think you will be requesting an Evaluation or Letter of Recommendation from me (or any other Faculty member), here are my requirements for your information. I must actually know you. This means you have regularly attended office hours or appointments with me during the current semester and we have had conversations about your goals and how you are going about achieving them. You will need to continue to keep in touch with me through visits (at least one per semester) where you will update me on your progress. And if you are applying to Medical Schools, you will need to have taken your MCAT exam.

EXAM SCHEDULE

Each Exam (1-4) will have between 25-50 multiple choice questions and possibly 1-3 essay questions. The Final Exam will be all multiple choice. The Exam schedule is subject to change, but change is unlikely.

Exam 1 February 2

Exam 2 February 28

Exam 3 March 30

Exam 4 April 20

Final Exam TBA

THE DAY OF THE EXAM

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.

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.

GRADE DETERMINATION

-- You will have 4 exams and a cumulative Final. These 5 scores will count as 500 points towards your Grade.

-- You also will have ~100 points (equivalent to an exam score) that will be generated through Blackboard activities such as practice quizzes and/or in-class activities such as 1 minute papers, etc.

--You will have 60 points (~10% of the grade) generated through in-class Clicker questions. Nothing is dropped and there are no makeup opportunities for missed supplementary work.

There is an opportunity to earn 2 extra points to be added to your final average. I will announce in class when to go to learningcenter.fiu.edu to click on their extra credit workshops link and then click on the Biology I option. All will be explained there.

GRADING POLICIES

The University policy for the assigning of an Incomplete for a semester course includes the student having completed the bulk of the work (70%) in the course and have a passing grade in the work completed. The Incomplete (IN) grade is given at the Instructor's discretion to a student who has been unable to complete the course due to serious interruption not caused by the student's own negligence. When the Instructor assigns an Incomplete grade, it will default to an F if the prescribed work is not completed by the end of the next two academic semesters. Summer term is considered a semester. The Instructor and the student will agree to a specific plan for the completion of the work.

A 100-93%	A- 92-90%	
B+ 89-87%	B 86-83%	B- 82-80%
C+ 79-77%	C 76-70%	
	D 69-60%	
	F Below 60%	