UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: https://catalog.uvu.edu/

Semester: Spring
Course Prefix: BIOL
Course Title: General Biology

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 1010-002
Credits: 3

Course Description

Introduces major themes and concepts of biology including cell and molecular biology, genetics, diversity, evolution, and ecology. Provides students with necessary information and skills to critically evaluate what they hear, read, and see in the living world; communicate clearly; and apply methods to interpret data for making informed decisions concerning the role of biology in a world of which they are a part. May be delivered online.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

☒ General Education Requirements

☐ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements

☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements

☐ Discipline Core Requirements in Program

☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program

☐ Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information
Instructor Name: Emily Davis

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Differentiate science as a way of knowing about the world and other forms of knowing.
2. Be able to make decisions based on evidence. Evaluate evidence and solve problems by using scientific thinking skills.
3. Apply your understanding of scientific literacy and citizenship to issues of today, such as evolution, human population growth, genomic medicine, climate change, GMOs, vaccination and disease, ecosystem health and conservation, among others.
4. Demonstrate why evolution is the cornerstone of modern biology, uniting the main topics of cell, molecular biology, genetics, organismal biology, and ecology.
5. Apply your knowledge of the interconnectedness of all life and the environment to your personal attitudes and actions concerning the health of this planet.

Course Materials and Texts

- iClicker subscription or access code.
- Internet access

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

- **In-class participation** points using iClicker and completing group assignments.
- Post-class **homework** on Canvas due the night before the next class. These assignments will help solidify what was discussed in class. When there is a unit quiz or exam (see below), there will not be a homework.
- Three **AI Paper Verification** assignments to develop your critical thinking and information literacy skills by evaluating the accuracy of AI-generated content.
- **Unit quizzes** after every unit. These are open note, open Google, open friend, and multiple choice questions.

- **Two exams** during the semester - the midterm and final. Both will be on Canvas and will only have short-answer response questions. If you do not take the midterm and/or final, you will automatically fail the course, regardless of your grade percentage.
- There is also a **syllabus quiz**, an **intro survey**, and a **final survey**.

No late work is accepted.

Below is the final grading scale.

Grade	Percent
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	0-59

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

There are no specific reading assignments outside of homework.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion We will
be covering seven (7) units, each taking two weeks except the last unit.

1. Evolution
2. Ecology
3. Animal and human biology
4. Plant biology
5. Genetics
6. Cell Biology
7. Current issues

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Using Remote Testing Software

☒ This course does not use remote testing software.

☐ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or

immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancyrelated conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-8638747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: *Student Code of Conduct*](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a specially dedicated space for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.