



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 #: 1010-003

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:

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Kandace Flanary

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

Required materials, fees, and technology

- **No textbook is required**, you will be provided with open educational resources for each module in the course. *If you would like a textbook to refer to, I recommend [Openstax's "Concepts of Biology"Links to an external site.](#) This is an excellent free resource!*
- **Access to a computer and reliable internet connection-** The Fulton Library is currently loaning out laptops free of charge.
- **Word Processing Program-** A word processing program that saves in .doc, .docx or .pdf format. Office 365 is [available for downloadLinks to an external site.](#) for all currently enrolled students.

re

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Weekly Reflections:

Reflection is an integral part of learning and a powerful life skill. It allows you to move from receiving knowledge to building new knowledge for yourself. By stepping back to reflect on what you have learned each week you will (1) connect new ideas to previous learning and experiences (2) synthesize information and data from the week's readings, videos, assignments, and interactions, (3) apply your new understanding to your daily life.

These responses will also help me see how the class is progressing in their understanding of course content so I can better facilitate your learning.

You will want to preview the reflection prompt at the beginning of each week and then write and submit a response **no later than Sunday at 11:59 pm.**

4-3-2 Tickets:

4-3-2 Tickets are a way to help you consistently review the information covered in class. You will list 4 things you learned, 3 interesting facts or things you liked, and 2 questions you still have (whether about the content or going beyond what was covered in class). These are due **no later than Sunday at 11:59 pm.**

Exams:

There will be three midterm and one final exams that will test student understanding of course content using multiple-choice questions. The final exam will be twice as long as a midterm and include content from the last section of the course and cumulative questions that will evaluate your understanding of the big-picture ideas and themes throughout the course.

There will be an online exam every 3-4 weeks. For exam dates see the Course Schedule.

Exam Corrections:

Exams in BIOL 1010 are a tool for learning, not just a way to measure how much you know. You have the opportunity to improve your exam score by demonstrating your understanding of the material that was not mastered on your first attempt. You may take the exam a second time if you complete the Exam Corrections assignment. **Your second attempt will only count if you complete this assignment.** Your score will then be an average of the two attempts. Exam Corrections are due at the time the exam closes.

Grading Scale

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade	Percent
A	94-100
A-	90-93
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

- **No textbook is required**, you will be provided with open educational resources for each module in the course. *If you would like a textbook to refer to, I recommend [Openstax's "Concepts of Biology"Links to an external site.](#) This is an excellent free resource!*

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

- Learning and Science
- Properties of life
- Cell properties
- How to find and analyze information
- Macromolecules
- Properties of plants
- Photosynthesis
- Cellular Respiration
- Carbon cycle
- Climate change
- Properties of DNA
- DNA replication
- Gene expression
- Mitosis
- Meiosis
- Gene editing
- Evolution
- Immune system, pathogens, prevent disease spread
- Biodiversity
- Biomimicry

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

In all instances, policies identified in the UVU Catalog regarding academic ethics and honesty are to be followed. Students are expected to display academic integrity at all times and in all circumstances. The first instance of cheating or plagiarism will earn a zero for the assignment

and the requirement to write a one-page report detailing why your assignment was not accepted. This is a learning experience for you because oftentimes students do not realize what they have done is considered plagiarism. The second instance of cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the course. Cheating and plagiarism are defined below.

- Cheating is the act of using, attempting to use, or providing others with unauthorized information, materials or study aids in academic work. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, passing examination answers to or taking examinations for someone else, or preparing or copying other's academic work.
- Plagiarism is the act of appropriating any other person's or group ideas or work (written, computerized, artistic, etc.) or portions thereof and presenting them as the product of one's own work in any academic exercise or study.

**adapted from [Temple University](#)Links to an external site. statement on AI in classes.*

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.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Gemini, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Finding information on your topic;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

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.

Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. **If you are found using AI improperly to complete an**

assignment, this assignment will result in a 0. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

The following are some forms of cheating:

- Taking screenshots or other means of copying exams, quizzes, or other course material to give to or sell to other students
- Disclosing or soliciting examination questions to those who may have been absent from an exam or have not taken it yet.
- Copying a fellow student's work or copying a previous student's work.
- Any form of communication with a fellow student or other individual during a test.
- Communicating via cell phones with other people during a test.
- Plagiarism (copying the entirety or partial phrases from books, websites, or other sources).
- Do not copy and paste answers you google or find on the internet into your assignments. This is plagiarism.
- Any two students handing in assignments with word-for-word responses.

Please, preserve your integrity and do not cheat, and also prevent any temptation of cheating.

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 pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

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.