



Master Course Syllabus

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

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: BIOL

Course and Section #: 1010-013

Course Title: General Biology

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: Stephanie Boyd

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.
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Course Materials and Texts

Internet access including Google Chrome

OpenStax textbook: *Concepts of Biology*, free and available online

Digital device for class (laptop or phone)

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

In class points- 22% (daily check-in, weekly activities)

Weekly quizzes- 17% (one per module)

Learning checks- 15% (short assignments to be completed before class)

Exams- 44% (2 midterms and 1 final exam, all open book)

Miscellaneous- 2% (surveys at the beginning and end of class)

Late work is accepted at 75% credit, daily check-ins cannot be made up

Grading Scale

A: 95-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-79	E: below 60
A-: 90-94	B: 83-86	C: 73-76	D: 63-66	
	B-: 80-82	C-: 70-72	D-: 60-62	

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

OpenStax textbook: *Concepts of Biology*, free and available online

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Required Course Syllabus

Week 1: Welcome, Science of Learning	Statements
Week 2: Introduction to Biology	
Week 3: Chemistry of Life	
Week 4: Cells and Membranes	Generative AI
Week 5: Energy production and use (respiration and photosynthesis)	Week 9: Body Systems: Respiratory and Circulatory Systems
EXAM 1	Week 10: Body Systems: Kidneys and Immune System
Week 6: Body Systems: Introduction and Digestive System	EXAM 2
Week 7: Body Systems: Nervous and Sensory Systems	Week 11: Cancer and the Biology of Death
Week 8: Body Systems: Endocrine and Muscle/Bone Systems	Week 12: Reproduction and Genetics
	Week 13: Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
	Week 14: Evolution
	Week 15: Ecology
	FINAL EXAM

Use ChatGPT as a learning assistant, not as a crutch. You may find it helpful for studying for exams or a few of the class activities. These days potential employers may expect you to know how to use tools like ChatGPT, so it is a skill that I encourage. If it helps you learn some things faster, GREAT because we can spend class time on more interesting topics. Remember: it's just another tool in your toolbox in your ~~overall goal to be better at solving life's problems.~~

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.
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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 801-8638747.

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.