

Principles of Biology I

BSC 2010, Fall 2017

Contact Information

Instructor

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Objectives

To become an informed citizen who can read, comprehend and evaluate questions in biology.
Emphasis will be placed on the experimental and observational basis for our knowledge of biology.
To construct a solid foundation of biological knowledge and understanding to build on in future courses.
Understand the flow, exchange, storage, and use of information and energy in living systems.
To understand cells: basic chemistry, cells as units of structure and function, and energy transformations.
To understand genetics: structure and function of DNA, heredity, and gene expression.
Understand the processes, and construction of the diversity and history of life.
To gain a basic knowledge of evolution: mechanisms of change, phylogenetics and speciation.

Learning Resources

Textbook

Principles of Life, 2e by Hillis et al.
Macmillan (publisher), 2014.
Available at the bookstore or as an eText with LaunchPad (see below).
If you purchase the physical text, you will still need a code for LaunchPad and it does include the ebook.

LaunchPad: Online Resources and Electronic Textbook

LaunchPad is an online assignments and tutorial system from the textbook publisher that will be used for required readings, interactive activities, and tutorials. LaunchPad is **required** for this course and includes the electronic version of the textbook.
Go to the Launch Pad Course Page to register and purchase access to LaunchPad OR you can purchase an access card at the UF Bookstore. The Launch Pad Course Page link is on the front page of our Canvas course. If you are waiting on financial aid, you can register for temporary access, but you will have to purchase access once the temporary access expires. You **MUST** use your Gatorlink UFL email address, which will be your username. Using an email other than your UFL address will result in you receiving **NO** credit for LaunchPad assignments.
For help with *LaunchPad*, contact *LaunchPad* Technical Support: 800-936-6899 by phone or via their [web form](#). (Links to an external site.)

Course Website (Canvas)

All class materials, including the syllabus, lectures, assignments, quizzes, and exams that are NOT part of LaunchPad, will be posted on the Canvas website. You can directly access the Canvas login at ufl.instructure.com

Help Resources

Canvas/eLearning Issues

Contact the help desk at:

- email: learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 1
- Help Desk [home page \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

LaunchPad Issues

Contact LaunchPad technical support at 1-800-936-6899 -OR- [Technical Help Support Page \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

University Support Services

College can be a very stressful time in a person's life. Resources are available on campus to help students meet academic goals and solve personal problems that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find that you are having difficulty emotionally or academically, there is substantial support available. See "[A Self Help Guide for Students \(Links to an external site.\)](#)" or contact one of the following services:

1. [UF Counseling and Wellness Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), Radio Rd Facility, 392-1575
2. [Dean of Students Office \(Links to an external site.\)](#), 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261
3. [Career Resource Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601
4. [CLAS Academic Advising Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), Farrior Hall, 100 Fletcher Drive, 392-1521

U Matter, We Care

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Other Questions

If you have non-tech-support questions about other aspects of the course, check the following sources first to see if it is already answered, **before** e-mailing your instructors:

- Course Syllabus
- Start Here pages
- Course Announcements (this is the primary means that your instructor has to communicate with you in a timely manner)
- Piazza Q&A

If you still cannot find the answer to your questions

- If it is a question that others might find useful to know the answer to as well, post it to Piazza
- If it is a question specific to you (e.g. account or grade specific), contact your instructor or TAs via Canvas inbox.

Course Policies

Time Commitment

The UF College of Liberal Arts and Sciences assumes that each student will devote 3-4 hours per week per credit-hour to each course during the regular semester. Because BSC 2010 is 3 credits, each student should therefore expect to devote 9-12 hours per week to this course in a 15-week semester. Spending adequate time on your studies is the secret to success in your courses.

Attendance

Students are expected to complete all assigned work (quizzes, interactive, discussions, activities etc.) by the due date. Unavoidable circumstances (e.g. hospitalization or family emergencies) that prevent you from completing your work in a timely manner require you to obtain a letter from a medical professional or the [Dean of Students office \(Links to an external site.\)](#) that specifies the time period for which you are excused from classwork, and submit it to your instructors as soon as possible. This **MUST** be done in a timely manner to allow adequate time for makeup work. Late submission of old excuses will not be accepted near the end of the semester and you will be advised to drop. So, **manage your time wisely and work ahead when you need to.** Excuses such as “we didn’t get back from (activity) when planned and I didn’t have time” or “my computer crashed half an hour before the deadline and tech support wasn’t open” will NOT be accepted as excuses for missed deadlines.

Computing Requirements

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain a functioning computing system and internet connection. Computing/internet connectivity issues will NOT be acceptable excuses for missed deadlines unless they are brought to the attention of the instructor **at least 48 hours prior to the deadline** and accompanied by the ticket number from technical support. See Resources for Technical Support contact information. Microsoft Office programs are required for many of the assignments; it can be accessed by current UF students through [GatorCloud. \(Links to an external site.\)](#) It is your responsibility to make sure that you have a computer system and programs that will work with Canvas, Launch Pad and ProctorU. Compatibility issues will NOT be accepted as an excuse for late work.

Late Work

All work must be turned in on time to receive full credit. Except as noted above in Attendance and Computing Requirements, late submissions will not be accepted. Plan to turn your work in early. Due dates are FINAL DEADLINES for submission, so plan to submit earlier than that.

Resubmissions (before the deadline)

End of Module quizzes are graded on the first attempt; please do not start these quizzes until you are ready to complete them. For assignments within Canvas that require a file upload, these may be resubmitted multiple times; we will only consider the most recent submission. However, once a submission has been graded, **even if it is prior to the deadline**, no further submissions will be considered. Please double-check your file submissions to make sure they are complete and that you have submitted the correct file; submitting an incomplete or incorrect file may result in a zero. For assignments that are in the quiz tool, they are submitted once you click "Finish Quiz." You can save your work and come back to it without submitting, but once you submit, it is considered "handed in" and will be graded as is.

Netiquette

Please review this [netiquette guide \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for online courses

Grammar

Correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization and paragraphing should be used in any college level submission, including the discussion boards. We will take note of spelling and grammar and we will grade accordingly.

UF Policies

Academic honesty

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: *"I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."*

In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Cases of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and may result in grade penalties or other sanctions. In this course, academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) collaborating with other students on course assignments, discussing quiz questions or answers with other students, giving other students the password for locked quizzes, and plagiarism. If you have knowledge of any instances of academic dishonesty in this class, please notify the instructor or contact the Student Honor Court (392-1631) or Cheating Hotline (392-6999). For additional information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the [University of Florida Academic Honesty Guidelines. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Plagiarism is also a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy, and will be treated as such, resulting in grade penalties or other sanctions. Please review [how to define plagiarism and how to avoid it \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students who will require a classroom accommodation for a disability must contact the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources, in Peabody 202 (phone: 352-392-1261). Please see the University of Florida Disability Resources [website \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for more information. When possible, the student should provide documentation of a requirement for accommodation to the instructor by the second week of classes. No accommodations are available to students who lack this documentation, and accommodations are not retroactive. It is the policy of the University of Florida that the student, not the instructor, is responsible for arranging accommodations when needed. Once notification is complete, the Dean of Students Office of Disability Resources will work with the instructor to accommodate the student.

Drop/Add/Withdrawal

A student can drop/add during the drop/add period with no penalty. After drop/add, a student who drops will receive a W until the date listed in the academic calendar. After that date, the student may be assigned an "E" (fail). **Note: it is the responsibility of the STUDENT to withdraw from a course, not the instructor. Failure to participate/complete the class does NOT constitute a drop.**

Course Evaluations

Anonymous course evaluations will be open via UF's [online evaluations system \(Links to an external site.\)](#) near the end of the semester; you will receive email notifications of when the evaluations open. We do take student feedback into account when planning future semesters; please let your instructors know if there are particular modules and/or activities that you found helpful or that you would have liked to cover in more depth, as well as any that you found less useful.

Grades

Grading Scale

- A = 90-100
- B+ = 87-89.9
- B = 80-86.9
- C+ = 77-79.9
- C = 70-76.9
- D = 60-69.9
- F = 59.9 and below

Grade Breakdown

Each Module: 3.5% (all activities)

Unit Exams: 50% (16.7% each)

Other assignments: 1%

Learning Activities

Assignments: Your assignments in this course may be a little different than what you are used to. They use both the assignment tool AND the quiz tool to complete. This is important to note because of how they are submitted. Most assignments in the assignment tool will require a file upload of some sort. If it is in the quiz tool, it will ask you to begin a quiz. Once you start an assignment in the quiz tool, you can save and exit without turning it in. You must complete this type of assignment by the due date and hit submit for it to count.

Part of your assignment grades will come from LaunchPad assignments. Use the LaunchPad link on the Canvas home page to get to the LaunchPad homepage. **PLEASE NOTE:** Work done in LaunchPad may take up to a week to show up in the Canvas Gradebook.

You may also have a discussion board as part of your assignments. There isn't one in every module, however.

With the exception of Modules 13 and 14, the deadline for all assignments is **Saturday at 11:59pm**. However, if there is a discussion that requires students to reply to each-others' posts, then your initial post is due **Friday at 11:59pm**. For full credit, you must submit your discussions in a manner that allows time for your classmates to respond. Keep in mind that it is NOT the best idea to wait until the last day to submit your work.

Quizzes: Each module has two types of quizzes - a reading quiz and an end of module quiz. In order to access the lectures and assignments, you MUST complete the reading quiz. This is an OPEN BOOK quiz with no time limit. You must score a 70% on the quiz to open the next section. You have 3 attempts at this quiz. With the exception of Module 14, the deadline for reading quizzes is **Tuesday at 11:59pm**. You will only have one attempt at the end of module quizzes, and they also have a 30 minute time limit. With the exception of Modules 13 and 14, the deadline for end of module quizzes is **Sunday at 11:59pm**. You must submit the quiz before the deadline and if you wait until the last minute and have technical difficulties, you may not receive any credit for the quiz. Please plan on submitting well before the deadline so that you can get help if you have any technical difficulties. If you wait until the last minute, it is your responsibility to make sure you do not have any computer or other technical issues.

Do not wait until the last moment to attempt either quiz!

Exams: You will have 3 unit exams this semester. They are worth a combined 50% of your grade. We will use ProctorU during the exam. Please see the pages about ProctorU in this module for more information and registration.

The test dates are as follows:

Exam 1 – October 5

Exam 2 – November 9

Exam 3 – December 11

DO NOT WAIT to sign up for your exam dates/times. The earlier you sign up, the better chance you will have to get your desired testing time. ProctorU also charges an extra fee for late signups and it is the student's responsibility to pay any late fees.

Course Schedule

Module	Topic	Start/End Dates
0	Introduction Module	August 21 – August 27
1	Scientific Process	August 28 – September 3
2	Chemistry and Building Blocks of Life	September 4 – September 10
3	Cells: Organelles and Membranes	September 11 – September 17
4	Cells: Membranes and Signaling	September 18 – September 24
5	Energy Pathways	September 25 – October 1
6	Cell Cycle and Division	October 2 – October 8
7	Inheritance, Genes, Chromosomes and Genomes	October 9 – October 15
8	DNA Replication and Transcription	October 16 – October 22
9	Translation and Gene Expression	October 23 – October 29
10	Gene Expression during Development	October 30 – November 5
11	Process of Evolution I	November 6 – November 12
12	Process of Evolution II	November 13 – November 19
13	Phylogenetics	November 20 – November 29
14	Speciation	November 30 – December 6