Principles of Biology I

BSC2010 | Fall 2015

Contact Information

Instructor

- Joan Herrera
- email: encope@ufl.edu
- phone: 352-213-2498

TA

- Kin-Lan Han
- email: hankin@ufl.edu
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Meghan Bentz
email: mbentz314@ufl.edu

Learning Outcomes

The goals of this course are for you 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.
- 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.
    - Cells: basic chemistry, cells as units of structure and function, and energy transformations.
    - Genetics: structure and function of DNA, heredity, and gene expression.
  - Understand the processes, and reconstruction of the diversity, history and origins of life.

- Evolution: mechanisms of change, phylogenetics and speciation, and major shifts in living communities.

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.

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 LaunchPad course page to register and purchase access to LaunchPad OR you can purchase an access card at the UF Bookstore. 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 receiveing **NO** credit for LaunchPad assignments.

For help with *LaunchPad*, contact *LaunchPad* Technical Support: 800-936-6899 by phone or via their web form.

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

LaunchPad Issues

Contact LaunchPad technical support at

- 1-800-936-6899
- [Technical Help Support Page](#)

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](#)" or contact one of the following services:

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

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.

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 that specifies the time period for which you are excused from classwork, and submit it to your instructors as soon as possible.

Otherwise, 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.

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.

Resubmissions

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 will 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 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.

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.

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](#) 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](#) near the end of the semester; you will receive e>mail 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 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 home page or in the navigation 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 assigments. There isn't one in every module, however.

Deadline for all assignments is **Saturday at 11:59pm.**

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. The deadline for reading quizzes is **Tuesday at 11:59pm.**

You will only have one attempt at the end of module quizzes. You will also have a 30 minute time limit. The deadline for end of module quizzes is **Sunday at 11:59pm**.

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 9th-11th

Exam 2 - November 13th-15th

Exam 3 - December 12-14th

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.

Course Schedule

Schedule of Topics		
Module	**Topic**	**Start/End Dates**
0	Introduction Module	August 24 - August 30
1	Scientific Process	August 31 - September 6
2	Chemistry and Building Blocks of Life	September 7 - September 13
3	Cells: Organelles and Membranes	September 14 - September 20
4	Cells: Membranes and Signaling	September 21 - September 27
5	Energy Pathways	September 28 - October 4
6	Cell Cycle and Division	October 5 - October 11
7	Inheritance, Genes, Chromosomes, and Genomes	October 12 - October 18
8	DNA Replication and Transcription	October 19 - October 25
9	Translation and Gene Expression	October 26 - November 1
10	Gene Expression during Development	Novermber 2 - November 8
11	Process of Evolution I	November 9 - November 15
12	Process of Evolution II	November 16 - November 22
13	Phylogenetics	Novermber 23 - November 29
14	Speciation	November 30 - December 6