

BIOL 1112: Contemporary Biology Laboratory (IN-PERSON)

Syllabus

Course Description: This laboratory class will cover essential components of life including cell structures, functions and physiology; natural selection and evolution; DNA; genetic principles; and human health.

The BIOL1112 In-person laboratory constitutes 30% of your overall grade in the BIOL1112 course (30% the laboratory, and 70% the lecture). You must pass both the laboratory portion and the lecture portion to receive a passing grade for the course. Dr. Janet Ray (janet.ray@unt.edu) is the Instructor of Record of the Contemporary Biology Lecture and Dr. Claudia Gonzalez-Villarreal is the Instructor of Record of the Contemporary Biology Laboratory.

Semester: Spring 2026 (January 12 to May 8, 2026)

Laboratory Course: Contemporary Biology (BIOL1112 IN-PERSON)

Laboratory Location: Department of Biological Sciences (LIFE “A”) Laboratory #111.

Laboratory Instructor: Dr. Claudia Gonzalez Villarreal. (Claudia Gonzalez)

Laboratory Instructor Contact Information: Phone: (940) 565-3611.

Email: Please use the messaging system in canvas as the sole means of communication.

(Emails sent to claudia.gonzalezvillarreal@unt.edu might be answered with delay. Please use the emailing system in Canvas).

Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistants: T.A. Mercy Mormor (Sections 301 and 302)

BIOL1112.301 Tuesdays 12:30 pm – 3:20 pm

BIOL1112.302 Tuesdays 3:30 pm – 6:20 pm

Email: Please use the messaging system in canvas as the sole means of communication.

Online Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 am to 11:30 am in LIFE B430. (Use the Canvas email to schedule a meeting 24 hours in advance)

BIOL1112 (In-person):

Teaching Assistants meet in-person with their students during the days and times indicated in MyUNT. Office hours (in-person or online) can be scheduled with the Teaching Assistants weekly. Each TA will provide their office hours in Canvas. Students should email their TA minimum 24 hours in advance to set

up an appointment. Students should not assume their TAs are available during the day and time they requested – their time might already be scheduled by other students. The maximum time per appointment (Office hour) is 20 minutes. If the office hours are online, the TAs will send the students a link to start the meeting on Canvas at the time and day requested. These meetings will not be recorded.

Unauthorized personnel or guests can't attend the laboratory or meeting. Only the students enrolled in the laboratory sections can attend the lab.

Communication Expectations: The format of this Contemporary Biology Laboratory is in-person. Students should contact their TA and Lab Instructor with personal concerns or questions about the laboratory through the Canvas' email system only. Students need to check their Canvas' email regularly. Our estimated response time for emails is 24-48 hours Monday to Friday during working hours. It is the student's responsibility to read the TA's feedback on the graded assignments. Once the grades are posted, students will have 5 business days to request a review of their grade.

Professional etiquette is part of your preparation. Consider these characteristics as you work in the laboratory: Be kind, polite and respectful. Be a problem solver and contributor to improvement of situations. Sometimes you will need to work individually, and sometimes as a Team. Communicating is not always as easy. If students have an issue with their teams, they should reach out to their Teaching Assistant immediately. Please feel free to report any situation that requires attention and additional review to Dr. Claudia Gonzalez.

Required Textbook, Materials, Browsers, and Software:

- **Required online FREE text:** *Concepts of Biology*
(<https://cnx.org/contents/s8Hh0oOc@11.1:Pj8cW7X1@4/Introduction>)
- **Required Lab Manuals:** Students should print the laboratory manual and/or handout. The Laboratory manual and/or handouts will be provided on Canvas a week prior to the lab. Students should bring their Laboratory manual and/or handouts to the laboratory weekly because they will hand them at the end of the laboratory to their TA for grading (Laboratory Assignments). Students can't provide a blank page with answers as a Laboratory Assignment. Students should bring a copy of the laboratory manual and/or handout to the lab in order for the TA to grade it. Additional course materials and instructions will be posted on Canvas.

Recommended Readings and Materials: In addition to the laboratory handouts, each Laboratory module on Canvas contains a list of suggested reading links and documents. All the materials to perform the experiments will be provided in the laboratory. However, students will need to print out the handouts and bring them to each laboratory. Students that don't follow the safety rules as specified in the laboratory safety orientation will lose participation points and won't be allowed in the laboratory.

* Firefox is the only browser recommended to open this course in Canvas.

Canvas: Take a moment to familiarize yourself with Canvas. Watch this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=x3j8V-uLkNw

PreLabs, Laboratory Handouts, Online Quizzes, and Presentations:

Laboratory Handouts: Each laboratory handout will have different types of assessments and rubrics. They will be specified each week when the Canvas module opens, as well as the deadlines for each of them. Students should print the handouts and bring them at the beginning of each laboratory. Students will submit the handouts to their TA at the end of each laboratory. Please refer to Table 1 at the end of the syllabus for the list of laboratory handouts.

1. All work submitted for this class must be YOUR ORIGINAL **work**—that is, it cannot have been published already online, submitted for any other class (even a previous attempt at this class) created by generative AI or for any other purpose. Please see section on “Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty.” **Turnitin will flag instances of plagiarism as well as the use of generative AI.** The use of generative AI in this class, unless specified in the instructions of an assignment, will be considered as a form of plagiarism, and will be assigned the same penalties. ***For the first offense, student(s) will receive a score no greater than 50 out of 100. For a second offense, student(s) will receive a score of 0 and the offense will be reported to the Dean of Students.***
2. Extra credit opportunities are not currently provided. Check Canvas for announcements regarding extra credit opportunities.

Orientation and Safety Training Quiz: Students need to take the Orientation and Safety Quiz during the first week of in-person laboratory sessions. The quiz serves as an acknowledgement that the students read and understood the Syllabus and laboratory safety rules training. The orientation and safety quiz is mandatory, and students should score 70% or more to attend the second lab. Students can't attend the second lab without taking the orientation and safety quiz. Students that score less than 70% will be contacted by their TA and will receive instructions about additional online training requirements on Canvas.

- There will be 9 quizzes (opened weekly), 11 prelab quizzes (at the beginning of each lab), participation points in each lab, 13 laboratory assignments (handouts), and one final comprehensive exam (Practicum).
- The final exam is scheduled for 1 (one) hour during a specific day and time frame. Please refer to Table 1.0 for more information. ***In addition, the final exam is a practicum. It consists of different types of questions.*** Students take the exam in the laboratory (LIFE Sciences A Room 111) on the day specified in the syllabus. The exam starts at regular laboratory time.

Final Exam (Practicum): ***There is only one attempt per quiz and final exam (The final exam is worth 20% of the laboratory grade, so please make sure you do not miss it). We will send reminders; however, we strongly recommend that you put the Final Exam Date on your calendars now so you can plan accordingly.***

- No grades will be dropped.
- There are no make-up laboratories.
- Qualified medical excuses will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. If a student meets certain qualifications, an “Incomplete” may be issued at the discretion of the lecture instructor (neither the TA nor the Lab Supervisor has the authority to issue an “Incomplete”). Please see the college catalog to determine what conditions must be met before requesting an “Incomplete”.

Quizzes: Online weekly quizzes will be posted on Canvas on the dates specified in the table below. There are no late quizzes or extensions, so please plan your time accordingly. Students will need fast internet connection. The content of each quiz is specified on the table. Additional instructions will be provided by the instructor either on Canvas or in the laboratory.

Quiz	Quiz Content	Start Date	Deadline
1	Orientation and Safety Training (In-person. During the first Lab Session)	January 13	January 13
2	Laboratory 2 Handout Online Lab 2: The Scientific Method	January 21	January 25
3	Laboratory 3 Handout Online Lab 3: Determination of Moisture Content in Soil	January 28	February 1
4	Laboratory 4 Handout	February 4	February 8
5	Laboratory 5 Handout	February 11	February 15
6	Laboratory 6 Handout Online Lab 4: Genetics of Organisms	February 18	February 22
7	Laboratory 9 Handout Online Lab 5: Evolutionary Relationships	March 18	March 22
8	Laboratory 11 Handout Online Lab 6: Macromolecules	April 1	April 5
9	Lab 12 Handout Online Lab 7: An Introduction to the Laboratory Mouse: <i>Mus musculus</i>	April 8	April 12

Late Work Submission Policy:

- Late work for this course will not be accepted.
- **This is NOT a self-paced course;** therefore, you must make careful note of the deadlines for each assignment to allow you to turn in the required work on time.
- Missed quizzes may only be re-opened for an individual upon receipt of approved medical and/or university documentation.

When experiencing a problem with Canvas, call the helpdesk, make a report, and obtain a “ticket” for the stated problem. It is the student’s responsibility to email the instructor when experiencing a problem with the system. Without exceptions, all these emails should contain a copy of the provided helpdesk ticket and the print-screen that shows the problem, date and time.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is presenting the work of another as your own or re-using your work for another class in this class without permission. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, the student will get a grade of zero for that particular assessment, a meeting with the student, their Teaching Assistant, and Dr. Gonzalez Villarreal will be scheduled to discuss the situation, and a report will be generated and sent to the Dean of Students.

Netiquette: Be courteous. Harsh, discriminatory, or rude language will not be tolerated. Please familiarize yourself with the more general Netiquette policies available in this guide <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>. Treating others with respect is integral to our course.

Syllabus Change Policy This syllabus is not a contract; Dr. Gonzalez-Villarreal reserves the right to alter both dates and assignments. Any changes made will be announced via Canvas announcements, and an updated version will be posted there as well.

Attendance and Participation Policy: This is a synchronous in-person laboratory. Attendance in the lab is mandatory. If a student accrues more than two unexcused absences (for any reason) during the semester, the student will receive an “F” in the lab. An “F” in lab will also result in an “F” for the course. Please note that this rule applies whether or not the absences are excused. You will be counted absent if you do not attend, participate in, and complete the required activities for the day.

1. **Each laboratory will have a participation grade (See rubrics on Canvas).**
2. **Students need to print the handout of each laboratory and bring it to the laboratory on the days specified on the Table at the end of the Syllabus. Students that don't follow this guideline will lose participation points and won't be able to submit the handout at another time.**
3. **“Make-up” labs:** We do not offer “make-up” labs for lab activities the class has completed in the preceding weeks.
4. **Alternate lab sections:** If you are unable to attend your regularly scheduled lab session and have a justifiable reason, you may be able to attend an alternate lab section within that same week. It is your responsibility to contact your lab instructor and the Lab Supervisor immediately to discuss the situation.
 - a) This option is not guaranteed as alternate lab sections are not always available due to logistical constraints. The student making the request must have prior approval of the Lab Supervisor. Under no circumstance will any lab section be overloaded.
 - b) This option is for emergencies only and you will not be allowed to attend an alternate lab section multiple time. **The decision as to whether or not a student will be allowed to attend an alternate lab section is made by the Lab Supervisor. Please remember that the Teaching Assistant does not have the authority to give permission for a student to attend a lab section other than the one in which the student is enrolled.**
5. Your TA will call the roll exactly 10 minutes after your class starts. If you arrive to class after the roll has been called it will count as absence. However, you can still take the quiz in the remaining time indicated by your TA. You will not get extra time because you arrived late.
6. You need to stay during the entire duration of the lab. If you leave early neither of your attendance and quiz will count.

7. For safety reasons, if you arrive using open-toe shoes your TA will ask you to leave the lab. You will not be able to take the quiz and then go change your shoes.
8. Every-time you exit the laboratory you have to sign in-and out.
9. For safety reasons, if you are using your cellphone, drinking, eating, or not following the laboratory safety rules in the lab, your TA will give you a warning and deduct participation points. If the situation continues, the TA will ask you to leave the laboratory and it will count as absence. In case you leave the lab for this reason, your Prelab quiz will also be zero.
10. You need to contact your TA 48 hours before you think you will have an absence, and provide the required documentation to see if you qualify for an excused absence. This does not mean your absence will be excused and/or you can re-schedule quizzes or submit late assignments

Laboratory Procedures:

- Make sure you know how to properly dispose of any chemicals used in lab.
- Make sure all chemical and/or specimen containers are closed tightly after use. If chemicals come into contact with skin, wash immediately with water.
- Keep the laboratory clean and organized.
- Be familiar with experimental procedures you will be performing before coming to the laboratory.
- 5. Wear safety glasses or goggles during exercises in which glassware and solutions are heated, or when dangerous fumes may be present, creating possible hazards to eyes or contact lenses.
- 6. Wear clothing that, if damaged, would not be a serious loss, since chemicals may damage fabrics.

Laboratory Safety Rules:

- You will need to wear closed toe shoes during the entire lab period. If you do not wear closed toe shoes you will be asked to leave and it will count as absence.
- Punctuality is expected. Attendance will be taken during the first 10 minutes. The Prelab quizzes will start after calling the roll.
- Food or drink is not allowed in the laboratory. Points may be deducted if food or drink is possessed by any student in the lab setting.
- No cellphones are allowed in the laboratory, unless it is authorized by the instructor. If you are using your phone in the lab you will be asked to leave and it will count as absence. The Prelabs Quizzes of the students who leave the lab for this reason will also count as zero.
- Students are responsible for leaving their workstations clean and orderly. Points will be deducted from the grade if the workstations are not left as instructed by the TA.
- Leaving before the lab finishes will count as absence and in this case, the Prelab quiz will be zero.
- Students may not change lab sections once the semester begins. Therefore, please make all necessary schedule changes during the ADD/DROP period of registration.
- DO NOT EAT OR DRINK IN THE LAB! This includes preserved or unpreserved materials, specimens, and reagents located in the laboratory. Smoking is prohibited in all of the University of North Texas buildings.
- DO NOT insert ANY objects, other than approved electrical plugs, into electrical outlets.
- Discard broken glassware in the glass disposal box located in the lab. This box is for glass only.

- Administer first aid immediately to clean, sterilize, and cover any scrapes, cuts, and burns where the skin is broken and/or where there may be bleeding. Wear bandages over open skin wounds.
- If you or another student is cut or injured in any way during the lab, you must inform the instructor immediately. Do not attempt to clean blood-contaminated spills!
- Handle hot glassware with appropriate tongs or test-tube clamps. Use caution when heating chemicals.
- Use extra care when working with scalpels, razor blades, and glass pipettes. A glass pipette should never be forced into a pip ump.
- Open-toed shoes are not permitted in lab. Wear close-toed shoes as protection against broken glass or spillage.
- Know where to find emergency equipment such as the eyewash, fire extinguisher, and first aid kit. Report all accidents to an instructor immediately.
- Report any conditions that appear hazardous to an instructor.
- Do not bring children or pets to the lab. Unaccompanied children or pets are not permitted on the campus.
- The TA might deduct participation points if the student does not follow the laboratory procedures and/or safety rules.

ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records: Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.
- If the use of the work does not meet all the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Transmission and Recording: There won't be videoconferences or recording of the laboratory lectures. **Only students with authorization will be allowed to make recordings.**

Grading Policy:

Prelab Quizzes (11)	10%
Participation Points (13)	10%
Laboratory Handouts (13)	40%
Quizzes (9)	20%
Final Exam (1)	20%

Grade distribution:

>90%	=	A
>80%	=	B
>70%	=	C
>60%	=	D
<60%	=	F

Spring 2026 Holidays: Martin Luther King Jr. (Jan 19, 2026), Spring Break (March 9-15, 2026)

Contemporary Biology Laboratory (BIOL 1112) **IN-PERSON** SPRING 2026			
Laboratory Week	Name of the Chapter/Topics		Laboratory Assessments
	UNIT 1: LIFE		
Lab 1	Jan 12 – Jan 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory 1: Orientation and Safety Training (Students take the Orientation and Safety Training Quiz in the lab.) Online Lab 1: Safety Training (Mandatory for students who do not pass the Orientation and Safety Training Quiz) 	***No Prelab 1*** ***No Lab 1 Handout*** Orientation and Safety Quiz 1
Lab 2	Jan 19 – Jan 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory 2 Handout: The Scientific Method. Online Lab 2: The Scientific Method 	Prelab 2, Lab 2 Handout, and Quiz 2
Lab 3	Jan 26 – Feb 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory 3 Handout: Review of the Microscope, Cell Structure and Diversity. Online Lab 3: Determination of Moisture Content in Soil 	Prelab 3, Lab 3 Handout, and Quiz 3
Lab 4	Feb 2 - Feb 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory 4 Handout: Cell Transport 	Prelab 4, Lab 4 Handout, and Quiz 4
	UNIT 2: Crime Scene		
Lab 5	Feb 9 – Feb 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory 5 Handout: DNA- The Molecule of Heredity; learning to use the Micropipettor, Crime Scene overview, begin evidence analysis. 	Prelab 5, Lab 5 Handout, and Quiz 5
Lab 6	Feb 16 – Feb 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory 6 Handout: Analysis of DNA, biotechnology- DNA Fingerprinting, and other evidence. Online Lab 4: Genetics of Organisms 	Prelab 6, Lab 6 Handout, and Quiz 6
Lab 7	Feb 23 – Mar 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory 7 Handout: Autosomal Human Traits and Patterns of Inheritance, Complete evidence analysis. 	Prelab 7, Lab 7 Handout
Lab 8	Mar 2 – Mar 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime Scene Presentations 	Lab 8 Handout
-	March 9-15	March 9-15 Spring Break	-
	Unit 3: Group Projects		
Lab 9	Mar 16 – Mar 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Project 1: Ecology, Ecosystems, and Communities Online Lab 5: Evolutionary Relationships 	Prelab 8, Lab 9 Handout, and Quiz 7
Lab 10	Mar 23 – Mar 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Project 2: Membranes. 	Prelab 9 and Lab 10 Handout
Lab 11	Mar 30 – Apr 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Project 3: The Body, Digestion and Nutrition. Online 6: Macromolecules 	Prelab 10, Lab 11 Handout, and Quiz 8
Lab 12	Apr 6 – Apr 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Project 4: Disease Prevention Online Lab 7: An Introduction to the Laboratory Mouse: <i>Mus musculus</i> 	Prelab 11, Lab 12 Handout, and Quiz 9
Lab 13	Apr 13 – Apr 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Project 5: Biotechnology and Biomedical Advances Review (In-Person Only) 	Prelab 12 and Lab 13 Handout
Lab 14	Apr 20 – Apr 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Laboratory 8: TBD 	TBD
Lab 15	Apr 27 – Apr 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory Final Exam (In-Person Only) 	Final Exam (Practicum)

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