BIOL 1112: Contemporary Biology (Online)

Syllabus

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

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

Course: BIOL1112

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Gonzalez-Villarreal.

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 Assistant: TA Saeed Hemmati (Sec. 400), TA Fabio Dos Santos Neto (Sec. 402), TA Victoria Youngblood (Sec. 403), TA Ray Hendricks (Sec. 404), TA McKenzie Metzner (Sec. 405).

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

Online Office Hours: See TA contact information in the "Start Here" Section

LIVE Hours: See TA contact information in the "Start Here" Section.

Required Textbook, Materials, Browsers, and Software:

Required online FREE text: ***Concepts of Biology***

(https://cnx.org/contents/s8Hh0oOc@11.1:Pj8cW7X1@4/Introduction)

Recommended Readings: Each module contains a list of suggested reading links and or documents.

Required Materials: Learners will need the following materials for performing experiments at home:

* A clean clear jar, 2-3 containers, a spoon, vinegar, baking soda, water – Needed for module 1

* Celery and food coloring – Needed for module 2

* A thermometer – Needed for module 11

The Syllabus Quiz does not count towards the grade. The syllabus quiz is mandatory and only if you take it, you will be able to see the course material.

***** 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

TAKE ACTION! Review the On & Off Campus Access resources of the University Libraries (See https://library.unt.edu/services/on-off-campus-access/)

Assignments, Laboratories, and Quizzes:

Assignments: Modules will have different types of assessments. They will be specified each week when the module opens, as well as the deadlines for each. Use the "Turnitin" application in the assignment section to submit your assignments. Please refer to Table 1.0 for the list of assignments.

1. Each assignment needs to be submitted within the corresponding module.
2. 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.***
3. Extra credit opportunities are not currently provided. Check Canvas for announcements regarding extra credit opportunities.

The assignments, videos, and quizzes open on Wednesdays at 9:00 am.

All of the assignments, concepts videos, and quizzes are **DUE by 11:59 p.m. CT** on the dates indicated in Table 1. We highly recommend you submit your assignments on or before 8 pm to avoid online traffic and problems with your submission!

Quizzes and final exam:

- There will be seven (7) quizzes and one final comprehensive exam.
- 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 consists of 50 multiple choice type questions and 1 essay question*. **You will need to be certain you save enough time to complete the essay question!!**

- Note: The final exam opens at 9:00 am and closes at 5:00 pm CT. You can not start your exam at 4:59 pm. The latest time you can start the exam and have one hour is at 4:00 pm CT. The exam time is 60 minutes from the moment you start it, so please plan accordingly.

- **There is only one attempt per quiz and one attempt on the final exam (The final exam is worth 20%, 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 assignment grades or quizzes grades will be dropped.

Quizzes:

Quiz	Content	Start Date	Deadline
1	Modules 1, Module 2, and Laboratory 1: Determination of Moisture Content in Soil.	January 21	January 27
2	Modules 3 and Module 4.	February 4	February 10
3	Modules 5 and Module 6.	February 18	February 24
4	Modules 7, Module 8, and Laboratory 2: Genetics of Organisms.	March 4	March 17
5	Modules 9, Module 10, and Laboratory 3: Evolutionary Relationships.	March 25	March 31
6	Modules 11, Module 12, and Laboratory 4: Macromolecules.	April 8	April 14
7	Modules 13, Module 14, and Laboratory 5: An Introduction to the Laboratory Mouse: *Mus musculus.*	April 22	April 28

F-1 Visa Regulations: Federal regulations state that students may apply only 3 fully-online semester credit hours (SCH) to the hours required for full-time status for F-1 Visa (DOC) holders. Full-time status for F-1 Visa students is 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduate students

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 and Dr. Thompson 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 Policy

This is an asynchronous laboratory. Daily attendance is not mandatory.

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 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.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

- No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
- In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
- Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings. Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Grading Policy:

Final Exam (1)	20%
Quizzes (7)	30%
Assignments (14)	50%

Grade distribution:

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

Spring 2026 Holidays:

Martin Luther King Jr. (January 19, 2026) and Spring Break (March 9-15, 2026).

Initial Recommendations: Take action!

1. Start by reading the “Start Here” module and syllabus.
2. Sign the course policy agreement. BEFORE starting with the Modules.
3. All the Quizzes and final exam must be taken AFTER completing the recommended readings and videos.
4. Do not hesitate to reach out to your Teaching Assistant or Instructor in case of questions. Check out your TA’s LIVE hours on Canvas and join the LIVE hours to discuss information related to the course in real-time. Note: The LIVE hours are not mandatory and they are not recorded.
5. Please notice that while this syllabus is intended to be a useful guide, we reserve the right to make changes at any time in order to better meet the needs of the class. We will inform you of any changes in writing using the Canvas announcement function or by email. This syllabus is a guideline and is subject to change at any time.

Contemporary Biology (BIOL 1112) - SPRING 2026

	Deadlines:	Name of the chapter/Topic	Assessments
Module 1	Jan 12 – Jan 20	• How cells are studied and comparing cells/ Soil properties and the relationship to plant selection and health. • Laboratory 1: Determination of Moisture Content in Soil. Supporting Chapter: 3.1-3.3	M1 assignment
Module 2	Jan 21 – Jan 27	• The Cell Membrane and Transport/Movement of water and minerals in plants. • Laboratory 1: Determination of Moisture Content in Soil. Supporting Chapter: 3.4-3.6	M2 assignment and Quiz 1
Module 3	Jan 28 – Feb 3	• Photosynthesis/Obtaining energy for Life. Supporting Chapter: 5	M3 assignment
Module 4	Feb 4 – Feb 10	• Population Ecology & Ecosystems/Food Chains & Food Webs. Supporting Chapter: 19-20.1	M4 assignment and Quiz 2
Module 5	Feb 11 – Feb17	• Eukaryotic cells and the cell membrane/Identify major cell structures & the roll of the cell membrane. Supporting Chapter: 3.3-3.4	M5 assignment
Module 6	Feb 18 – Feb 24	• Structure & Function of DNA/Illustrate, label, explain, describe and identify DNA & the Mitotic Cell Cycle. Supporting Chapter: 9-9.4	M6 assignment and Quiz 3
Module 7	Feb 25 – Mar 3	• Gene Regulation & Inheritance/Genetic principles. • Laboratory 2: Genetics of Organisms. Supporting Chapters: 9.5	M7 assignment
Module 8	Mar 4 – Mar 17	• Cellular Reproduction/The Meiotic Cell Cycle & Sex-linked inheritance. • Laboratory 2: Genetics of Organisms Supporting Chapter: 7	M8 assignment and Quiz 4
-	Mar 9 – Mar 15	• Spring Break	-
Module 9	Mar 18 – Mar 24	• The Process of Evolution/Causes & evidence of evolution. Supporting Chapter 11 • Laboratory 3: Evolutionary Relationships.	M9 assignment

Module 10	Mar 25 – Mar 31	• The Body's Systems/Digestion & Nutrition. • Laboratory 3: Evolutionary Relationships. Supporting Chapter 16	M10 assignment and Quiz 5
Module 11	Apr 1 – Apr 7	• Healthy Living. • Laboratory 4: Macromolecules.	M11 assignment
Module 12	Apr 8 – Apr 14	• Disease prevention. • Lab 4: Macromolecules. Supporting Chapter 17.1-17.4	M12 assignment and Quiz 6
Module 13	Apr 15 – Apr 21	• Cancer & the Cell Cycle/Roles, risks, & relationships. • Laboratory 5: An Introduction to the Laboratory Mouse: *Mus musculus*. Supporting Chapter: 6.3	M13 assignment
Module 14	Apr 22 – Apr 28	• Biotechnology/Biomedical Advances. • Laboratory 5: An Introduction to the Laboratory Mouse: *Mus musculus*. • Review. Supporting Chapter: 10	M14 assignment and Quiz 7
FINAL EXAM	Monday, May 4	• For the final exam, pick 60 min from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ONLY. You can't start the exam at 4:59 PM and have an hour. There is an essay question so plan your time accordingly.	-

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Syllabus updated on January 9, 2025.