

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: Summer 2020

Course: BIOL1112

Instructor: Dr. Ruthanne “Rudi” Thompson

Contact Information: Phone: (940) 891-6713.

Email: ruthanne.thompson@unt.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Online Administrator: Claudia Gonzalez

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

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

Office Hours: Please see Online Administrator contact information in the “Start Here” Section

Teaching Assistant: Supuni Silva (Sec. 300), Sanchi Dhinoja (Sec. 302), Mehrnaz Moghimi (Sec. 303), and Ade Olubu (Sec. 304).

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:

* Celery and food coloring – Needed for module 2

* A thermometer – Needed for module 11

Required Software:

* Learners **MUST** have “Adobe flash” or “Adobe shockwave player” installed in their computers the first week of classes.

* Learners **MUST** install LockDown Browser for taking quizzes and the final exam.

* Learners **MUST** install LockDown Browser to take the syllabus quiz and to be able to see the material of week 1

<https://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=165715487>)

Important:

- Please notice that LockDown Browser is not available for Chromebook.
- Please use FireFox while you are working in your assignments and discussions.
- For the syllabus quiz, the other quizzes and the final exam you need LockDown Browser
- **The University has iPads available at Willis Library ready for check out. These devices have access to LockDown Browser and work perfectly for quizzes and exams.**
- **The computers in Sage Hall 330 have LockDown Browser.**
- **The desktop computers at Willis Library/BLB do not have LockDown Browser, but they are good to work on assignments and discussions.**
- Please make sure you download the right version of Lockdown Browser in your computer (Mac or Windows)
- Follow the protocol provided in the course to install Lockdown Browser.
- Once you have the icon of Lockdown Browser on your desktop, close all the programs and open this course in Lockdown Browser to complete the Syllabus Quiz.
- Willis library has laptop computers and routers for check out.

Note: 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.

Please notice that the quizzes open on Sundays and close on Tuesdays. For example. Quiz 1 opens on Sunday January 19 and closes on January 21. All the quizzes require LockDown Browser. Install Lockdown Browser ASAP! Contact your TA in case of questions regarding Lockdown Browser.

* 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

Assignments, Quizzes, and Discussions:

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) or for any other purpose. Please see section of “Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty.” ***Turnitin will catch instances of plagiarism. 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.

All of the assignments and discussions 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 8 quizzes and one final comprehensive exam. The quizzes and final exam will require “LockDown Browser”. Please refer to the “Required textbook, materials and software” section for the “LockDown Browser” link
- 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 exam opens at 3:00 pm and closes at 7:00 pm. You can not start your exam at 7:00 pm. The latest time you can start the exam and have one hour is at 6:00 pm. The exam time is 60 minutes from the moment you start it, so please plan accordingly.

- **There is only one attempt per quiz and 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 quiz grades will be dropped

Discussions registration protocol:

1. Find the welcome email that Packback sent you to your unt email address. That email will contain a link to reset your password to join the right BIOL1112 community.
2. Follow the prompts to create your account, if applicable.
3. Once you fully log in you will be taken to “my communities page”
4. When you click “join community”, your BIOL1112 section will show up. Click “join”
5. Input payment information. Packback costs \$15 dollars for this course.
6. Once you finish the registration you have full access to the community and can start posting
7. Follow the guidelines and dates of this syllabus for your posts.
8. It is the student’s responsibility to register and join the community in order to participate in the discussions and receive a discussion grade. Students should reach holla@packback.co for assistance or questions related to registration. You can expect a response within 24 hours.

Note: you should be able to complete steps 2-8 directly from Canvas by clicking “Packback” in our Canvas Course.

Every discussion assignment is slightly different on any given week. Every other discussion, **you’ll be asking an original question**. Every discussion, you’ll always be responding to questions. See below for the schedule!

SUMMER 2020				
Discussion No.	Modules	Students with this first letter in your last name will post your <u>original question</u> before this deadline	Deadline to post the Original question	When the module closes (All the responses should be done before this date)
1	Modules 1, 2	A to M	May 15	May 19
		N to Z	Not Required	May 19
2	Modules 3, 4	N to Z	May 22	May 26
		A to M	Not Required	May 26
3	Modules 5, 6	A to M	May 29	June 2
		N to Z	Not Required	June 2
-	Modules 7, 8	NO DISCUSSIONS	-	-
4	Modules 9, 10	N to Z	June 12	June 16
		A to M	Not Required	June 16
5	Modules 11, 12	A to M	June 19	June 23

		N to Z	Not Required	June 23
6	Modules 13, 14	N to Z	June 26	June 30
		A to M	Not Required	June 30

(To be successful, you will need to complete the readings and assignments before participating in the discussion!)

If it's your week to post an original Question (see chart above)

1. Ask your own discussion question on the feed related to the modules! Click "ask a new question" on the main Packback feed. Now you've posted a question for your peers to respond to! This one original question is due at the date/time listed above (see "Deadline to post the Original question")
2. Write three responses to three peer questions. These responses can directly answer the peer question (click "add response"), or can be a counterpoint/supporting point to an already existing peer response (click "add supporting point" or "add counterpoint"). These three responses are due at the date/time listed above (see "When the module closes")
3. To receive full credit, you need to elaborate and justify both your original question and your 3 responses with a minimum of 100 words each. Short answers will not count as a post. Links to factual, valid, and reliable outside resources are a plus!
4. See Table 1 below for grading criteria

If it's not your week to ask an original question, you're still posting! Follow these instructions:

1. Write four responses to four peer questions. These responses can directly answer the peer question (click "add response"), or can be a counterpoint/supporting point to an already existing peer response (click "add supporting point" or "add counterpoint").
2. To receive full credit, you need to elaborate and justify your responses with a minimum of 100 words each. Short answers will not count as a post. Links to factual, valid, and reliable outside resources are a plus!
3. These four responses are due at the date/time listed above (see "When the module closes")
4. See Table 2 below for grading criteria

Discussion Assignment grading criteria:

Table 1 - Discussion Assignment *During your question week*		
Description	Points	Total Points
Write three responses to the three peer questions. These responses can directly answer the peer question (click “add response”), or can be a counterpoint/supporting point to an already existing peer response (click “add supporting point” or “add counterpoint”).	20 each	60
Ask your own discussion question on the feed related to the modules! Click “ask a new question” on the main feed. Now you’ve posted a question for your peers to respond to!	20	20
Average Curiosity Score – You will receive an additional 20 points if your average curiosity score for the assignment interval is a 50 or above. You will always be able to achieve a 50 as long as your posts have 100+ words and you cite a source (outside article, journal, video, module, or textbook)	20	20
Only use this table when you're required to ask your own question. If it's not your week to post a question, refer to table 2.		100

Table 2 - Discussion Assignment Grading Rubric		
Description	Points	Total Points
Write four responses to four peer questions. These responses can directly answer the peer question (click “add response”), or can be a counterpoint/supporting point to an already existing peer response (click “add supporting point” or “add counterpoint”).	20 each	80
Average Curiosity Score – You will receive an additional 20 points if your average curiosity score for the assignment interval is a 50 or above. You will always be able to achieve a 50 as long as your posts have 100+ words and you cite a source (outside article, journal, video, module, or textbook)	20	20
Only use this table when you're not required to post an original question. Please see Table 1 for posting requirements during your question week		100

Revision of Grades and Late Assignment Policy:

- Once the grades are released, the student has 5 working days to request the review of the assignment and grade. After 5 days no revisions and/or grade changes will be considered.
- The student’s request needs to be sent to Dr. Thompson copying the Online Administrator and TA using Canvas’ email ONLY.
- The revision will be done by the Online Administrator; then reported and approved by Dr. Thompson.

- After a revision, a new grade and feedback will be reported for the corresponding assignment as official and final. The first grade and feedback are automatically cancelled, even though that grade might be higher than the second grade.

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.

Student Support:

If you have any questions regarding your use of the Canvas learning management system, please contact the Canvas student help desk at: Email: helpdesk@unt.edu, Phone: 940.565.2324. Please visit their website for hours of operation <http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>

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.

Accommodating Students with Special Learning Needs: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) website is <https://www.unt.edu/oda>, their e-mail is apply.ODA@unt.edu, and their phone number is (940) 565-4323. If you require special accommodation please contact ODA office as soon as possible. You must submit an ODA letter to your TA at the beginning of the semester so accommodation can be provided as early as possible.

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.

Course Schedules and Drops within the First Week of Class: It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of all University of North Texas policies and deadlines for dropping courses or withdrawing. For more information on UNT Add/Drop procedures, please visit the UNT Registrar's page at <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html>.

F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses:

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G)" and can be found buried within this document: <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&TYPE=TEXT>.

The paragraph reads: Federal Regulations continued

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is not a contract; Dr. Thompson 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.

Grading Policy:

Quizzes (8)	20%
Final Exam (1)	20%
Discussions (8)	10%
Assignments (14)	50%

Grade distribution:

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

Contemporary Biology (BIOL 1112) SUMMER 2020

List of assessments with dates and supporting reading materials

Start by reading the "Start Here" module and syllabus.

Sign the course policy agreement ([It requires LockDown Browser](#)) BEFORE starting with the Modules.

All the Quizzes and final exam [require LockDown Browser](#) and must be taken AFTER completing the Module(s) assignments.

Day the module opens / Module DUE by date (closes at 11:59 pm)		Name of the chapter/Topic	Assessments	
Module 1	May 11-May 19	How cells are studied and comparing cells/ Soil properties and the relationship to plant selection and health. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 3.1-3.3	Module 1 assignment Quiz 1	Discussion 1
Module 2		The Cell Membrane and Transport/Movement of water and minerals in plants. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 3.4-3.6	Module 2 assignment Quiz 2	
Module 3	May 20-May 26	Photosynthesis/Obtaining energy for Life. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 5	Module 3 assignment	Discussion 2
Module 4		Population Ecology & Ecosystems/Food Chains & Food Webs. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 19-20.1	Module 4 assignment	
Module 5	May 27-June 2	Eukaryotic cells and the cell membrane/Identify major cell structures & the roll of the cell membrane. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 3.3-3.4	Module 5 assignment Quiz 3	Discussion 3
Module 6		Structure & Function of DNA/Illustrate, label, explain, describe and identify DNA & the Mitotic Cell Cycle. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 9-9.4	Module 6 assignment Quiz 4	
Module 7	June 3-June 9	Gene Regulation & Inheritance/Genetic principles. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 9.5 & Ch. 8	Module 7 assignment Quiz 5	
Module 8		Cellular Reproduction/The Meiotic Cell Cycle & Sex-linked inheritance. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 7	Module 8 assignment Quiz 6	
Module 9	June 10-June 16	The Process of Evolution/Causes & evidence of evolution. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 11	Module 9 assignment	Discussion 4
Module 10		The Body's Systems/Digestion & Nutrition. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 16	Module 10 assignment	
Module 11	June 17-June 23	Healthy Living.	Module 11 assignment Quiz 7	Discussion 5
Module 12		Disease prevention. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 17.1-17.4	Module 12 assignment	
Module 13	June 24-June 30	Cancer & the Cell Cycle/Roles, risks, & relationships. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 6.3	Module 13 assignment Quiz 8	Discussion 6
Module 14		Biotechnology/Biomedical Advances. Supporting Chapter: Ch. 10	Module 14 assignment	
FINAL EXAM	July 3	FINAL EXAM - PLEASE NOTICE THE EXAM IS ON FRIDAY July 3, 2020 . Pick 60 minutes from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm ONLY. You cannot start the exam at 7 pm. There is an ESSAY question in the final – You need to plan your time accordingly!		

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.

UPDATED: 11 MAY 2020