BIOLOGY FOR SCIENCE MAJORS II
BIOL 1720.003 – Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ed Mager; EESAT 310L; Tel: 940-369-8392; E-mail: Edward.Mager@unt.edu

LECTURE HOURS AND PLACE: MWF 8:00 PM to 8:50 AM (ENV 110)

STUDENT HOURS AND LOCATIONS: I will be available to answer students' questions regarding course material during student hours (TBD) held within the Life Sciences Resource Center (LSRC) in Hickory Hall 266 or by appointment in my office (ENV 310L, in-person or via Zoom). Students should feel free and are strongly encouraged to contact me if they have any difficulties or need further explanation of the material. **Please take advantage of my student hours. I want you to succeed and am here to help you learn.**

OBJECTIVES: This course is designed for science majors who are interested in general biology. During the course of this semester, we will emphasize animal and plant biology and ecology, and introduce you to the microbial world. The intent of the course is to provide a strong background in general biology that will allow you to perform well in higher-level courses in the life sciences.

WEBSITE: https://unt.instructure.com/login/ldap (Canvas) is the official web portal to this course. Please check this website regularly as it will contain updates to the syllabus, lecture slides, course announcements and potentially other files (e.g., supplementary videos). It is recommended that you go to the website before each lecture to access the PowerPoint or PDF files to use as note taking aids. Students are responsible for checking for announcements. It is highly recommended that you select notifications as 'on' in your Canvas settings.

REQUIRED TEXT: Campbell Biology in Focus, 4th Edition. There are hardcover print (ISBN-13: 9780138225216) and eTextbook (ISBN-13: 9780138272579) options available.

While not an official text for this course, an alternative open-source PDF textbook of OpenStax Biology 2e is available for free download at the following website: https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e.

Further resources for this course are also available in the Course Guide at: https://guides.library.unt.edu/c.php?g=69943&p=452511.

GRADING: Grades will be calculated based on a total of 500 points, 400 points for exams, 50 points for weekly Canvas quizzes and 50 points for iClicker participation.

Exams (400 pts): Students will take three multiple choice style exams during the semester and a final exam during finals week (four exams total; 100 pts each). The final exam is not comprehensive and will only cover the material presented after the third exam. Exams will only assess knowledge of topics specifically covered in lectures and from material included on the PowerPoint slides provided in Canvas. Note that the PowerPoint slides in Canvas will likely contain more slides/information than is covered in class. I will be using lectures to focus on the more challenging materials and will therefore omit some slides during lectures; however, ALL

material on the Canvas slides will be required learning material and will thus be fair game for the exam.

- **Examination Policy:** <u>A current and valid photo ID is required at all exams</u>. No student will be admitted twenty minutes after the start of an exam and no student may leave during the first thirty minutes of the exam. All notes and books should be stowed away during exams. In addition, all computers, phones, and other electronics must be turned off and stowed during the exam.

- **Make-up Exams:** Exams may only be missed under extenuating circumstances and must be accompanied by evidence of those circumstances. Make-up exams must be arranged as soon as possible, preferably before the missed exam, including the final. Incompletes will only be assigned under extenuating circumstances when a student has a C average or above on coursework taken to date.

Weekly Quizzes (50 pts): A total of 12 weekly quizzes (5 pts each) will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester. Each quiz will be administered entirely on Canvas and will be available from 9:00 AM on Friday until 8:00 AM on Monday of the following second week; that is, each quiz will be open for **10 days** for students to submit their answers. The lowest two scores for quizzes will be dropped when calculating final grades. Thus, quizzes will amount to a total of 50 points toward the final grade. Each quiz will focus on material covered during the lectures from the previous week. Two (2) attempts will be allowed per quiz and the highest score will be recorded. Therefore, **students should study before attempting to take each quiz**. Correct answers for each quiz will be revealed on 9:00 AM of the due date. If there is any indication that the student has cheated on a quiz, the incident will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity for further review. **There are no make-up opportunities for missed quizzes under any circumstances.** This includes missing a quiz due to a technical issue with your electronic device or internet access. You will have ample time (10 days) to complete each quiz so it is highly recommended that you do not wait until that last moment to complete the quiz in case you encounter a problem with your device or internet service. If you miss a quiz for any reason, it will count toward one of your two dropped quizzes.

iClicker Participation (50 pts): Twenty-eight (28) random lectures, excluding review and exam days, will include iClicker polling sessions with a total of 2 participation points to be awarded for each lecture. To receive the 2 points, you must answer **ALL** questions posed for that lecture. Participation in only twenty-five (25) is required to obtain the full 50 points; however, if you complete more than 25, those points will still be counted and will in essence serve as extra credit (for a max of 6 extra credit points). Stated otherwise, this means you will be permitted to miss 3 iClicker sessions during the semester. This is to help account for any family emergencies, traffic incidences, or if your polling device fails in class and you forget to inform me at the end of class, etc. Answers to <u>ALL</u> polling sessions must be submitted **while in class**. Only participation is required to obtain the 2 points; you will not be penalized for incorrect answers. If you lose your device used for iClicker, or it malfunctions, you must inform me at the end of class and sign your name on the missed iClicker sheet for that day. To ensure that a student cannot sign-in for an absent student (which would be consider cheating and violations of academic integrity for both students), a photo ID must be shown if you need to sign the missed iClicker sheet at the end of class. Your student ID, driver license or other government-issued ID with a photo will suffice.

- **iClicker Cheating:**   Please note that the misuse of iClicker will be considered a violation of proper student conduct and will be treated as cheating. For this class, iClicker is to be used as a learning tool by you _**in the classroom**_. Misuse would include submitting answers for a friend who is not in attendance in class, submitting answers when you are absent, having someone else submit answers for you when you are absent, or any other use of iClicker by which you are not submitting your own work in class.

Grades will be assigned according to the earned point distribution listed below:

Grade	Total Points (500 pts)
A	≥ 450
B	400 to 449
C	350 to 399
D	300 to 349
F	≤ 300

iCLICKER: Engagement, participation and interaction are important elements of the learning process. To that end, we will be using iClicker, so each student must be registered with iClicker and have a device (laptop, smartphone or tablet) for polling responses for this course.

Because iClicker is flexible across devices, you may participate by choosing one of these 2 options:

(1) iClicker app: You may use your own smartphone or tablet by downloading the app available for iOS and Android
(2) iClicker website: https://student.iclicker.com/#/login (links to an external site) for browser-based use

With either option, you will create an account with iClicker, select University of North Texas as your institution, and enter your EUID in the Student ID (optional) space. You may also join using the following direct link: https://join.iclicker.com/RFLN.

To add the course to your iClicker list, log into Canvas using a browser and click the link in this course. You'll be directed to your iClicker account. Log in as needed and the course will appear in your personal list.

Click on the course and JOIN when we are in session. Connecting via wifi in UNT classrooms is highly recommended.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

It is difficult to obtain all the information presented in lectures unless students attend lecture. Lectures may deviate from the textbook and from material made available on Canvas as seen fit by your instructor. It cannot be stressed enough the importance of attending class, paying

attention, and taking notes during class. *Historically, instructors for this course have found that if students do not attend class, they should expect to do poorly.* Visit the University of North Texas' Attendance Policy (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-039) to learn more.

Rules of Engagement: General guidelines for interacting with each other and the instructor when online.

- PLEASE: always use your **UNT email address** or Canvas to reach me by email. This is the only way that I can verify that the email is really coming from you and not an imposter.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you."
- Use standard fonts such as Ariel, Calibri or Times new Roman and use a size 10 or 12 point font.
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING.
- Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or J since not all technology display emoticons.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail.

See these guidelines (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

GETTING HELP:

Free Tutoring: Free tutoring (scheduled one-on-one or drop-in) is available for this course. Please visit the following website for more information:
https://learningcenter.unt.edu/tutoring

Supplemental Instruction (SI): Your SI Leader for this course is TBD, but I will update as soon as I have the information. A list of available SI sessions provided by your SI leader will be uploaded to Canvas at the beginning of the semester. If you are unavailable at those times, students are welcome to attend SI sessions for any other section of the course. A schedule of SI sessions is available at the following website: https://learningcenter.unt.edu/supplemental-instruction-schedule.

Technical Assistance: If a student does not have a computer, laptops are available for students to checkout at Willis Library (first floor entrance) or at University Information Technology (UIT) Student Computer Lab in Sage Hall, but they must plan accordingly (UNT ID required). We also have a Student Help Desk at UNT that students can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues:

UIT Help Desk: https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk (support hours provided on website)
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu; **Phone**: 940-565-2324; **Live Chat:** https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk/chatsupport

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130 (Walk-in availability: 8am-9pm)

UNT POLICIES:

Academic Integrity Policy: Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Visit University of North Texas' Student Academic Integrity Policy: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003 to obtain additional information.

ADA Policy: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

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 public health safety emergencies such as fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Class Recordings: In the event that a lecture(s) needs to be recorded, please note that such recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Audio and video recordings of lectures by students are NOT allowed unless previous consent is obtained from the University and your instructor. Failing to follow these restrictions is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

LABORATORY: Students must enroll in a laboratory section of Biology 1760 to obtain credit for a laboratory science.

LECTURE AND EXAM SCHEDULE: Note that the schedule below is subject to change in cases where the university closes, etc. I will do all I can to ensure that the exams fall on the dates listed below. Based on our pace, the dates for which we cover specific material may change. Any changes to the syllabus will be posted and announced in Canvas.

BIOL 1720-003 - BIOLOGY FOR SCIENCE MAJORS II
SPRING 2026
Ed Mager, PhD

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter Reading
1	12-Jan	Introduction and Syllabus / Pre-test (non-graded)	
	14-Jan	The Animal Body: Basic Form and Function	32.1
	16-Jan	The Animal Body: Basic Form and Function	32.3
2	19-Jan	MLK Holiday – No Class	
	21-Jan	Animal Nutrition and the Digestive System	33
	23-Jan	The Nervous System	37
3	26-Jan	The Nervous System	37 & 38.1
	28-Jan	Sensory Systems	38.4 – 38.6
	30-Jan	The Endocrine System	32.2
4	2-Feb	The Endocrine System	32.2
	4-Feb	Muscles	39.1
	6-Feb	*Overflow and Review*	
5	**9-Feb**	**Exam 1**	
	11-Feb	The Respiratory System	34.5 – 34.6
	13-Feb	The Respiratory System	34.6 – 34.7
6	16-Feb	The Circulatory System	34.1 – 34.2
	18-Feb	The Circulatory System	34.3 – 34.4
	20-Feb	Osmotic Regulation and Excretion	32.4
7	23-Feb	Osmotic regulation and Excretion	32.5
	25-Feb	The Immune System	35.1 – 35.2
	27-Feb	The Immune System	35.2 – 35.3
8	2-Mar	Animal Reproduction and Development	36
	4-Mar	*Overflow and Review*	
	6-Mar	**Exam 2**	
9	9-Mar	Spring Break – No Class	
	11-Mar	Spring Break – No Class	
	13-Mar	Spring Break – No Class	
10	16-Mar	Viruses	17
	18-Mar	Prokaryotes: Bacteria and Archaea	24
	20-Mar	Protists and Fungi	25, 26.2 & 26.5
11	23-Mar	Plant Diversity	26.1 & 26.3
	25-Mar	Plant Diversity	26.4
	27-Mar	Plant Form: Structure, Growth and Development	28.1 – 28.2
12	30-Mar	Plant Form: Structure, Growth and Development	28.3 – 28.4
	1-Apr	Plant Nutrition, Resource Acquisition and Transport	29
	3-Apr	Plant Nutrition, Resource Acquisition and Transport	29
13	6-Apr	*Overflow and Review*	
	8-Apr	**Exam 3**	
	10-Apr	Angiosperm Reproduction	30.1 – 30.3

	13-Apr	Plant Responses to Internal & External Signals	31
14	15-Apr	Ecology and the Biosphere	40.1 – 40.3
	17-Apr	Population Ecology	40.4 – 40.6
	20-Apr	Community Ecology	41
15	22-Apr	Ecosystems	42
	24-Apr	Conservation Biology and Biodiversity	43.1 – 43.3
	27-Apr	Conservation Biology and Biodiversity	43.4 – 43.6
16	29-Apr	*Review*	
	1-May	Reading Day – No Class	
17	4-May	**Final Exam (7:30 – 9:30 AM)**	

Schedule is tentative and may change without notice.
IMPORTANT: 10 April – Last day to drop the course with a grade of W. Remember that you can only drop 6 courses during your undergraduate career.
See: http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class