

BIOLOGY for SCIENCE MAJORS II - Biology 1720.004 - Spring 2026
Syllabus and Course Policy - January 5, 2026

INSTRUCTORS:

January 12 – March 6:

Dr. Feng Gu

Contact: email: feng.gu@unt.edu

Office: Life Sciences Complex-Building B, Room 316

Office Hours: M/W: 11 AM-12 PM; LSC B316

March 16 – May 6:

Dr. Zacchaeus Compson

Contact: email: zacchaeus.compson@unt.edu

Office: EESAT 310J

Office Hours: M/W: 12:00-1:00 PM; Life Sciences Resource Center, HH 266

CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Please contact your instructor at their UNT assigned email. Please use your UNT assigned email when contacting your instructor. Your instructors will respond to your messages within two work days. In case of an emergency, send an email to the instructor and contact the Department of Biological Science office at (940) 565-3491.

CLASS MEETING DAY/TIME & PLACE: M/W/F 10:00 - 10:50 AM
LIFE A 204

WEBSITE: Canvas is located at: unt.instructure.com. Check this website regularly. It will contain updates to the syllabus and files of the basic slides used in class. It is recommended that you go to the website the day before each class to review the lecture as note-taking aids.

COURSE 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 that will allow you to take and do well in higher-level courses in the life sciences.

REQUIRED TEXT: Campbell Biology in Focus, 4th edition. It is available as Mastering Biology with eText (ISBN: 9780135370483), or as Mastering Biology with eText + discounted looseleaf of textbook (ISBN: 9780135370537).

While not an official textbook for this course, an alternative open-source PDF textbook of OpenStax Biology 2e is available for free download at the following website: [Free Biology 2e Textbook Available for Download - OpenStax](#).

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATION: It is difficult to obtain all the information presented in lectures unless you get it “first-hand” We cannot stress enough the importance of attending class. Historically we have found that if you do not attend class, you should expect to do poorly in this course. On-the-spot iClicker quizzes will be given during the lectures and worth 40 points. There are no make-ups for iClicker quizzes.

You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in UNT’s Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy ([UNT Policy 06.039 Student Attendance and Authorized Absences](#)). If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let your instructor know. Your safety and well-being are important. It is important that you communicate with the instructor prior to being absent, so you and the instructor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the instructor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

OFFICE HOURS: Office hours offer you an opportunity to ask for clarification or find support with understanding class material. Come visit your instructors. We encourage you to contact us for support. Your instructors are also available by appointment if you are unable to make it during office hours. **Take advantage of our office hours. We want you to succeed and are here to help you learn.**

SUPPORTING YOUR SUCCESS AND CREATING AN INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

Your instructors value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with us to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all and ensure a high-quality teaching and learning environment. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by our office and let us know. We are all learning together.

DISABILITIES: 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 accommodation 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 | University of North Texas](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

ASSESSING YOUR WORK:

1. **Exams:** You will take three exams during the semester and a final exam. These will be given in class and in person. The final exam is not comprehensive. It will cover the material presented after the third exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a total of **400 points** in the course. No exam grades will be dropped from the calculation of the final grade. Grades will be assigned according to the point system listed below. Grades will not be curved.
2. **Weekly Quizzes:** A total of 12 weekly quizzes (6 points each) will be administered throughout the semester via Canvas. Each quiz will be available from 11:00 AM on Friday until 10:00 AM on Monday of the following week, providing a 10-day window for submission. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped when calculating the final grade. As a result, quizzes will contribute a total of **60 points** toward the final course grade. Each quiz will assess material covered in the lectures from the preceding week. No make-up quizzes will be offered under any circumstances. Any suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity for further review.
3. **iClicker: 40 total points** are from class participation using iClicker. iClicker will be used to highlight main concepts and terminology. Each student must be registered for iClicker and have a device (computer, smartphone or tablet) for polling responses for this course. You will create an account with iClicker, enter your EUID (your Canvas login ID) in the Student ID (optional) space, select University of North Texas as your institution, and search for this course which is listed as follows: **BIOL 1720.004 Spring 2026**. Add this course to your iClicker course list. Click on the course and JOIN when we are in session. Connecting via Wi-Fi in UNT classrooms is highly recommended. The total number of points that you can earn during the semester is capped at 40. **To get a total of 2 participation points to be awarded for a class session you must answer at least 50% of the questions in class for the day. Only participation is required to obtain the point; you will not be penalized for incorrect answers.** If you lose your device used for iClicker, it malfunctions, or you lose internet connection, you may submit your responses on paper. Since you will have the opportunity to participate in more iClicker sessions than are required to reach 40, you can still build 40 points even if you miss a couple of classes. Further, because you will be given more than 40

points worth of polling sessions throughout the semester, you may not make up missed questions, regardless of whether you have forgotten to bring a response device, you are late to class, or you miss class. **Class participation/attendance will be based on the iClicker questions in class. Submitting answers to the iClicker questions from somewhere else other than the classroom will be considered academic dishonesty and a report will be filed with the Office of Academic Integrity.** If you have issues with iClicker during lectures (e.g. no internet connection), please sign the attendance roster at the end of the class.

The exams, weekly quizzes and iClicker provide a total of 500 points that you can earn for the semester. Grades will be assigned according to the point system listed below.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
A	450 and above
B	400 to 449
C	350 to 399
D	300 to 349
F	299 and below

Canvas is not set to calculate your course average. It is your responsibility to periodically check your scores and bring any discrepancies to the attention of your instructor. Do not leave it for the end of the semester.

MISSED 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. No make-up will be permitted for missed on-the-spot iClicker quizzes that will be administered during class.

CHEATING POLICY: All exams are **closed book exams** and are to be taken independently in class in-person during the scheduled exam time. Electronic devices must be turned off and stowed away during the exam. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, getting assistance from others, accessing the web, using electronic resources, or using notes during exam time. Cheating in this course will result in you receiving a zero for that grade opportunity and a note will be placed in your academic file. If caught cheating twice you will be permanently removed from this course and receive an 'F' grade for the course.

LECTURE & EXAM SCHEDULE: The lecture and exam schedule (see next page) is subject to change . Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and the class and examination schedule.

Also note that the instructors will do all they can to ensure that the exams are offered on the dates listed below. However, based on the pace of the lectures, the dates we cover specific material may change. Any major changes to the syllabus will be posted on Canvas.

BIOL1720.004 Spring 2026: Schedule
Note: This schedule is subject to change

Week	Day	Date	Topics	Reading	Lecturer
1	M	1/12	Introduction and Syllabus; Pre-test		Gu
	W	1/14	Form and Function + Homeostasis	32 (32.1, 32.3)	Gu
	F	1/16	Form and Function + Homeostasis	32 (32.1, 32.3)	Gu
2	M	1/19	No class: Martin Luther King Jr. Day		
	W	1/21	Animal Nutrition and Metabolism	33	Gu
	F	1/23	Animal Nutrition and Metabolism	33	Gu
3	M	1/26	Nervous System and Senses	37, 38	Gu
	W	1/28	Nervous System and Senses	37, 38	Gu
	F	1/30	Nervous System and Senses	37, 38	Gu
4	M	2/2	Hormones and the Endocrine System	32 (32.2)	Gu
	W	2/4	Muscles	39	Gu
	F	2/6	Muscles	39	Gu
5	M	2/9	Overflow		Gu
	W	2/11	Examination 1		
	F	2/13	Respiratory System	34 (34.5-34.7)	Gu
6	M	2/16	Respiratory System	34 (34.5-34.7)	Gu
	W	2/18	Circulatory System	34 (34.1-34.4)	Gu
	F	2/20	Circulatory System	34 (34.1-34.4)	Gu
7	M	2/23	Osmoregulation and Excretion	32 (32.4-32.5)	Gu
	W	2/25	Immune System	35	Gu
	F	2/27	Reproduction and Development	36	Gu
8	M	3/2	Reproduction and Development	36	Gu
	W	3/4	Overflow		Gu
	F	3/6	Examination 2		
9	M/W/F	3/9,11,13	No class: Spring break		
10	M	3/16	Viruses, Bacteria and Archaea	17, 24	Compson
	W	3/18	Viruses, Bacteria and Archaea	17, 24	Compson
	F	3/20	Protists and Fungi	25, 26 (26.2)	Compson
11	M	3/23	Protists and Fungi	25, 26 (26.2)	Compson
	W	3/25	Plant Diversity	26 (26.1, 26.3-26.5)	Compson
	F	3/27	Plant Form and Function	28	Compson
12	M	3/30	Angiosperm Reproduction	30	Compson
	W	4/1	Overflow		Compson
	F	4/3	Examination 3		Compson
13	M	4/6	Plant Nutrition, Resource Acquisition and Transport	29	Compson
	W	4/8	Plant Nutrition, Resource Acquisition and Transport	29	Compson
	F	4/10	Plant Responses to Internal and External Signals	31	Compson
14	M	4/13	Plant Responses to Internal and External Signals	31	Compson
	W	4/15	Population Ecology	40	Compson
	F	4/17	Ecological Communities	41	Compson
15	M	4/20	Ecological Communities	41	Compson
	W	4/22	Ecosystems and Energy	42	Compson
	F	4/24	Ecosystems and Energy	42	Compson
16	M	4/27	Conservation Biology	43	Compson
	W	4/29	Overflow and Review; Post-test		Compson
	F	5/1	No class: Reading day		Compson
17	S	5/2	Final Exam 7:30 – 9:30 AM		Compson