BIOL 1710.001 Biology for Science Majors I Syllabus, Summer 2026

Meeting times and location

Mon-Thurs 8:00 -9:50AM in LIFE A106

Instructor information

Dr. Joy Ogbechi
Office: UNT – Denton LSC B 116
Email: joy.ogbechi@unt.edu
Office Hours: Available Mon-Thurs after class. Please email me to confirm location.

How to contact me

Email is the best way to reach me. I typically respond to emails within 48 hours on weekdays. If your question requires a detailed discussion, please come to my office during scheduled office hours. If you are unable to attend during regular office hours, you may request an appointment via email. Keep in mind that other students may also be waiting to meet with me, so scheduling ahead will help ensure that we have sufficient time for your questions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

BIOL 1710 is an introductory biology course designed for science majors. The course introduces students to foundational principles that explain how living systems are organized, function, reproduce, and change over time. Emphasis is placed on the chemical and molecular basis of life, cell structure and function, energy transformation, inheritance, gene expression, and evolution. Students will develop a framework for connecting biological processes across molecular, cellular, organismal, and evolutionary levels.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe life at multiple levels of biological organization.
2. Explain how chemical and molecular principles contribute to biological structure and function.
3. Explain how classification systems help organize and compare biological diversity.
4. Describe cell structure, membrane function, transport processes, and cell signaling.
5. Explain how cells use energy through metabolism, cellular respiration, fermentation, and photosynthesis.
6. Describe how genetic information is inherited, stored, copied, and expressed.
7. Explain how evolution provides a framework for understanding biological diversity and relationships among organisms.

COURSE MODALITY & MATERIALS

Modality

This course will be delivered fully in person through face-to-face class meetings held four times per week, with each session lasting 110 minutes. There is no online teaching component for this course. Class time will include lectures, interactive discussions, group work, and active-learning activities designed to help students engage with and apply key biological concepts. Students should come to class prepared to participate regularly in individual and collaborative learning activities.

Recommended textbook

Students are encouraged to purchase Pearson Mastering Biology through Canvas. UNT has negotiated a special price for access to Mastering Biology. Students who purchase Mastering Biology will have access to Campbell Biology in Focus, 4th Edition by Urry, Cain, Minorsky, Orr, and Hull as an ebook, as well as helpful study tools that can support learning throughout the course. Students who would also like a physical copy may purchase an optional loose-leaf print version for $20 through Mastering Biology after gaining access.

Canvas
All **lecture slides, announcements and grades** will be posted on **Canvas**. You are expected to check Canvas **daily** for updates, as important course information will be communicated through this platform.

iClicker
Engagement, participation, and interaction are important elements of the learning process. We will use **iClicker** in this course, so each student must be registered and have a device (computer, smartphone, or tablet) ready for polling.
You may participate using:

- The **iClicker Student App** (iOS/Android)
- The **iClicker Website** (iclicker.com)
- An **iClicker Device**

When setting up your account, select **University of North Texas** as your institution and enter your **EUID** (Canvas login ID) in the *Student ID* field. Add this course to your list; it will appear each time you log in. Join the session at the start of class—connecting to UNT Wi-Fi is recommended.
Your iClicker participation counts toward your engagement grade. If you miss class, you miss that day's points; no make-ups will be given except in approved circumstances.

iClicker is to be used only for your own participation while present in class. Submitting responses for another student, having someone respond for you, or answering when absent is considered academic dishonesty and will be treated accordingly.

CLASS POLICIES
All students in the course are expected to know and follow these course policies. These policies are in place to ensure a respectful, fair, and productive learning environment.

Attendance

- Attendance will be recorded during each class session, and students will receive points for being present.
- Makeup work is not generally provided in this course. Exceptions will only be made when required by university policy, such as for approved University-excused absences. Students are responsible for notifying the instructor in advance whenever possible and providing appropriate documentation.

Classroom Conduct

- **Cell phones and other electronic devices** must be silenced during class.
- Laptops, tablets, or phones used for note-taking or iClicker participation must be used **only for class purposes**.
- Be respectful of your classmates' ability to learn and your instructor's ability to teach. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Exams

- Arrive at least **5 minutes before** the scheduled start time.
- At the instructor's discretion, students arriving late may not be allowed to take the exam.
- Once you begin the exam, **you may not leave the room and return**.
- All exams will be **closed-book, closed-notes**, unless otherwise specified.

Academic Integrity

- Each student must work **independently** on all assignments unless specifically instructed otherwise.
- **Academic dishonesty**, including cheating, plagiarism, and the use of AI tools to complete assignments will not be tolerated.
- Students found in violation may receive a **zero** on the activity, and possible removal from the course and/or a report to the **Dean of Students Office**.

- If you are found to have plagiarized or improperly used AI, you will also be **ineligible for extra credit** for the remainder of the semester.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

Success in this course depends on consistent engagement, active participation, and steady study habits. This is an accelerated summer course, which means we will cover material quickly and exams will often occur soon after the topics are taught. Because biology is cumulative, each topic builds on concepts introduced earlier, and falling behind can make later material much harder to understand. To give yourself the best chance of success:

- Attend every class
- Review lecture slides before class and take detailed notes during the lecture.
- Ask questions during class or email me if something is unclear.
- Study regularly
- Use office hours
- Form study groups

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Your final course grade will be based on a total of **1000 points**, distributed as follows:

- **Exam 1** – 200 points
- **Exam 2** – 200 points
- **Exam 3** – 200 points
- **Exam 4** – 200 points
- **In-class activities** – 100 points
- **iClicker questions** – 64 points
- **Attendance** – 2 points per class (36 total)

Course Grading Scale

Points	Letter grade
900+	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
<600	F

Exams

All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. The specific content covered on each exam will be announced before the exam date. Exam questions may be drawn from lectures, assigned readings, and in-class activities.

In-Class Activities

In-class activities will be used throughout the course to reinforce key concepts, support active learning, and help students keep up with the pace of the material. These activities may include discussions, short written responses, problem-solving exercises, concept checks, or other activities completed during class. When in-class activities are collected and graded, they will count toward the in-class activity portion of the final course grade. Because these activities are designed to support learning during class, students must be present and actively engaged to receive credit.

Extra Credit Opportunities

I may offer optional extra credit opportunities during the course. These activities are intended to give students additional ways to engage with the material, reinforce important concepts, and earn extra points toward their final grade. Because grades are not curved in this course, extra credit can be a helpful opportunity to improve your overall course performance. When extra credit opportunities are available, they will be announced in class and/or on Canvas, along with clear instructions, deadlines, and point values. Please note that extra credit opportunities are offered at

the instructor's discretion and may not always be available. Students are encouraged to take advantage of them when they are offered.

COURSE SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

WEEK	CHAPTER	TOPIC
1		Introduction
May	2	Chemical Context of Life
18–21	3	Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life
2		**May 25: Memorial Day Holiday — No class**
May		**Tue, May 26: Exam 1**
25–28	4,17, 24	Biological Diversity and Cell Structure
	5	Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling
3		**Mon, June 1: Exam 2**
June	6	An Introduction to Metabolism
1–4	7	Cellular Respiration and Fermentation
	8	Photosynthesis
4		**Mon, June 8: Exam 3**
June	9	The Cell Cycle
8–11	10	Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles
	11, 12	Mendel and the Gene Idea; Chromosomal Basis for Inheritance
5	13, 14	Molecular Basis of Inheritance and Gene Expression
June	19-23	Evolution
15–18		**Thu, June 18: Exam 4**

This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted based on the pace and needs of the class. Because this is an accelerated summer course, lecture or other course activities will also take place on exam days, except for Exam 4.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking 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 an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 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 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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

EAGLE ALERT & CALENDAR CHANGE STATEMENT

If UNT closes due to weather or emergency, you will be notified through Eagle Alert. The course schedule is subject to change.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Materials in this course are for enrolled students' use only and may not be shared, distributed, or retained beyond the semester.