

Biology for Science Majors I
BIOL 1710.008 Fall 2026
Cury 103
Tue/Thur 12:45PM - 2:05PM

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Joy Ogbechi

Office: Denton LSC B 116

Email: joy.ogbechi@unt.edu

Office Hours: Friday, 12:00–1:00 PM in LSRC (Hickory Hall). You may also email me to arrange an alternative time.

Textbook: *Campbell Biology in Focus*. 4th Edition, Urry, Cain, Minorsky, Orr and Hull. Published by Pearson, 2024

BIOLOGY COURSE FOR SCIENCE MAJORS:

BIOL 1710 is the first half of a two semester, 1st year Biology sequence designed for science majors, students who require a biology class which will meet the requirements for Biology majors (e.g. premedical or other pre-professional students who may be completing a non-biology major). The intent of this course sequence is to provide the student with a broad background in biology that can serve as a prerequisite for higher-level courses in the field. This course is not designed for non-science majors.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Campbell Biology in Focus. 4th Edition, Urry, Cain, Minorsky, Orr and Hull. Published by Pearson, 2024. Available in ebook or print copy. If you would like a print copy, the University has negotiated a special price. You can purchase a loose-leaf version for \$20 through Mastering Biology on Canvas. **To access the textbook and assignments associated with it, you have to purchase Pearson Mylab and Mastering package.**

Please check Canvas regularly for announcements, PowerPoints, reviews, assignments and any updates. It is your responsibility to check for announcements and to have the notifications on. Course materials provided in this course are reserved for use only by students in this class for educational purposes. These materials should not be shared outside the class in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This section of BIOL 1710 will utilize both face-to-face and online elements. Students must attend the face-to-face lecture meetings as assigned in the syllabus. Students must also complete online modules or activities by the stated deadlines. Online modules require that the student have access to a computer that has the minimum configuration and software needed to complete the course activities (on-campus computer labs are available for student use).

LABORATORY:

To earn laboratory science credit for this course you must also complete the associated laboratory course of BIOL 1760, Biology for Science Majors Laboratory. The laboratory class and its grade are completely independent of the lecture course grade. You may take the laboratory course in the same semester as the lecture or during a later semester.

CLASS POLICIES:

All students in the course are expected to know and follow these course policies:

Communication & Feedback

- Students should email the instructor with any questions or concerns as soon as they arise. Please don't wait until deadlines have passed or it is too late to remedy the situation. The instructor will respond to email within 24-48 hours (weekends and holidays excluded). The instructor will NOT respond to emails sent from outside of these accounts (such as Gmail, yahoo, etc.)
- Communication will be done via Canvas announcements, emails to your UNT email address, or in class. To avoid missing announcements, you should make sure that your Canvas settings are correct for receiving email notifications from Canvas. Please check your UNT emails and Canvas email regularly for time sensitive communication
- Students facing technical problems with course material or online assignments on Canvas should contact the instructor as early as possible before the deadline.
- All grades are posted within 7 days. The Canvas grade book is set up to calculate the student's grade throughout the semester. Please email the instructor with any questions about any grades, how assignments are graded, or how to calculate the course or lecture grade
- Connect with me through email and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, my inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact me and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.

Class Expectations

Respect for others is vital. As a student, you are expected to work individually and with others, to create an atmosphere that is safe, valuing one another, and open to diverse perspectives. Everyone is expected to show courtesy, civility, and respect for one another.

-Attendance is required at all lecture meetings. Attendance will be taken in class. Makeup work will only be provided for University Excused Absences and must be arranged in advance. Students with medical absences must provide documentation within 1 week of the absence and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be silenced during class meetings. If such a device should ring during lecture, the student must leave class immediately and will be considered absent for the remainder of the period (including any quizzes, graded activities, or exams given that day).

- Late work will not be accepted. Be sure you understand the due dates for all activities. Contact your instructor or TA immediately and before the deadline if you encounter any technical problems. For exams, be in your seat 5 minutes prior to exam start time. At instructor's discretion, students arriving late may not be allowed to take the exam. **You may not leave the exam and come back in.**

- Each student is expected to work independently on all assignments unless specifically instructed otherwise by the instructor. **Academic dishonesty (cheating) will not be tolerated.** Students found cheating may receive a "0" for the assignment and could be removed from the course and/or reported to the Dean of Students Office. I do occasionally offer short writing assignments for extra credit. These are to be your own work. Do not plagiarize, do not use AI. If you are determined to have done either of these, you will receive a zero on the assignment and be ineligible for extra credit for the remainder of the semester.

Unauthorized Aids During Examinations and Assessments. Students may use only those materials and resources that are expressly authorized by the instructor for a particular examination or assessment. Touching, holding, or accessing any unauthorized aid during the examination period constitutes a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, regardless of whether the aid is used.

Any item that may be considered an unauthorized aid must be kept out of view and in a closed container (e.g. zipped backpack, buttoned purse, etc.) during the entirety of the examination or assessment. Unless specifically authorized in writing by the instructor, prohibited aids include, but are not limited to:

- Mobile phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches and fitness trackers with communication, recording, or internet capabilities
- Tablets, laptops, and other computing devices
- Earbuds, headphones, and other audio devices
- Smart glasses, cameras, recording devices, and wearable technology
- Artificial intelligence (AI) tools, chatbots, and other generative AI technologies
- Notes, textbooks, study guides, formula sheets, or reference materials
- Any other device, material, or resource not expressly permitted by the instructor

Students are responsible for clarifying any questions about permitted materials before the examination begins.

-Homework. Homework is through Pearson's "Mastering Biology" program. **You will need to purchase this program through the bookstore or through Pearson directly.** Homework assignments will be linked through Canvas.

- 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 and have a device (computer, smartphone or tablet) for polling responses for this course. Because iClicker is flexible across devices, you may participate by choosing one of the options below:

iClicker app: You may use your own smartphone or tablet by downloading the app available for iOS and Android

iClicker website – iclicker.com – for browser-based use

iClicker device

With any of these options, you will create an account with iClicker, select University of North Texas as your institution, and enter your EUID (your Canvas login ID) in the Student ID (optional) space.

To add the course to your iClicker list. 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.

Your iClicker participation will be graded. If you miss class, you miss those questions. There is no makeup. (If you have extenuating circumstances, please notify me so that we may work together to ensure your success in learning the material.)

iClicker Academic Integrity: *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.

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 Accommodation (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.

COURSE SYLLABUS/TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Chapter
1	Syllabus and Introduction	
	The Study of Life	1
1	Chemical Context of Life	2
2	Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life	3
3	Tour of the Cell	4
4	Labor Day (No classes on Monday)	
	Viruses	17
4	Thursday, September 10th Exam 1	
5	Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling	5
6	Metabolism	6
7	Cellular Respiration	7
8	Photosynthesis	8
8	Thursday, October 8th Exam 2	
9	The Cell Cycle	9
10	Meiosis and Sexual Reproduction, Mendel and the Gene	10 11
11	Chromosomal Basis for Inheritance	12
12	Molecular Basis of Inheritance	13
12	Thursday, November 5th Exam 3	
13	Gene Expression	14
14	Gene Regulation Evolution	15 21
November 23–29	Thanksgiving Break	
15	Tuesday, December 1st Exam 4	
	Semester Review	
	Tuesday, Dec 8 Final Exam 1:00pm – 3:00pm	

Please note that this does not indicate the specific topics that will be covered on each exam. The content covered on each exam will be announced in advance in class and on Canvas.

GRADING:

Your course grade will consist of the following elements:

Homework and Activities	100 points
Examination #1	100 points
Examination #2	100 points
Examination #3	100 points
Examination #4	<u>100 points</u>
	500 points

The final exam is an optional cumulative exam that may be taken to replace your lowest grade from Exams 1, 2, 3, or 4.

****The cumulative final cannot be dropped**. If you choose to take it, the score will replace your lowest exam grade regardless of whether the final exam score is higher or lower.**

Grade in course:

Points	Percentage	Grade Letter grades assigned:
450+	90%+	A
400-449	80-89.9%	B
350-399	70-79.9%	C
300-349	60-69.9%	D
< 299	<60%	F

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

I may offer optional extra credit activities during the course. These activities are designed to give students additional opportunities to engage with the material, reinforce important concepts, and earn bonus points toward their final grade. Extra credit points are awarded **on top of the 500 points possible in the course**. Because extra credit is available to all students, **grades are not curved**, and additional opportunities for extra credit will not be provided beyond the opportunities offered during the semester.

Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class and/or on Canvas and will include clear instructions, deadlines, and point values. Because these opportunities are offered at the instructor's discretion, they may not always be available. Students are encouraged to take advantage of them when they are offered.

Once the available extra credit opportunities have been completed, no additional assignments, projects, or other opportunities will be offered to increase an individual student's final grade. Please keep this policy in mind when reviewing your final grade.