

BIOL 1760/1761: Biology for Science Majors Laboratory (& Honors Biology)

FALL 2025- SYLLABUS & POLICIES

Lab Manual:

Students do not need to buy lab manuals for this course. Documentations related to lab topics as well as instructional ppt will be uploaded on Canvas. Students will need to print out lab worksheets from Canvas Modules for the week for respective lab topics. However, the Openstax Biology textbook (see below) is highly recommended for a more detailed study of the topics.

Recommended Textbook:

Name: Biology 2e from OpenStax (www.openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e)

Print ISBN 1947172514 and Digital ISBN 1947172522

Course Description:

Biology for Science Majors Laboratory-BIOL1760/61, is the first course for students majoring in science or who are seeking to satisfy a portion of the Natural Sciences requirement of the University Core Curriculum.

Course Objectives:

This course aims to equip students with essential laboratory techniques, including microscopy and agarose gel electrophoresis, while grounding them in core principles of cell and molecular biology. Key areas of focus include biochemistry, cell structure and function, Mendelian genetics, and introductory biotechnology. Additionally, students will explore taxonomy, major animal phyla, fundamental mammalian anatomy and physiology, and significant plant phyla. The course also introduces scientific research methodologies.

However, although this is a portion of BIOL1710/1711 and 1720/1722 lectures, it is a standalone course, and students are expected to do the background material study for their labs themselves.

Prerequisite Credit or concurrent enrollment in BIOL 1710/11 and/or BIOL 1720/22.

STOP: If your major field of study does not require a science majors' laboratory course, speak to your Advisor about non-majors' course options: Biol 1122 or 1132.

Lab Policies:

Attendance-

- Students are expected to attend labs regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. Regular attendance in the lab is mandatory. In case of absence, you must contact your lab instructor within three days to obtain any missed information. You are responsible for acquiring notes from a classmate.
- It is important to inform the Supervisor and TA ahead of time if you anticipate being absent, so the impact on your learning goals can be addressed. If you are ill, please notify the Supervisor and TA to maintain the health and safety of our community.

- Students are required to attend the lab section they are enrolled in. Schedule changes must be completed during the revision period. Failure to adhere may result in the removal from the course with a grade of WF for non-attendance.
- After three absences, regardless of reason, the instructor reserves the right to drop you from the course with a grade of WF.
- Punctuality is essential. Arriving more than 20 minutes late will result in a zero for that lab. Repeated tardiness may prevent participation in lab activities.
- Attendance is crucial for learning. If a student fails to attend labs (without submitting valid documentation for excused absences) but completes online assignments, they will still receive a zero for those submissions.
- Make-up labs are not permitted. Please plan appointments outside of your scheduled lab times.

Expectations and Conduct:

The lab instructor/TA will upload all necessary background materials (manuals, virtual lab links, presentations, PDFs) and safety instructions on Canvas before each lab. Students must review these documents prior to attending lab sessions. In the lab, students are expected to actively participate in experiments and follow the TA's guidance.

To ensure a positive lab experience, students are expected to:

- Be aware of all university deadlines (e.g., Add/Drop periods) as listed on the UNT website. All schedule changes must occur during the revision period.
- Show respect for the instructor, TA, and classmates by adhering to the Student Code of Conduct and valuing differing opinions.
- Fully engage in lab activities and complete all online assignments, including pre-labs and quizzes etc. on Canvas.
- Follow all lab safety procedures. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from the lab for that session.
- Keep workstations clean and organized.
- Complete your own work on all graded assignments (quizzes, pre-labs, lab reports, and exams).
- Plan as there are no make-up assignments. Schedule appointments outside of lab times.
- Turn off cell phones and electronic devices before class begins, unless pre-approved.
- Keep personal conversations to non-class times to maintain focus during lab activities.

Course Technology Requirements:

- Laptops/PCs/tablets/I-pads (or other electronic devices) with Zoom Accessibility
- Headset/Microphone (if required for Zoom meetings)
- Microsoft Office Suite (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point)- Link for students to be able to access the free Microsoft Office download through UNT. <https://it.unt.edu/installoffice365>
- PDF- free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) (Links to an external site.)
- Adobe Premier Pro
- Internet Access with compatible web browser

Course Technical Skills Requirements:

- Ability to send and receive emails, including attaching and downloading files.
- Proficiency in navigating the learning management system (Canvas).
- Creating, sending, and receiving Microsoft Word and Excel documents.
- Printing Word documents or opening and printing PDF files when needed.

UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

Computer and Internet Literacy: http://clt.odu.edu/oso/index.php?src=pe_comp_lit

Necessary plug-ins: <http://goo.gl/1sVF>

Course Safety Statements:

Students must review the UNT safety rules (available at HealthAlerts.unt.edu) and consult the Safety Rules outlined in Canvas. Adherence to these safety rules is mandatory; students who fail to comply will be asked to leave the lab.

Students in the Department of Biological Sciences are strongly encouraged to follow proper safety procedures and guidelines. While participating in laboratory sessions, you are expected to identify and utilize safety measures for activities that involve lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, and handling chemical solutions and hot or cold products.

Please note that the University of North Texas is not liable for injuries incurred during class activities. All students are encouraged to obtain adequate insurance coverage in the event of an accidental injury. For those without insurance, Student Health Insurance is available, and brochures can be found at the UNT Health and Wellness Center on campus.

Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the UNT Health and Wellness Center, where rates are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If you have an insurance plan other than UNT's Student Health Insurance, please ensure it covers treatment at this facility. If you choose not to visit the UNT Health and Wellness Center, you may be transported to a local hospital's emergency room, and you will be responsible for all associated expenses.

Student Conduct and Discipline:

The primary concern of the University of North Texas is the student. The university attempts to provide, for all students, a campus environment that is conducive to academic endeavor and social and individual growth. To that end, rules, regulations and guidelines governing student behavior and the student's relationship with the university have been formulated into a student code of conduct and discipline. Enrollment at the University of North Texas is considered implicit acceptance of these and other policies applicable to students, all of which are educational in nature and designed to help students understand expectations and accept responsibility for their own actions. Additional information can be found in the Code of Student Conduct.

Class Attendance and Payment Policy:

To attend class, all fees must be paid in full. Please check your online schedule through the 12th day of classes to ensure you are not dropped from any course due to non-payment. Be aware that you may not realize a drop has occurred for reasons such as unapplied financial aid or schedule change fees. The Department of Biological Sciences does not reinstate students after the 12th class day, regardless of the

circumstances. It is your responsibility to confirm that all payments are made and that you are eligible to attend classes by the 12th class day.

Religious Holidays:

In accordance with Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code, the University of North Texas allows students who are absent for the observance of a religious holy day to take examinations or complete assignments scheduled for that day within a reasonable timeframe. Students must submit a written request to each professor by the 12th class day, indicating the dates of the anticipated absence in advance of the religious holiday to qualify for an excused absence. This allows for alternate arrangements to be made. A copy of the state rules and procedures regarding Holy Days, along with the notification form, is available from the Registrar's Office. Failure to notify the instructor in advance may result in a reduction of points.

Policy on Academic Misconduct (Academic Integrity Policy):

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Tests (exams, quizzes, etc.) are to be completed individually without the use of outside sources; they are not open books. Any student found cheating or exhibiting behaviors consistent with cheating—such as assisting others, talking during a testing event, sitting too close to other students, leaving answer sheets or screens uncovered, or submitting work that is not their own (including AI-generated content)—will receive a minimum penalty of zero for the graded item.

Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work as your own or reusing your own work from another class without permission. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited, and students who caught plagiarizing will receive a grade of zero for that assessment. In instances where a student copies another's work, both the student who copied and the student who shared their work will receive a zero. AI-generated work is also considered academic misconduct and will incur similar consequences. Self-plagiarism is regarded as plagiarism as well; please familiarize yourself with the issues surrounding self-plagiarism. More severe penalties may be imposed depending on the circumstances. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Policy on Disability Accommodations:

The University of North Texas is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. To seek accommodation, students must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. Once verified, the ODA will provide an accommodation letter, which should be delivered to the faculty to initiate a private discussion about your specific needs in the course. Accommodation may be requested at any time; however, it is advisable to submit ODA notices as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Students must obtain a new accommodation letter each semester and meet with each faculty member or supervisor prior to implementation in each class. Note that ODA accommodation will only begin once the ODA paperwork for the course is received. For more information, please visit the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda> or contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Copyright Notice:

Some or all materials in this course may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption applies. For additional information about copyright policies, please visit: <http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies>.

Release of Grades:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (1974) does not permit faculty or staff to report grades by phone or email.

Emergency Procedures:

UNT utilizes a system called Eagle Alert to promptly notify students with critical information in emergencies (such as severe weather, campus closures, or health and safety threats like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans regarding course materials. If the Canvas is inaccessible during an emergency, you may contact me via email for further information.

Instructor Rights:

The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule, assignments, and/or evaluation criteria throughout the semester. Any changes made will be announced via Canvas announcements with an updated version.

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment so that you can learn and grow. As an instructor I am committed to helping you succeed as a student. To learn more visit unt.edu/success and explore unt.edu/wellness.

Lab Supervisor: Nathan Peterson; nathaniel.peterson@unt.edu

BIOLOGY 1760/61-BIOLOGY FOR SCIENCE MAJORS LABORATORY (& HONORS BIOLOGY)
FALL 2025- ASSESSMENT & GRADING

Canvas:

All course materials, including the syllabus, lab schedule, and other content, will be posted on Canvas. Your instructor will regularly update announcements, assignments, and grades on this platform. Please log in to Canvas as soon as possible to familiarize yourself with accessing announcements, grades, and course materials.

Attendance in the lab is crucial for your learning. If you do not attend lab sessions (without submitting excused documentation for your absence) but complete online assignments (e.g., pre-labs, quizzes, exams, lab reports due in Canvas), you will receive a grade of zero for those online submissions. Students will not

be allowed to enter the lab more than 20 minutes after the start time and will receive a grade of zero for that session.

Remember to follow the pacing guide available on Canvas and refer to the schedule document. This schedule is designed to help you learn at a pace that supports content retention.

All pre-labs, quizzes, and exams will be administered online on Canvas. Students are responsible for knowing the due dates for all graded materials.

Assessment:

- A. **Pre-lab Grades:** Pre-lab assignments, worth up to 4 points, must be completed by the due date. Late submissions will receive a grade of zero, regardless of the reason. Pre-labs must be submitted before your scheduled lab time.
- B. **Lab Grades:** Lab grades, also worth up to 4 points, are based on attendance and student performance during in-person labs. Lab grades are distributed as follows: Attendance + Participation/Performance + Lab Safety + Cleaning Lab Stations. These grades must be completed during lab time; late submissions will receive a grade of zero. No online submission is required for lab grades.
- C. **Quizzes:** Five quizzes, each worth up to 10 points, will be administered during the semester through Canvas. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.
- D. **Lab Exams:** Two lab exams, each worth up to 20 points, will be given during the semester via Canvas. Exam questions may include various formats, such as short answer, labeling diagrams, drawing, identification, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank. Lab exams cannot be made up.
- E. **Research Project Participation:** Attendance and full participation in all research project activities (and related assignments) are prerequisites for receiving credit and for writing the Research Project Lab Report.
- F. **Research Project Lab Report:** This report, worth up to 40 points, is due for submission on Canvas after completing the research project.
- G. **Course Completion:** All elements of the course must be completed to pass.
- H. **Grade Records:** Grades will be maintained on Canvas. Students should retain all graded items in case of technological failure or grade disputes, as the burden of proof falls on the student.

Note: The TA reserves the right to deduct points for any failure to comply with the policies outlined in the syllabus, departmental guidelines, or the University of North Texas Bulletin.

Grade Distribution:

- Pre-Lab Grades (10 @ 4 pts) = 40 points
- Lab Grades (10 @ 4 pts) = 40 points
- Quizzes (4 @ 10 pts) = 40 points
- Lab Exams (2 @ 20 pts) = 40 points
- Research Project Lab Report (1 @ 40 pts) = 40 points

Total Possible Points = 200

Grade Weight:

- Pre-Lab Grades: 20%
- Lab Grades: 20%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Lab Exams: 25%
- Research Project Lab Report: 15%

Grading Scale:

- **A:** 90-100% (Outstanding; performance well above minimum criteria.)
- **B:** 80-89% (Good; performance above minimum criteria.)
- **C:** 70-79% (Solid; meets course criteria.)
- **D:** 60-69% (Below average; fails to meet minimum criteria.)
- **F:** 59% and below (Sub-par; fails to complete the course.)

Extra Credit:

Extra credit opportunities are built into the grading assessment. Please do not request additional extra credit.

Grade-Related Policies:

Late work will not be accepted on this course. Students are responsible for knowing the due dates for all graded materials. Any work submitted after the deadline will receive a grade of zero, unless a university-excused absence is documented within 48 hours of the missed deadline.

If you miss an assignment/exam for one of the following reasons, contact the Lab Supervisor immediately to discuss options for making up missed grades:

- Participation in a sponsored university activity (requires prior notice and an authorized absence card from the Dean of Students Office).
- Observance of a religious holiday (must notify the instructor in writing within the first 12 days of the semester).
- Qualified medical excuse or the death of an immediate family member (documentation required; contact the instructor within three days of absence).

Grade Disputes:

Students must wait 24 hours before contacting the TA to dispute a grade (TA contact information is available on Canvas). During this time, you should review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of your submitted work. Any grade disputes must be addressed during the TA's office hours, not during lab class sessions. If you would still like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment with the TA via email on Canvas, providing specific examples that demonstrate why you believe you deserve a higher

grade. The TA will only discuss grades individually, not in groups. If you do not contact the TA to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving the grade, you forfeit your right to dispute it.

Policy on Academic Misconduct (Academic Integrity Policy):

Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Tests (exams, quizzes, etc.) are to be completed individually without the use of outside sources; they are not open books. Any student found cheating or exhibiting behaviors consistent with cheating—such as assisting others, talking during a testing event, sitting too close to other students, leaving answer sheets or screens uncovered, or submitting work that is not their own (including AI-generated content)—will receive a minimum penalty of zero for the graded item.

Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work as your own or reusing your own work from another class without permission. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited, and students caught plagiarizing will receive a grade of zero for that assessment. In instances where a student copies another's work, both the student who copied and the student who shared their work will receive a zero. AI-generated work is also considered academic misconduct and will incur similar consequences. Self-plagiarism is regarded as plagiarism as well; please familiarize yourself with the issues surrounding self-plagiarism. More severe penalties may be imposed depending on the circumstances. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Release of Grades:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (1974) does not permit faculty or staff to report grades by phone or email.

Instructor Rights:

The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule, assignments, and/or evaluation criteria throughout the semester. Any changes made will be announced via Canvas announcements with an updated version.

Lab Supervisor: Nathan Peterson; nathaniel.peterson@unt.edu

BIOL 1760/61: Biology for Science Majors Laboratory (& Honors Biology) **FALL 2025-Tentative SCHEDULE OF TOPICS***

<u>WEEK (DATES)</u> <u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>	<u>LAB TOPIC/ACTIVITY</u>	<u>LAB</u>
WEEK-1 (AUG 18-21):	Introduction to Lab course & Safety Scientific Methods & Metric System	- Pre-Lab-1/Lab-1
WEEK-2 (AUG 25-28): 2/ Quiz#1	Microscopy & The Cell (Structure and Function)	- Pre-Lab-2/Lab-
<i>WEEK-3 (SEP 1-4):</i>	<i>NO LABS (LABOR DAY)-do not come to the lab</i>	<i>--</i>

WEEK-4 (SEP 8-11):	Cell Division (Mitosis and Meiosis)	- Pre-Lab-3/Lab-3
WEEK-5 (SEP 15-18): 4/Quiz#2	Genetics & DNA (Biotech) and Agarose Gel Electrophoresis	- Pre-Lab-4/Lab-
WEEK-6 (SEP 22-25):	LAB EXAM #1 (In Canvas) (do not come to the lab)	-Lab Exam#1
WEEK-7 (SEP 29-OCT 2):	Research Project (Day-1)	- Pre-Lab-5/Lab-5
WEEK-8 (OCT 6-9): 6/ Quiz#3	Research Project (Day-2)	- Pre-Lab-6/Lab-
WEEK-9 (OCT 13-16): Report	RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT SUBMISSION In Canvas (do not come to the lab)	-Project Lab
WEEK-10 (OCT 20-23):	Taxonomy & Gymnosperms	- Pre-Lab-7/Lab-7
WEEK-11 (OCT 27-30): 8/ Quiz#4	Angiosperms & Vegetative Structures of Plants	- Pre-Lab-8/Lab-
WEEK-12 (NOV 3-6):	Phylum Arthropoda	- Pre-Lab-9/Lab-9
WEEK-13 (NOV 10-13): 10/Quiz#5	Rats	- Pre-Lab-10/ Lab-
WEEK 14 (NOV 17-20):	LAB EXAM #2 (In Canvas) (do not come to the lab)	-Lab Exam#2

=====

Important Note: The course will end on Nov 20, 2025. Topics and schedules are subject to change. Stay updated on announcements in Canvas. Students are responsible for confirming dates and keeping up with materials.