Honors Biology Majors I

BIOL-1711.001- FALL 2025

**Instructors:**

 **Pudur Jagadeeswaran** LSC B120; Tel: 940-595-2736; E-mail: jag@unt.edu

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday: 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Lecture Hours and Location:** **M/W/F 1:00 to 1:50 PM, SAGE 116**

**Objectives:** This course is designed for science majors who are interested in general biology. We will emphasize Chemistry and Cells, Metabolism, Cell Communication, Reproduction, Genetics, Mechanisms of Gene Expression and Genomes during this semester. The intent of the course is to provide a strong background in general biology that will allow you to take higher-level courses in the life sciences.

**Website:** <https://unt.instructure.com/login/Idap> (Canvas) is the official web portal to this course. Check this website regularly. It will contain updates to the syllabus, pdf files of the figures used in class, and other official communications as necessary. It is recommended that you go to the website the day before class to print out the pdf files and bring them to the lecture as note-taking aids.

The textbook we will use in this course is Campbell Biology In Focus 4th Edition 2024. This is available as

Mastering Biology with eText - ISBN: 9780135370483

Mastering Biology with eText + discounted looseleaf of textbook (combo code) ISBN: 9780135370537

The website listed below provides an additional resource for material covered in class. <http://virtuallaboratory.colorado.edu/Biofundamentals/>

There is a free online book available at <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e> and you may use the tutor available for $10 at <https://openstax.org/openstax-tutor>

**Grading:** You will take four non-comprehensive examinations during the semester and the fifth comprehensive exam during final exam week. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Out of the four non-comprehensive exams, the three best scores will be taken for 300 points, and with the comprehensive exam for 100 points, a total of 400 points will contribute to 80% of the grade. For every chapter there will be an online quiz and all the quizzes are worth 100 points.

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| Exams 1-4 (your 3 best scores) | 300 pts |
| Final exam (mandatory!) | 100 pts |
| Online Quizzes  | 100 pts |
| Total Possible Points | 500 pts |

Exams may include materials from the lectures and the required textbook. Picture ID is required at all exams. Grades will be assigned according to the point breakdown listed below:

## **Grade distribution:** 3 Lecture exams @ 100 points each, final exam @ 100 points, online quizzes @ 100 points with a total of 500 points. 450-500 points=A (90%); 400-449 points=B (80%); 350-399 points= C (70%); 300-349 points=D (60%); points 299 and less=F (59.8% and less)

**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 within a week after the missed exam. Incompletes will only be assigned under extenuating circumstances when a student has a C average or above on the exams taken to date. No make-up’s will be permitted for missed quizzes that may be administered via Canvas.

**Cheating Policy:** All exams are to be taken independently. 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. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying from another’s exam, talking to others during the exam, using notes on the exam, or using a phone for text messaging during the exam. Students caught cheating will receive a zero for that grade opportunity and a note will be placed in their permanent file. If caught cheating twice they will be permanently removed from the course.

**Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI):** GenAI refers to software systems and platforms that create new content, such as text, images, audio or video using generative models. These models identify patterns from large datasets, enabling them to generate data in response to specific prompts, which in many ways can resemble human-created content. In this course, the use of GenAI tools is not permissible. No matter the approach, any attempt to represent GenAI output as a student’s own work will be considered fabrication, cheating, and/or academic dishonesty as determined on a case-by-case basis. In line with the UNT Honor Code, all work you submit must be your own. Using GenAI tools without attribution or relying on them to complete assignments violates academic integrity and will be addressed according to university policy.

**Attendance:** Attendance and spot quizzes maybe administered in class which will help you to earn bonus points. Success in this course is heavily influenced by attendance and active interaction. Thus, students are expected to regularly attend lectures. It is difficult to obtain all the information presented in lectures unless you get it “firsthand.” Lectures may deviate from the textbook and from material made available on <https://unt.instructure.com/login/Idap> as seen fit by your instructor. We cannot stress enough the importance of attending class, paying attention, and taking notes during class.

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. If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

**Etiquette:** We need to work together to ensure a high-quality teaching and learning environment. Disruptive and inconsiderate activities negatively affect the entire class and include talking, coming in late, leaving class for non-essential reasons, using cell phones, and general inattentive behavior.

**Office Hours:** We will have regular office hours during the semester. Please feel free to contact us if you have any difficulties or need further explanation of the material. We are also available by appointment if you are unable to make office hours.Take advantage of our office hours, we are here to help you learn. Please connect with us through email and/or by attending office hours. During busy times, our inbox becomes rather full, so if you contact us and do not receive a response within two business days, please send a follow-up email. A gentle nudge is always appreciated.

**Disabilities:** The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodations 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 the 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. 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.

**Religious Holidays:**

A student shall be excused from attending classes, or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this provision may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence. Students desiring to observe a religious holy day which will result in a class absence, must notify their instructor in writing for each class no later than the 15th calendar day after the first class day of the semester in which the absence will occur.

**Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment**

We 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. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by our office and let us know. We are all learning together.

**BIOL 1711-001 HONORS BIOLOGY MAJORS I**

**Fall-2025**

**Lecturer: Pudur Jagadeeswaran**

**The schedule may change without notice**

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| **Date** | **Topic** |
| August 18 | Ch 1: Evolution and Foundations of Biology |
| August 20 | Ch 1: Evolution and Foundations of Biology |
| August 22 | Ch 2: The Chemical Context of Life |
| August 25 | Ch 2: The Chemical Context of Life |
| August 27 | Ch 2: The Chemical Context of Life |
| August 29 | Ch 3: Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life |
| September 3 | Ch 3: Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life |
| September 5 | Ch 4: A Tour of the Cell |
| September 8 | Ch 4: A Tour of the Cell |
| September 10 | Ch 5: Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling |
| September 12 | Ch 5: Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling |
| September 15 | Overflow/Review |
| September 17 | **Exam1**  |
| September 19 | Ch 6: An Introduction to Metabolism |
| September 22 | Ch 6: An Introduction to Metabolism |
| September 24 | Ch 7: Cellular Respiration and Fermentation |
| September 26 | Ch 7: Cellular Respiration and Fermentation |
| September 29 | Ch 8: Photosynthesis |
| October 1 | Ch 8: Photosynthesis |
| October 3 | Ch 9: Cell Cycle |
| October 6 | Ch 9: Cell Cycle |
| October 8 | Overflow/Review |
| October 10 | **Exam 2** |
| October 13 | Ch 10: Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles |
| October 15 | Ch 10: Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles |
| October 17 | Ch 11: Mendel and the Gene Idea |
| October 20 | Ch 11: Mendel and the Gene Idea |
| October 22 | Ch 12: Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance |
| October 24 | Ch 12: Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance |
| October 27 | Ch 13: Molecular Basis of Inheritance |
| October 29 | Ch 13: Molecular Basis of Inheritance |
| October 31 | Overflow/Review |
| November 3 | **Exam 3** |
| November 5 | Ch 14: Gene Expression From Gene to Protein |
| November 7 | Ch 14: Gene Expression From Gene to Protein |
| November 10 | Ch 15: Regulation of Gene Expression |
| November 12 | Ch 15: Regulation of Gene Expression |
| November 14 | Ch 16: Development, Stem Cells and Cancer |
| November 17 | Ch 16: Development, Stem Cells and Cancer |
| November 19 | Ch 18: Genomes and Their Evolution |
| November 21 | Ch 18: Genomes and Their Evolution |
| December 1 | **Exam 4** |
| December 3 | Comprehensive Review |
| December 7 | **Final Exam Time TBD** |

