

Syllabus and Course Policy - Updated August 14, 2025

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Office: Life Sciences Complex-Building B, room 246B

T-Th :10:30 to 11:50 Life Sciences A, Suite 246, Office B

T-Th :11: 00 to 12:00 Life Sciences Resource Center, Hickory Hall 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: T/Th 8:00-9:20 AM
CHEM 109**

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: Students should develop critical thinking skills in applying ones knowledge of biology in problem-solving. This course will cover chemical structure and function, structure and function of cells, and classical genetics and the molecular basis of inheritance.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is the first half of a two-course survey of biology for science majors and will meet the requirements for a degree in biology. This course will focus on the cell, molecular biology and provide students with a broad background to prepare them for higher level courses. Along with the laboratory, Biology I and II are the prerequisites for higher level courses in biological sciences.

TEXT: Campbell Biology in Focus, 4th edition & Mastering Biology with Pearson for Campbell Biology in Focus. **ISBN10:0135370485; ISBN 13:8220144183854.**

Most will be getting the digital version of the textbook; however, at least 20% of those in this class note a significant improvement on exams when using a physical textbook. These are available at the UNT bookstore or other sellers.

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. We also reserve the right to administer in-class pop quizzes, which count as bonus points towards your final score in this class. There are no make-ups for pop 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](http://www.unt.edu/oda) website (<http://www.unt.edu/oda>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

ASSESSING YOUR WORK:

Exams: You will take four exams during the semester and a final exam. These will be given in class and in-person. The final exam is comprehensive and must be taken. If you miss one of the lecture exams, the score on the final exam will be substituted for the missed exam. If you have a very low score on one of the lecture exams, your lecture exam score can be used to replace it as well.

There is no curve; however, we will be doing quizzes in class using iClicker which weigh 5 points each. You must be in class to take these AND they will not be made up if missed.

The exams and assignments 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 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.

ATTENDANCE: It is difficult to obtain all the information presented in lectures unless you get it "first hand." Lectures may deviate from the textbook and from material made available on Canvas as seen fit by your instructor. We cannot stress enough the importance of attending class, paying attention, and taking notes during class. Historically we have found that if you do not attend class, you should expect to do poorly in this course. **Do not be surprised if we use pop quizzes should attendance drop by 25%.**

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.

BIOL1710.001 Fall 2025: Schedule
Note: This schedule is subject to change

Week	Day	Date	Topics	Reading
1	T	8/19	Introduction and Syllabus; Pre-test	1
	Th	8/21	Introduction; Chemical basis of life	1.2
2	T	8/26	Chemical basis of life, Carbon/ molecular Diversity	2.3
	Th	8/28	Carbon and Molecular Diversity	3
3	T	9/2	A Tour of the Cell	4
	Th	9/4	Cell signaling and communication	5
4	T	9/9	Review and catch up	
	Th	9/11	Exam 1	
5	T	9/16	Metabolism	6
	Th	9/18	Respiration and fermentation	7
6	T	9/23	Photosynthesis	8
	Th	9/25	Cell cycle	9
7	T	9/30	Meiosis and Sexual Reproduction	10
	Th	10/3	Mendelian Genetics	11
8	T	10/7	Exam 2	
	Th	10/9	Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance	12
9	T	10/14	Molecular Basis of Inheritance	13
	Th	10/16	Molecular Inheritance/From Gene to Protein	13. 14
10	T	10/21	From Gene to Protein	
	Th	10/23	Regulation of Gene Expression	16
11	T	10/28	Review and catch up	
	Th	10/30	Exam 3	
12	T	11/4	Development, Stem Cells and Cancer	16
	Th	11/6	Genomes and Evolution	18
13	T	11/11	Descent with Modification	29
	Th	11/13	Molecular Phylogeny	20
14	T	11/18	Review and catch up	
	Th	11/20	Exam 4	
15	T/Th	11/25&27	No class: Thanksgiving break	
16	T	12/3	Review	
	Th	12/4	Review	
17	T	12/9	Final Exam 8;00	