

## Syllabus and Course Policy - Updated August 11, 2025

## Samuel James Ogden, Jr.

Office: Life Sciences Complex-Building A, 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 26

**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 12:30- 1:50 pm  
ENV 125

**WEBSITE:** Canvas is located at: [unt.instructure.com](https://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:** This course is designed for science majors who are interested in general biology. During the course of this semester, we will emphasize animal and plant biology and ecology, and introduce you to the microbial world. The intent of the course is to provide a strong background that will allow you to take and do well in higher-level courses in the life sciences.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Campbell Biology in Focus, 4th edition & Mastering Biology with Pearson for Campbell Biology in Focus.

**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 accommodations 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:**

1. **Exams:** You will take three exams during the semester and a final exam. These will be given in class and in-person. The final exam is not comprehensive. It will cover the material presented after the third exam. Each exam will be worth 100 points for a total of **400 points** in the course. No exam grades will be dropped from the calculation of the final grade. Grades will be assigned according to the point system listed below. Grades will not be curved.
2. **Mastering Biology assignments:** **80 total points** are from assignments. They will cover material presented in lecture and the textbook. Only the highest 8 of at least 10 will be counted. The same criteria for missed exams will be followed for assignments.
3. **iClicker:** **20 total points** are from class participation using iClicker; iClicker will be used to highlight main concepts and terminology. More to follow on this..

The exams, assignments and iClicker 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. On-the-spot quizzes will be given during the lectures and worth 100 points.

**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.

BIOL1720.004 Fall 2025

Note: This schedule is subject to change

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	T	8/19	Introduction and Syllabus; Pre-test	
	Th	8/21	Form and Function + Homeostasis	32 (32.1, 32.3)
2	T	8/26	Animal Nutrition and Metabolism	33
	Th	8/28	Nervous System and Senses	37, 38
3	T	9/2	Nervous System and Senses	37, 38
	Th	9/4	Hormones and the Endocrine System	32 (32.2)
4	T	9/9	Muscles	39
	Th	9/11	Respiratory System	34 (34.5-34.7)
5	T	9/16	Overflow	
	Th	9/18	<b>Examination 1</b>	
6	T	9/23	Circulatory System	34 (34.1-34.4)
	Th	9/24	Osmoregulation and Excretion	32 (32.4, 32.5)
7	T	9/30	Immune System	35
	Th	10/2	Reproduction and Development	36
8	T	10/7	Overflow	
	Th	10/9	<b>Examination 2</b>	
9	T	10/14	Viruses, Bacteria and Archaea	17, 24
	Th	10/16	Protists and Fungi	25, 26 (26.2)
10	T	10/21	Plant Diversity	26 (26.1, 26.3-26.5)
	Th	10/23	Plant Form and Function	28
11	T	10/28	Angiosperm Reproduction	30
	Th	10/30	Overflow	
12	T	11/4	<b>Examination 3</b>	
	Th	11/6	Plant Nutrition, Resource Acquisition and Transport	29
13	T	11/11	Plant Responses to Internal and External Signals	31
	Th	11/13	Population Ecology	40
14	T	11/18	Ecological Communities	41
	Th	11/20	Ecosystems and Energy	42
15	T/Th	11/25&27	<b>No class: Fall break</b>	
16	T	12/2	Conservation Biology	43
	Th	12/5	Overflow and Review; Post-test	
17	T	12/11	<b>Final Exam 10:30 am – 12:30 pm</b>	