BIOL 1710.003 Biology for Science Majors I Syllabus, Fall 2026

Meeting times

Dates: 08/17/2026-12/11/2026**, Class Time:** MWF 8-8:50 am, face-to-face
Class Location: ESSAT 130

Contact Information for Instructor

Dr. Syeda T. Alam
Email: syeda.alam@unt.edu **(preferred)**
Office Location: Life Science Complex Building A (LSC-A), Room #227
Phone Number: 940-565-2627
Office Hours: Thursday at 3-4 pm at LSRC in Hickory Hall, room 266 and Tuesday 1-2 pm in LSA 227

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

The textbook is Campbell Biology in Focus. 4th Edition, Urry, Cain, Minorsky, Orr and Hull. Published by Pearson, 2024

Library Webpage: Introduction - BIOL 1710: Biology for Science Majors I - Guides at University of North Texas (unt.edu)

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 Description

BIOL 1710 is a biology course designed for science majors. The course includes
Themes in Biology: Evolution and Scientific Inquiry, the Chemical Basis of Life, Water and Its Properties, Carbon and Its Properties, and Biological Macromolecules.
Cell Biology: Organelles of the Cell, Membrane Structure and Function, Metabolism and Enzymes, Respiration and Fermentation, Photosynthesis, and Cell Communication.
Cell Reproduction: Cell Cycle and Mitosis, Meiosis, Mendelian Genetics, and Chromosomes and Inheritance.
Molecular Biology: Transcription and Translation, Gene Regulation, Viruses, and Biotechnology.
Evolution: Understand the genetic basis of evolution.

Course Outcomes:

Overall - The ability to synthesize examples, facts, or hypotheses from more than one level of organization into a coherent whole.

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the levels of biological organization and the ability to integrate them: cellular/molecular, organismal, population.
2. Describe the macromolecules/structures that make up cells and understand how the structure and function of these elements work together to sustain life.
3. Demonstrate the ability to integrate the physical sciences (chemistry, physics, and mathematics) with biology.
4. Learn and distinguish the various ways that cells harvest energy.
5. Gain a broad understanding of the historical figures and classic experiments that contribute to our current understanding of molecular and cellular biology.
6. Understand how hereditary information is stored, expressed, replicated, and passed to subsequent generations.

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.

Course Objectives is to provide the student with a broad background in biology that can serve as a prerequisite for higher-level courses if desired.

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. There will be grade penalty for late submission if not contacted earlier
- 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

Regular check-in and completion of materials constitutes attendance. Failure to participate in class for an extended period of time will lead to a grade of "F". **The last day to withdraw from classes is Nov 6, 2026**. Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be successful. The only excused absences recognized by the University of North Texas are observation of **religious holidays, military service or wherein a student is representing the university in an official capacity such as athletics or band.** According to UNT policy: "An activity or event is organized and sponsored by the university when it has been planned, funded and properly approved by the appropriate university official".
https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf. If the duration of absence is longer, then students should contact the Dean of students. The Dean of Students office will verify the students' documentation and advocate on the student's behalf, as appropriate, to instructors for excused absences. If you must miss a class period, contact your instructor immediately via email to discuss the reason for your absence. Excused absences must be accompanied by proper documentation. It is also helpful to make connections with other students to form study groups. Do not wait till the last moment for finishing the assignments. Rolls will be taken each day and you are responsible for signing your name on the sign-up sheets. **Arrive to class promptly and do not leave until the scheduled ending time of the class. Failure to do so will result in missing in activity points for that day.**

Students are responsible for letting the instructor know of the following absences for make-up:

- Professional school interviews
- Conference attendance
- Receiving awards such as scholarships or other academic honors
- Missing class due to being waitlisted (only applicable prior to census date)
- Personal travel
- Short-term illness and doctor appointments (Flu, COVID, Strep, cold etc,) (need doctor's note)

Dean of students will be only notified if the absences are due to

- Temporary disability or injury
- Extended medical absences or hospitalization
- Illness of a dependent family member
- Major illness or death of a loved one, which may include immediate family members of the student, spouses/partners, and others as deemed appropriate by the Dean of Students office
- Car accident that takes away transportation
- Housing emergencies
- Significant mental health concerns

Methods of Evaluation

Exams

The grade in this course is determined by the following categories of assessment.

There will be 5 in-class exams for this course (**Exam 5 is cumulative**). **One lowest exam grade (Not the final) will be dropped.** There will be no make-up exams, except in case of excused absences recognized by the University of North Texas (observation of religious holiday, military service or wherein a student is representing the university in an official

capacity such as athletics or band). Medical emergencies may be considered but must be documented by a medical professional. **No one will be admitted to an exam after the first person has left that exam.**

Bring pencils with a decent eraser. NO OTHER ITEMS ARE PERMITTED DURING EXAMS. This includes smart watches and devices, lecture notes, "cheat sheets", etc. Hats are okay during exam time, but you will need to flip it backwards so that the brim of the hat is at the back of your head. Scantrons will be provided, so there is no need to get it yourself.

* **Exam dates or coverage subjects to change, with reasonable advance notice.**

Students are responsible for letting the instructor know of the absences for make-up due to reasons mentioned above under attendance.

Dean of students will be only notified if the absences are due to the reasons mentioned above under attendance.

Assignments

Online assignments are through Pearson's "Mastering Biology" program. You will need to purchase this program through the bookstore or through Pearson directly. Online assignments will be linked through Canvas. There will be 10 online assignments. **Late assignments will be accepted with 15%/day late penalty**. Each assignment is worth 5 points. Please note the due date for each assignment from the class schedule.

Activities

There will be different types of activities at the beginning/end of some classes covering the topics of the previous/same day. **The same questions may be asked during the exams. There will be additional online activities in the Canvas to help with understanding of the topics.**

The students will be given opportunities to earn extra points to be added to the total points.

There are **500 total possible points**. Grades will be assigned based on how many cumulative points you earn in the class. **The lowest grade from Exams 1, 2, 3, or 4 will be dropped. You may not drop the cumulative final.**

- 3 out of 4 exams, 100 pts each = 300 pts (One Lowest grade dropped)
- Mandatory Final Exam (cumulative) =100 pts
- Online assignments =50 pts
- Activities =50 pts

=500 points total (100%)

The **grading scale** for assigning letter grades in this course is as follows:

A 450 and up
B 449- 400
C 399 -350
D 349- 300
F 299 and below

*Bonus points will be given in various assessments, *Late work will be accepted with 15% off per day

Grade Reviews

If you have any questions about a graded item or believe there is an error in the grade, you must notify the instructor within 1 week after the grade is posted online. After this time, all grades are final and will not be reviewed. You can review your exams during my office hours. However, you can only review three exams. You will not be allowed to review a previous exam after taking the next exam. For example, after taking Exam 2, you will not be able to review Exam 1. This is due to accommodating other students during my office hours. Please note that I offer 3 hours of office hours each week.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. In this course, 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 to be cheating on any work in this course may receive a grade of zero on affected work, be removed from the course, and/or be reported to the university for additional disciplinary action.

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.

Academic Success Resources

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to unt.edu/success and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.
You **must** note that students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change, citing the Campus Closures Policy (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006).

UNT Copyright Compliance Policy (16.13.3)

Copyright Infringement: Anyone who makes unauthorized use of copyrighted material in a manner that violates the copyright owner's exclusive rights (except for narrowly defined exemptions) is committing copyright infringement and may be subject to civil and criminal penalties as well as disciplinary action by UNT. All materials generated for this course, which include but are not limited to syllabi, lectures and notes, quizzes, exams, in-class materials, review sheets, etc.... are protected by copyright law. You do not have the right to copy and distribute any course materials. You are authorized to take notes in class thereby creating derivative work from my lecture, the authorization extends only to making one set of notes for your personal use and no other. You are not authorized to record lectures, to provide your notes to anyone else or to make any commercial use of them.

Anti-Piracy Warning

The unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyrighted work is illegal. Criminal copyright infringement, including infringement without monetary gain, is investigated by the FBI and is punishable by up to five years in federal prison and a fine of $250,000

- Unauthorized duplication, distribution or use of classroom training materials such as textbooks, PowerPoint presentations and any other learning materials provided.
- Unauthorized duplication, distribution or use of online training content, including computer software, online courses, skills assessments, sound or video recordings, training data and reports.
- Unauthorized duplication, distribution or use of web site content, including -authored articles and case histories, sound or video recordings, photos and graphics, etc.

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.

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).

No headphones are allowed in the classroom. If any student is on the phone, I will stop talking to warn the student. If the student is still on the phone, I will just go to that student and ask the student to leave the classroom, and the student will receive Zero for that day.

Syllabus Change Policy

Every effort has been made to provide complete and correct information in this syllabus. If any changes to course policies, information, or due dates in this syllabus become necessary, the instructor will announce any changes in class.

It is students' responsibility to check for due dates for exams and assignments in Syllabus and come prepared for class accordingly.

Class Schedule (tentative)

Week	Days	Date	Chapter	Topic
1	M	8/17	1	Syllabus & course description, Biology: Exploring life
	W	8/19	1 2	Biology: Exploring life continues The chemistry of life
	F	8/21	2	The chemistry of life contd.
2	M	8/24	3	Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life
	W	8/26	3	Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life continues
	F	8/28	3	Carbon and the Molecular Diversity of Life continues **Census date: Aug 28**
	SU	**8/30**		**Online assignment 1 due**

3	M	8/31	4	A tour of the cell
	W	9/2	4	A tour of the cell continues
	F	9/4	4	A tour of the cell continues
4	M	**9/7**		**No Class (Labor Day holiday)**
	W	9/9	17	Viruses
	F	**9/11**	**Exam 1**	**Exam 1 (Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, virus)**
	SU	**9/13**		**Online assignment 2 due**
5	M	9/14	5	Membrane transport and signaling
	W	9/16	5	Membrane transport and signaling continues
	F	9/18	5	Membrane transport and signaling continues
	SU	**9/20**		**Online assignment 3 due**
6	M	9/21	6	An Introduction to Metabolism
	W	9/23	6	An Introduction to Metabolism continues
	F	9/25	6	An Introduction to Metabolism continues
	SU	**9/27**		**Online assignment 4 due**
7	M	9/28	7	Cellular Respiration and Fermentation
	W	9/30	7	Cellular Respiration and Fermentation Continues
	F	10/2	7	Cellular Respiration and Fermentation Continues
8	M	10/5	8	Photosynthesis
	W	10/7	8	Photosynthesis
	F	10/9	**Exam 2**	**Exam 2 (5, 6, 7, 8)**
	SU	**10/11**		**Online assignment 5 due**
9	M	10/12	9	The Cell Cycle
	W	10/14	9	The Cell Cycle
	F	10/16	9	The Cell Cycle
	SU	**10/18**		**Online assignment 6 due**
10	M	10/19	10	Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles
	W	10/21	10 11	Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles continues Mendel and the Gene Idea
	F	10/23	11	Mendel and the Gene Idea continues
11	M	10/26	12	The Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance
	W	10/28	12	The Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance continues
	F	10/30	13	The Molecular basis of Inheritance
	SU	**11/1**		**Online assignment 7 due**
12	M	11/2	**Exam 3**	**Exam 3 (9, 10, 11, 12)**
	W	11/4	13	The Molecular basis of Inheritance continues
	F	11/6	13	The Molecular basis of Inheritance continues **Last day to drop with a W: Nov 6**
	SU	**11/8**		**Online assignment 8 due**
13	M	11/9	14	Gene Expression: From Gene to Protein
	W	11/11	14	Gene Expression: From Gene to Protein continues
	F	11/13	14	Gene Expression: From Gene to Protein continues
14	M	11/16	15	Regulation of Gene Expression
	W	11/18	15	Regulation of Gene Expression
	F	11/20	21	Evolution of population
	SU	**11/22**		**Online assignment 9 due**

15	M-F	11/23- 11/27	**Thanksgiving Holiday (UNT closed)**	
16	M	11/30	**Exam 4**	**Exam 4 (13, 14, 15, 21)**
	W	12/2		Semester review **Online assignment 10 due**
	F	12/4		**No class (Reading Day)**
	Saturday	12/5	**Final Exam**	**Cumulative Exam (All chapters)** **8-10 am**