

BIOL 1720.004: Biology for Science Majors II

Fall 2026 – Tue/Thu 12:45-2:05 pm – Env 125

Contact Information:

Professor: Dr. Vanessa Macias

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Office: LSC B122

Student hours: Tuesdays from 11 am to 12 pm in HH 266F and Wednesdays from 2-3 in LSC B122

Learning objectives: This course is designed for science majors who are interested in general biology. During 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.

Recommended text: Biology in Focus, Campbell, 4th edition by Urry, Cain, Minorsky, Orr, and Hull

Canvas: Check for course material on Canvas regularly. It will contain updates to the syllabus and lectures and other materials used in class. Supplemental resources will be provided for some of the course content. Students are responsible for checking for announcements. I recommend that you select notifications 'on' in your Canvas settings.

Assessment: Performance in the course will be assessed through a combination of exams and attendance/participation points as follows:

- **Exams:** There will be 4 exams for this course. All exams are worth 100 points for a total of **400 points**. **No exam grade will be dropped.** Exams may include information from the lectures, videos and supplemental materials discussed in class. Final exams is **not comprehensive**, but it will include material covered after the third exam. Exams are scheduled for the following days:

Exam 1: Tuesday, September 15th from 12:45-2:05 pm

Exam 2: Thursday, October 8th from 12:45-2:05 pm

Exam 3: Tuesday, November 3rd from 12:45-2:05 pm

Final exam: Tuesday, December 8th [Final exam day] from 1-3 pm

- **Make-up exams:** Exams are to be taken when scheduled. Students will not be allowed to take any exam on a date or time other than scheduled *unless you have a verifiable medical excuse or official UNT activity*. The time and place for make-up exams will be determined by the instructor. Proper documentation should be provided before scheduling your make-up exam. If students miss the exam and/or make-up exam, a grade of zero (0) will be assigned for that examination.
- **Attendance and Participation:** Four points will be earned in class daily for participation in lectures. While some days, the instructor—myself or a guest—will lecture for most of the class period, we will often have activities that will involve your participation. Each day, you will be apprised of in class as to what is required of you to earn participation points, **4 points each lecture for a total of 100 points for 24 lectures**. We have 27 lectures scheduled, which means that there are three lectures that you can miss without incurring any loss of points; this will accommodate life circumstance for most students. However, **4 or more missed lectures will lead to missed attendance/participation points**. Please feel free to reach out to me for questions on this policy.

Course grades: The total possible points for this course is 500. 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

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 summer term.

Institutional Effectiveness: Students are required to take a pre- and post-test for this course as part of the Department of Biological Sciences Institutional Effectiveness assessment. The pre-test will be posted on Canvas for completion during the first week of classes. The same assessment will be administered again during the last week of classes as a post-test. The assessment will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. More details will be provided on Canvas with the assessment.

Academic integrity: Any student found cheating on any exam will receive a zero (0) for that exam and may face other disciplinary action(s). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: 1) releasing exam content during or after you have taken an exam, 2) copying any material from another student, or from another source such as the internet, that is submitted for grading, 3) plagiarism, including use of internet material without proper citation, and 4) use of cell phones or other electronics to obtain outside information during an exam. I will evaluate any suspected cases of academic dishonesty on a case by case basis. Reports of academic dishonesty will be filed with the Office of Academic Integrity and become a part of the student's permanent academic record. 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. Visit University of North Texas' Student Academic Integrity Policy: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003> to obtain additional information.

Incomplete: An incomplete (I) grade is given only during the last one-fourth of a semester and only if a student is: (1) passing the course; (2) has a justifiable reason why the class cannot be completed on schedule; and (3) arranges with the instructor to finish the course at a later date. All work must be completed within the time specified by the instructor (not to exceed one year after taking the course). An incomplete may be requested starting November 7th.

Student hours: I am available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the times listed under my contact information. Please feel free to contact me to schedule an appointment if those times do not work for you. Please reach out if you have any difficulties or need further explanation of the material. Take advantage of student hours - I am here to help you learn. If you would like to review an exam, you have until the week before of the subsequent exam to do so. Please email me to schedule an appointment to review your exam.

ADA Policy: 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 to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to me 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. 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 Support & Student Services: UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Care Team (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- UNT Psychiatric Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- Individual Counseling (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Additional Student Support Services

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- Career Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Food Pantry (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Last day to drop a course or all courses with a grade of W – Nov 6th

Week	Day	Date	Topics	Chapter
1	T	8/18	Introduction and Syllabus; Review on Evo and Phylogeny	20
	Th	8/20	Bacteria and Archaea	24
2	T	8/25	Protists and Fungi	25, 26 (26.2)
	Th	8/27	Animal Form and Function cont. and Homeostasis	32 (32.1, 32.3)
3	T	9/1	Nervous System -Dr. Jannon Fuchs	37, 38
	Th	9/3	Senses-Dr. Jannon Fuchs	37, 38
4	T	9/8	Muscles	39
	Th	9/10	Overflow	
5	T	9/15	Exam 1	
	Th	9/17	Animal Nutrition and Metabolism	33
6	T	9/22	Hormones and the Endocrine System	32 (32.2)
	Th	9/24	Respiratory System	34 (34.5-34.7)
7	T	9/29	Circulatory System	34 (34.1-34.4)
	Th	10/1	Osmoregulation and Excretion	32 (32.4, 32.5)
8	T	10/6	Overflow	
	Th	10/8	Exam 2	
9	T	10/13	Immune System	35
	Th	10/15	Reproduction and Development	36
10	T	10/20	Plant Diversity	26 (26.1, 26.3-26.5)
	Th	10/22	Plant Form and Function	28
11	T	10/27	Angiosperm Reproduction	30
	Th	10/29	Overflow	
12	T	11/3	Exam 3	
	Th	11/5	Plant Nutrition, Resource Acquisition and Transport	29
13	T	11/10	Plant Responses to Internal and External Signals	31
	Th	11/12	Population Ecology	40
14	T	11/17	Ecological Communities	41
	Th	11/19	Ecosystems and Energy	42
15	Tu/Th	11/24-26	No class: Thanksgiving break	
16	T	12/1	Conservation Biology	43
	Th	12/3	Review	
17	Tu	12/8	Final Exam at 1 pm	