



BIOL 122:001 & 003 Biological Concepts- Evolution, Diversity & Ecology

Generic Term

COVID-19 SPECIAL NOTE: All students are strongly encouraged

WKU policy, all students must call the WKU COVID-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019 within 4 hours of testing positive for COVID-19 or being identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive. The COVID Assistance Line is available to answer questions regarding any COVID-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by federal, state, and local public health entities. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information @ www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Natalie Mountjoy • natalie.mountjoy@wku.edu • 3017 KTH • Office Hours: 2-4 PM Mondays & by request

GENERAL EDUCATION CONTENT AND GOALS

Biological Concepts: Evolution, Diversity & Ecology (BIOL 122) is an introductory majors-level course in Biology that emphasizes three main themes: evolutionary patterns and processes, diversity of life (bacteria, archaea, protists, plants, fungi, and animals), and ecological principles. This course fulfills Category II Explorations – Natural and Physical Sciences Requirement (E-NS). BIOL 122 is a required course in the Biology major, requires BIOL 123 as a corequisite, and can be taken either prior to or after BIOL 120/121.

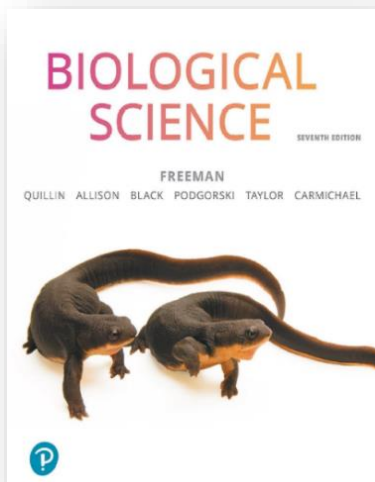
**Please note that course performance is very important for students majoring in Biology: A grade of "C" or higher in the 120-series is required for advancement in the major.*

Course Objectives

- Understanding fundamental concepts in Biology
- Understanding factual and theoretical principles of evolution
- Broad surveys on the global-scale diversity of life
- Understanding basic ecological principles
- Developing critical thinking and scientific reasoning skills
- Understanding the relationships between modern society and biological concepts

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, you will be able to...comprehend and use basic biological vocabulary (particularly evolutionary and ecological concepts), articulate an appreciation for scientific discovery, demonstrate sound scientific reasoning ability, demonstrate robust critical thinking skills, evaluate scientific data and results of research projects, and explain how biological science impacts society.

COURSE MATERIALS



WKU has institutionalized the purchasing process for our course materials. You will automatically have access to all the online course materials from day one, just by being registered on TopNet.

REQUIRED ONLINE MATERIALS

- *E-copy of: Biological Science, 6th edition, by Freeman*
- *The learning assistant: Mastering Biology*
- *Now includes on-demand tutoring through SmartThinking*

Two weeks into the semester, you will be billed the cost of the above materials. ONLY the digital format of our text will be used in this course. If you desire a supplemental printed copy (\$40), you must order it through the WKU Store during the first week of class. Links to this text, and Mastering Biology will be available in Blackboard along with all other course materials and announcements.



BIOL 122:001 & 003
Biological Concepts- Evolution, Diversity & Ecology
Fall 2022 Syllabus
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:10 - 10:05 AM SH 1108

COURSE POLICIES

GRADING: 20% IN-CLASS POINTS, 20% HOMEWORK & 60% EXAMS

Exam grades will show up in Blackboard after I have run an item analysis. Homework completed in Mastering takes time to show up in Blackboard. Sometimes only partial points come through. Be patient, all your points will eventually show up. Please do not email asking when these grades will be posted. Please DO NOT ever rely on grade calculations shown in the Blackboard App. They ARE INCORRECT. Please do not EVER email your college professors asking for your grade to be rounded up or points to be added. INSTEAD, begin the semester with the end in mind. You don't want to look back and say, "if I'd only gone to one more class or done one more assignment, I could have the grade I want/need to move on."

Category & %	Item	Number Assigned	Number Graded	Points Each	Total Points (of 684)
Homework 20%	Syllabus Quiz	1	1	20	20
	HW (DSMs)	15	13	10	130
Exams 60%	Exams	4	3	100	300
	Final	1	1	100	100
Participation 20%	In-Class Work	8	7	10	70
	Attendance	37	32	2	64

Homework

- Syllabus Quiz: You must complete the quiz to have access to your grades on Blackboard.
- Readings: Chapter readings are "assigned" but are not connected to any points. This is to help you remember to read and stay caught up. Often, we will not cover everything in a chapter. The lectures will tell you in which sections to focus and which to skip.
- Dynamic Study Modules: Q & A practice that changes to meet your needs. You will also access these through Mastering. These are graded based on completeness. The length of each will vary based on your content proficiency. They are great study tools. Nobody's perfect: your two lowest DSM grades will be dropped.

Exams

- All unit exams will be taken in a special web browser called Respondus ([download HERE](#)).
- Your lowest unit exam grade will be dropped from your final grade.
- The Comprehensive Final Exam will be taken Tuesday 6-Dec @ 8 AM.

In-Class Participation

- In-class work: We will have 8 in-class activities during the semester. You must submit these individually to the corresponding lecture in the Acadly app for points. Your lowest grade will be dropped. These activities make up the other part of your in-class grade.
- Attendance: Attendance is imperative for success. You must be marked as "present" through the Acadly app to receive attendance points. However (nobody's perfect, and stuff happens), so you can miss FIVE lectures without lowering your grade. Attendance makes-up half of your in-class grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & CIVILITY

Students are expected to maintain an honest and respectful environment. Universities and THIS CLASSROOM are a forum where everyone should feel safe and supported. Students are prohibited from making ANY offensive remarks, conducting prolonged personal conversations, gaming, listening to music, or engaging in any other form of distraction in class. Inappropriate behavior shall result in (minimally) lost participation points (as I see fit) and a request to leave the class. Students must also follow all WKU guidelines on academic integrity. Failure to do so may result in a failing grade or further discipline based on the offense. <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php>

If integrity is important to you, I do not need to say anything else. If it is not, there is nothing else I can say. Failure to meet this standard can result in serious penalties, including a failing grade and further prosecution through the Office of Student Conduct.



BIOL 122:001 & 003
Biological Concepts- Evolution, Diversity & Ecology
Fall 2022 Syllabus
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:10 - 10:05 AM SH 1108

CORRESPONDENCE

SLACK is the best mechanism to reach me. I care about your questions and connecting with you. I will do my best to answer SLACK posts within 24 hours and emails within 48-72 hours during the work week.



We will also use the Slack App to easily communicate as a group. It will be the quickest way to get in touch with me and chat with the class. Share your questions here! If you have them, others will too! Just download the app and allow for notifications. You **MUST** use your @wku.edu email address for signing up. Here is the link to sign up for our [SLACK channel \(BIOL 122 F22 MOUNTJOY\)](#)



Email: Please adhere to the following principles of general email etiquette

- ✓ Ensure your question is not answered in the syllabus or on Blackboard or Mastering.
- ✓ Email **only from your WKU account** and use appropriate grammar and punctuation.
- ✓ Refrain from emailing after hours or on the weekends.
- ✓ Wait at least 48 hours before emailing a second time.
- ✓ You **MUST** tell me what class you are in and what section.

TECHNOLOGY NEEDS: VISIT https://www.wku.edu/ogden/tech_recs.php



You will need a PC or Mac with the full office suite for this class. You can download the Office Suite for free here: https://www.wku.edu/its/sms/microsoft_sa.php. All our exams will be taken in class, using your device. You **MUST** take the exams through blackboard using Respondus on a laptop, iPad or WKU desktop. No Chromebooks. No phones. Review the [Ogden College Tech Statement](#).



Blackboard

All course content will be available through Blackboard. This includes links to your e-text (Mastering Biology), assignments, assessments, PowerPoint files and other supplemental content. PLEASE do not EVER use the Blackboard app to calculate your grade. All your grades will be posted in real-time on Blackboard including a "Current Grade" column. You will also have access to a grade calculator in Blackboard.



Respondus Lockdown Browser is a special browser through which you will take all your exams. You must download it to your device. Chromebooks are not acceptable. Students will need to go to the "My WKU Bb" tab within Blackboard, scroll down to "Software", and then select "LockDown Browser." Download it and save it to your desktop. To take your assessments, close all other windows. Click on the Respondus browser and navigate to Blackboard normally.



Cell phones are an integral part of modern-day life. We will use them regularly in this course, so please bring them with you. Make sure the ringer is off, be respectful and reasonable, and do not use them unless instructed to do so. Reach out for smart phone alternatives if needed.



Additional instructions for these apps will be delivered in our first class announcement. Download these prior to the start of the semester. Alternatives are available if needed.

Please note: Although the above items are listed as requirements **NO STUDENT** in this class will have an unequal or sub-par experience due to lack of resources. I will work one-on-one with anyone who needs help meeting these IT requirements or needs substitutes or alternatives. Please, never hesitate to advocate for yourself. Let me know how I can help you!



BIOL 122:001 & 003
Biological Concepts- Evolution, Diversity & Ecology
Fall 2022 Syllabus
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:10 - 10:05 AM SH 1108

DIVERSITY STATEMENT: WE (I) ASPIRE TO FOSTER DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION THROUGH OUR EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND SUPPORT A DIVERSE COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF. WE PLEDGE TO FURTHER EQUITY BY ADDRESSING AND REMOVING DISCRIMINATORY OBSTACLES TO RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT HINDER OUR MEMBERS FROM REALIZING THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL TALENTS AND AMBITIONS.

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

The syllabus quiz is due before our first meeting on 22-Aug. It is under course documents on Blackboard (Bb) and requires use of the Respondus browser. See Bb for instructions & link in sidebar.

	In-Class			Homework (DSMs)	
Week of	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Weekly Reading	DSMs Tues. @ 10:59PM
22-Aug	Intro	CH 1	CH 1	CH 1	
29-Aug	CH 1	CH 22	CH 22	CH 22	CH 1 & 22
5-Sep	Labor Day	CH 22-23	CH 23	CH 23	CH 23
12-Sep	CH 23	CH 23	Exam 1	CH 24	CH 23
19-Sep	CH 25	CH 25	CH 25-26	CH 25	CH 24
26-Sep	CH 26	CH 26	CH 26-27	CH 26	CH 25 & 26
3-Oct	CH 27	CH 27	Exam 2	CH 27	CH 27
10-Oct	CH 28	CH 28	Fall Break	CH 28	CH 28
17-Oct	CH 28-29	CH 29-30	CH 30	CH 29	CH 29
24-Oct	CH 30	CH30	CH 31	CH 30	CH 30
31-Oct	CH 31-32	CH 32	Exam 3	CH 31-32	CH 31 & 32
7-Nov	CH 51	CH 51	CH 52	CH 51-52	CH 51 & 52
14-Nov	CH 52	CH 53	CH 53	CH 53	CH 53
21-Nov	Exam 4	Thanksgiving	Break	Study	
28-Nov	Catch-up	Posters	REVIEW		
5-Dec	Comprehensive Final Exam: Tuesday 6-Dec @ 8 AM				

WHAT SHOULD MY WEEK LOOK LIKE TO BEST PREPARE FOR THIS CLASS?

Suggested “rhythm” for this class, do what works best for you.

- **Weekends:** Work on reading for the upcoming week and preview content for Monday.
- **Mondays:** Review content & note any remaining questions after lecture.
- **Tuesdays:** Preview content for Wednesday and complete and turn-in your DSMs.
- **Wednesdays:** Review content & note any remaining questions after lecture.
- **Thursdays:** Preview content for Friday, complete readings.
- **Fridays:** Review any remaining questions after lecture. Start your readings for next week.

***Get your questions answered the day/week we first cover the content. Don't let misunderstandings snowball!**

STUDENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THIS SYLLABUS TO CHANGE AS NEEDED



BIOL 122:001 & 003
Biological Concepts- Evolution, Diversity & Ecology
Fall 2022 Syllabus
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:10 - 10:05 AM SH 1108

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I MISSED OR WILL MISS CLASS

Flexibility is built into this course. You can miss 6 lecture days with NO impact on your grade. Please do not ever send me notices or excuses unless you have extenuating circumstances. It is your responsibility to use the resources provided (PowerPoints, videos and podcasts) to stay on track when you have miss. Please do not ever email asking "what you missed in class;" it is all clearly laid out here and on Blackboard.

I MISSED AN ASSIGNMENT. WHAT DO I DO?

Review the grading policies for details. Your two lowest HW grades will be dropped. Please do not ever send me Dr.s excuses, etc. The flexibility is built-in to this course. There's no reason to ever petition with an excused absence. Assignments are NEVER accepted late or for "partial credit."

THE MASTERING E-TEXT IS NOT WORKING FOR ME. WHAT'S GOING ON?

*You must use Firefox or Chrome web-browsers with Mastering. It will not work well with Safari. You must also have a very strong internet connection, preferably wired. If you are having problems, please contact Pearson's customer support (they're very helpful) **at this LINK**. When you work with student support, be sure to inform them we use Mastering with a special "DIRECT INTEGRATION" link in blackboard. You never need to sign-in!*

WHAT IF I MISS AN EXAM?

You can make up these assessments ONLY if you provide a documented University-Recognized Excuse to me, via email, BEFORE the exam (NEVER AFTER). These include: a doctor's note, family funeral services and military service obligations. Not included: your brother's best friend's wedding or your cousin's little league baseball game.

IS IT TOO LATE TO DROP OR WITHDRAW FROM THIS CLASS?

*All important dates regarding dropping the course or withdraw are available at the following link:
https://www.wku.edu/regISTRATIONGUIDE/academic_calendar_dates/fall2022_acadcal.pdf*

DO YOU GIVE EXTRA CREDIT?

Not to individuals. Occasionally, I may offer extra credit to the class as a whole.

IS MY "CURRENT GRADE" ON BLACKBOARD ACCURATE?

It's close. Due to the flexible grading, it will change some as the final grades are calculated and points are dropped from attendance, in-class assignments, HW and exams. It may go up or down a bit.

MY FINAL GRADE IS ALMOST AN A, OR B, OR C, ETC...WHAT CAN I DO?

Nothing. By the end of the semester your grade is what it is. If you have 89.5, I will round to an A. If you have an 89.4, you will have a B, and so on. Please do not EVER email your college professors asking for your grade to be rounded up or points to be added. INSTEAD, begin the semester with the end in mind. You don't want to look back and say, "if I'd only studied a little better or done one more assignment, I could have the grade I want/need to move on."

I HAVE/NEED STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who require academic or auxiliary accommodations should contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center in DSU #1074, or 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY], or at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Provide a PAPER COPY of your FNL to your TA on the first day of class. These are not accepted via email. We will review and sign off on your request before the following week. Thanks!



BIOL 122:001 & 003
Biological Concepts- Evolution, Diversity & Ecology
Fall 2022 Syllabus
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:10 - 10:05 AM SH 1108

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Attendance: The faculty and staff of Ogden College of Science and Engineering are committed to providing you with learning experiences and opportunities. You must assume ownership of your education and be an active participant in the classroom and laboratory to take advantage of these opportunities. **Active participation requires you to attend.** Scientific studies have shown that attendance during scheduled classroom and laboratory meetings is directly correlated to your performance on assignments and exams and the potential to earn higher grades. Additionally, if you do not regularly attend class, you are missing important information about course topics, due dates, and assignment details that are crucial to your success in the course. Therefore, as a student enrolled in an Ogden course, you are expected to attend every class meeting and to inform your instructor regarding the reasons for any absences as soon as practical. Your instructor may incorporate class attendance/participation as part of the grading criteria.

Student Accessibility: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, room 1074 of the Student Success Center. The phone number is 270.745.5004. or email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Academic Integrity & Student Conduct: Cheating/academic dishonesty in any form (plagiarism, altering exams, crib sheets, cell phone usage, etc.) will result in dismissal from the course with a grade of 'F', and this policy will be strongly enforced. guidelines on academic integrity (<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php>). Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting or is clearly disrespectful to the instructor or fellow students will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include but is not limited to: 1) rude or disrespectful behavior, 2) unwarranted interruptions, 3) failure to adhere to instructor's directions, 4) vulgar or obscene language, slurs, or other forms of intimidation, 5) physically or verbally abusive behavior, or 6) inappropriate questions or advances toward your instructor. Any continuation of such conduct or actions will result in disciplinary action as specified in the WKU Code of Conduct (<https://www.wku.edu/studentconduct/student-code-of-conduct.php>).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination & Harassment: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff, and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/182.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at <https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/251.pdf>. Under these policies, discrimination, harassment, and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

The Learning Center (TLC): The Learning Center (DSU 2141) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC offers CRLA Certified, one-on-one tutoring by appointment or walk-in. TLC also provides quiet study area, with side rooms designated for peer to peer tutoring, and offers a computer lab. For more information, or to schedule a tutoring appointment, please call TLC at (270) 745 - 5065 or log on to the website at <https://www.wku.edu/tlc>.

Food Insecurity: Food insecurity is defined as a condition where persons, in this case students, do not have adequate resources to feed themselves, either nutritiously or not at all (USDA, 2013). According to a recent national study (Hunger on Campus, 2016), food insecurity is common at colleges and universities across the country, potentially undermining the educational success of untold thousands of students. If food insecurity is an issue for you or someone you know, help is readily available. Contact the WKU Office of Sustainability at (270) 745-2508 or email sustainability@wku.edu or visit starvingtolearn.com.

For more important guidelines, policies and resources, visit: <https://www.wku.edu/syllabusinfo/index.php>.