

Biology 113 General Biology

Course: Biol 113-750 (10481)

Class Location on the Internet: This course is web-based and administered entirely online. Students must have access to a strong internet connection and the ability to use digital materials. Students who are officially enrolled in this course should be able to access the course at: The dropdown menu (Blackboard) from www.wku.edu homepage.

Instructor: Dr. Kerrie McDaniel

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Natural Science Exploratory Category of Colonnade

This course fulfills the Natural Science Exploratory Category of Colonnade. Students will gain the ability to:

1. Demonstrate and understand the methods of scientific inquiry in biology
2. Explain basic concepts and principals in biology
3. Apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in biology
4. Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance

Learning Outcomes (By the end of the course you should be able to:)

1. **To demonstrate an understanding of the methods of scientific inquiry.**
2. To explain basic concepts and principals of biology.
3. To use scientific process to interpret data, formulate hypotheses and make predictions.
4. To relate biology to everyday life such as conservation, human and environmental health, problem-solving, sustainability, and technology.

Required:

E-text: Mader & Windelspecht ISBN 978-0-007-3525525 14th edition-McGraw Hill-e-delivery

- Ability to use digital materials
- Good internet connection

Optional: Biology 114 lab the corresponding lab for Biology 113 lecture. It is an optional lab for those needing laboratory experience as part of their Colonnade requirements or for their program of study. You may take just the Biology 113 lecture, the Biology 114 lab or take both the lecture and lab at the same time.

READ BEFORE PURCHASING TEXTBOOK

The Biology Department at WKU has worked over the past year to develop a new model for textbook adoption. In order to save you some money, maximize your effective use of your textbook, increase learning and evaluate the best ways of teaching you difficult topics, we've entered into a partnership with McGraw-Hill publishers. By enrolling in this course, **you agree to purchase the digital materials associated with this course.**

If you want a printed copy, that's about \$25, but you must order that through the WKU Store during the first week of class. In order to make these savings available to you, WKU must institutionalize the purchasing process. As a result, about two weeks into the semester, **you will be billed the cost of the materials for the course.** The nice thing about this is that you will have access to all the course materials from day one, without doing a thing! If you choose to drop the course during the regular add-drop period, you won't be charged for the book. **You should note that for this course, you WILL be charged for**

the digital materials. Do NOT buy a copy of the book from online or local vendors. ONLY the digital format will be used in this course. We anticipate that this approach to teaching will result in better learning and a more interesting classroom experience for you.

McGraw Hill Help Number: 1-800-331-5094

If you have technical difficulties with the e-text, you can use this number to get help.

Tentative Lecture Topics and Chapters Covered:

Ch 1 – Study of Life	Ch 2 – The Molecules of Cells
Ch 3 – Cell Structure & Function	Ch 4 – Membrane Structure & Function
Ch 6 – Metabolism: Energy & Enzymes	Ch 8 – Photosynthesis
Ch 5 – Cell Cycle	Ch 23 – Patterns of Gene Inheritance
Ch 24 – Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance	Ch 25 – DNA Structure & Gene Expression
Ch 26 – Biotechnology & Genomics	Ch 27 – Evolution of Life
Ch 33 – Behavioral Ecology	Ch 34 – Population & Community Ecology
Ch 35 – Nature of Ecosystems	Ch 36 – Major Ecosystems of the Biosphere
Ch 37 – Conservation Biology	

Grading:

Assignment	Points per Assignment	Number	Total Points
Homework (LearnSmart)	10	12	120
Tests	100	2	200
Final Exam	100	1	100
Total Points			420

90-100%= A

80-89%= B

70-79%= C

60-69%= D

Below 59%=F

*****No Extra Credit!!*** Study hard, listen to lectures, and do your homework. Remember, ***I do not give grades, I only record the grade that you earn!!***

Assignments

Reading Assignments: The reading material is an important part of the class content. All reading materials are found in your e-textbook. The chapters for each topic are listed in the tentative schedule (See schedule in Blackboard). The reading provides a different perspective on the content covered in class and extends beyond the content covered in class due to time constraints.

Homework: Homework is designed to help you master the course content. The LearnSmart Program is an adaptive program to help you learn and pin-point your weaknesses. Research has shown that LearnSmart improves learning and grades. You will have 12 Learnsmart Homework assignments that must be completed. Make sure that you finish the assignments by the due date.

MediaSite Lectures: I have produced lectures for you to use to help you learn general biology. These lectures can be accessed in the “MediaSite Lecture” tab of Blackboard. You may listen to the lectures as many times as you wish. They will help you understand the web documents. The Power Points used in these videos are posted for you as well in the same tab as your “E-text”. You will need paper and pen/pencil when you listen to the lectures as you are expected to take notes, just as you would during class.

Exams: Exams will be administered via computer on the dates dictated by your schedule. You will access these under the “Tests and Quizzes” tab on Blackboard. The exams will be timed. You will NOT be able to go back to a question on the exam once you have submitted an answer (no back tracking). You WILL be able to use your notes on the exam, but will NOT be able to access your web documents as this will kick you out of the exam. Therefore, it is important that you study for the exam ahead of time and make organized copies of your notes to facilitate their use. If the only time you study for the exam is DURING the exam, you will not do well. Exams may include essay, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, matching, diagrams or other types of questions.

Study Suggestions: This class will require active studying. **Simply “looking over your notes” will not be enough for most students to succeed in the class.** Below are some suggestions for ways to study to succeed in the class:

- Listen to the MediaSite lectures, read the readings and do the homework!
- Outline your notes using different colors or drawings
- Write your own test questions. Switch with a friend and see if you can pass other’s test.
- Pull out all of the vocabulary words and put them on notecards or on a list.
- Rewrite in notes in your own words.
- Rewrite your notes on one notecard. You will have to reword things to make them fit.
- Make up a song or poem using the vocabulary in the notes.

Policies

General Policies: My general policies are simple and based on respect. I will respect you, and you are to respect me and everyone else in the class. This involves:

Academic Integrity and Misconduct: Don’t cheat. Cheating is not only disrespectful (violating my general policies) but it is also dishonest. Cheating on quizzes, exams or assignments will result in a failing grade for the course and could result in expulsion from the university. It is not worth it. Do your own work.

Plagiarism is another form of misconduct. The university’s definition of plagiarism is: “To represent written work taken from another source as one’s own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism.”

Attendance: Although this is a web class, you are expected to treat it as if we were meeting daily. A three week class moves extremely quickly! Think of every day as a week in a regular semester. Therefore, if you get behind for one day, you are a week behind! Keep up with the readings, the homework and the Media Site lectures..

Free is available for Biology 113 through the Learning Center : Call 745-6254 for more information. (<http://www.wku.edu/advising/index.php?page=the-learning-center/>)

Deadlines: I will abide by the university designated deadlines for withdrawal from a class or the university. Credit for the course will not be changed to an audit after the university-designated time due to a poor grade in the class. Please make note of these dates. Dropping the class after the university deadline requires a written explanation by you and signatures from me, my department head and the dean of Ogden College. These exceptions are only granted in extreme circumstances. So ABIDE by the deadlines! These deadlines can be found at the following location:

file:///C:/Users/krr01582/AppData/Local/Temp/regguide_winter_spring-1.pdf

Ceasing to attend class does not drop you from the class and usually end up with an “F” being assigned for the semester. If circumstances arise that keep you from attending your classes, make sure that you go through the proper channels to withdraw (Abiding by university deadlines). Otherwise, you may end up with a GPA that is difficult to bring up.

End of Semester Policies:

- There is no “extra credit” for the course. I will not respond to emails that ask about extra credit. Study hard, do well on the tests and quizzes.
- I have not completed final grades until they are posted in TOPNET, so please do not email and ask if I have finished grades.
- The grading scale is posted on this syllabus. If you have an 89.45876, then you are guaranteed at least a B in the course. If grades are not posted in TOPNET, then I have not completed them (see above bullet), so please do not email and ask if I will “round up”. You will know if any adjustments were made when grades are posted on TOPNET. I will not respond to emails that ask if I “round up” or about what final grades will be until after they are posted in TOPNET.
- There is absolutely no “making up” missed homework assignments. You more than enough time to complete each assignment AND you can use your notes! So if you find at the end of the semester that you forgot to do homework assignment # 2, do not email and ask to make it up.

Blackboard Entry

www.wku.edu (choose "Blackboard" from the pull down menu)

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act:

Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), if you are 18 years old or older, I cannot discuss your grades, etc. with your parents.

Student Disability Services

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.