

General Biology (Biol-113 Online) Syllabus ----- SPRING 2019

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General Education Course Content and Learning Outcomes:

Biol-113 fulfills the Natural Science Explorations Category of Colonnade (D.1. general education requirement). This course will help you attain the following general education goal and its corresponding outcomes:

To Use the scientific perspective to gain basic understanding of the natural and physical world and the relevance of science issues of personal and public importance. More specifically, successful completion of this course provides you skills to:

- *Demonstrate the understanding of the methods of scientific inquiry*
- *Explain basic concepts or principals in one or more of the sciences*
- *Apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in one or more of the sciences*
- *Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance*

Required:

***E-text:** Mader & Windelspecht ISBN 978-0-007-3525525 15th edition

***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. These materials include an access to Connect, LearnSmart, a downloadable e-copy of the textbook which is yours to keep, and the option to print a gray-scale copy of your textbook at greatly reduced cost. If you want a printed copy, you must order that through the WKU Store during the first week of class (extra charge may apply). 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. **Look for Course registration method on the last page.**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULES (may vary)

Week	Chapter title	Chapter Reading/Posted PPT	Assignments

Week 1	The Study of Life	Chapter 1 PPT presentation 1	Practice LearnSmart
Week 2	The Molecules of Life	Chapter 2 PPT presentation 2I; 2II	LearnSmart Assign 1
Week 3	Cell Theory & Organization, Prokaryote/Eukaryote	Chapter 3 PPT presentation 3	LearnSmart Assign 2
Week 4	Cell Membrane and Function	Chapter 4 PPT presentation 4	LearnSmart Assign 3
Week 5	Catch up; Midterm-1	Catch up; Midterm-1	Catch up; Midterm-1
Week 6	Mitosis & Cancer; Meiosis and Sex	Chapter 5 PPT presentation 5	LearnSmart Assign 4
Week 7	Metabolism, Respiration & Photosynthesis	Parts of Chap 6, 7 and 8; PPT presentation 6	LearnSmart Assign 5
Week 8	Genetics/Laws of Genetic Inheritance	Chapter 23 PPT presentation 7	LearnSmart Assign 6
Week 9	Gene & Gene Expression	Chapter 25 PPT presentation 8	LearnSmart Assign 7
Week 10	Biotechnology: GMOs, Cloning & DNA Finger printing	Chapter 26 PPT presentation 9	LearnSmart Assign 8
Week 11	Midterm-2	Midterm-2	Midterm-2
Week 12	Biological Evolution	Chapter 27 PPT presentation 10	LearnSmart Assign 9
Week 13	The Microbial World	Chapter 28 PPT presentation 11	LearnSmart Assign 10
Week 14	Behavioral Ecology	Chap 33 PPT presentation 12	LearnSmart Assign 10
Week 15	Conservation Biology	Chapter 37; PPT presentation 13	
Week 16	FINAL (Testing Center Exam)	FINAL (Testing Center Exam)	FINAL (Testing Center Exam)

EXAM POLICY

You must check the Blackboard announcement regularly for all tests or exams.

1. **Midterms:** Midterms are close-book, timed-tests. There will be two Midterms, each carrying 100 points and including materials covered before. The exact date will be notified through Blackboard announcement. The questions will be multiple choices, True/False type. Midterms will also be available on Blackboard on the scheduled day/time, and can be taken *from your personal computer during the given time period*. However, I recommend students to take these exams from WKU computer facility. You will be responsible for your internet connection if you choose to take from your personal computer. You are not expected to seek help from any sources while taking midterms. Seeking internet help during these tests will be considered a violation of the academic integrity, and will freeze/kill your attempt. Use of any unfair means during these tests can be detected by Connect surveillance.
2. **Final:** Final: Final is a comprehensive exam conducted by WKU/DELO testing centers on the scheduled date during the week of WKU finals. It includes all the materials covered in the class (an assortment of questions from previous chapters, as in midterms, and chapters covered afterwards). It will carry a weight of 100 points. Questions will be multiple choices, True/False similar to midterms.
You will need to register, in advance, with the Distance Learning Testing Office for your final exam. After start of the course, you will receive a notification from WKU/DLTO office with clear instructions about how to register and reserve your spot. For questions or concerns, as well as detailed guidelines and procedures about testing in a proctored environment, visit the website: dltc@wku.edu, OR call at 270-745-5122 or 270-745-2106, or email at dltc@wku.edu. Make sure to reserve your place early for the final exam.

Makeup: Makeup for midterms/Final can be considered only on the presentation of valid documents such as medical records/court/military orders etc. (approved by WKU). **As LearnSmart Pre Lecture Assignments run for several days, they cannot be made up in any case.**

3. **LearnSmart Pre Lecture Assignment:** LearnSmart is the most widely used adaptive **learning resource** that is designed to maximize productivity and efficiency in learning. This suite spans the entire learning process – from course prep to concept mastery – and it creates high impact study sessions that focus students on the concepts that they need to learn. It is the part of the McGraw Hill digital package that Biology Department has introduced for introductory courses.
 This Blackboard assignment will be available to students all the time under Tests/Quizzes browser, so that students may be familiar with the terms, definitions and important concepts in advance of reading slides or chapters. As soon as you open this assignment, you will see a pop up coming with varieties of questions. Get responding the questions, it will show your right or wrong attempts. It will teach you like a classroom teacher asking questions and then giving you the correct answers at the end. I believe this system is very useful for learning. *You will not lose any course points for your incorrect choices or abortive attempts.* You can practice until you develop mastery over the materials and get full credit. There will be 10 LearnSmart assignments – each carrying 10 points. These practicing assignments have to be completed within the non-extendable deadline (*appearing below the assignment under Tests/Quizzes browser*) for grade points. **As LearnSmart Pre Lecture Assignments run for several days, they cannot be made up in any case.**

Use of High Impact Practices in classroom: Above LearnSmart Interactive Assignments will be used to engage students for active learning practices according to the recommendations of WKU/Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning (CITL).

How to study and prepare for tests

1. Reading PPT slides: PPT presentations made on each covered chapter begin with Learning Outcomes for that specific chapter and then describe a subject with possible illustrations. These slides set a nice background for you to focus on learning, avoiding unnecessary details of the book chapter. If you read these presentations in conjunction with the description in a book chapter (for details), you will have better learning and comprehension.
2. Completion of prior LearnSmart practices will be immensely helpful for the study and preparation of exams.
3. Each chapter of your digital book ends with a number of multiple choice and critical and thinking questions that can be practiced for confidence building for the exam.

Grading Pattern

Midterm I (Chapters 1-4)	100
Midterm II (Chapters 5-6/7/8; 23; 25-26).....	100
FINAL EXAM- COMPREHENSIVE (Above all chapters including 27-28, 33, 37).....	100
LearnSmart Assignments (10X10).....	100

Total Points	400
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Grading scale: A= 90%; B=80%; C=70%; D=60% of the class total of 300

Grade Computation:

The official - Final grade that is posted on TOPNET will be calculated using the grading scale (given above) as follows: Earned Total Points divided by Exam Total Points (400) X 100. All the earned points will be pooled from the Blackboard Gradebook for the percentage determination. The percentage points displayed by the Blackboard may not reflect an accurate final grade.

Blackboard familiarity: Students are required to be familiar with blackboard functions as course materials and the tests/assignments (except final) will be administered through Blackboard. Visit <http://www.wku.edu/it/blackboard/> for help.

Expectation, academic integrity and misconduct

You are expected to read book chapters and PPT slides every day. I would recommend you to do Learn Smart assignments before a chapter reading. It will be then easier for you to understand Chapter/PPT materials. Chapters are voluminous, therefore, PPT slides will guide you what to focus. Materials covered on PPT slides will be mainly included in tests. **Dishonesty/use of any unfair means in exams or any misconduct in the class will inevitably result in a failing grade.**

Withdrawals: There are deadlines for the withdrawal. To withdraw from the course, adhere to the *Tuition and Fee Refund Policy of WKU*. You may not drop or withdraw from the class after the designated time. It is YOUR responsibility to drop the class. Do NOT assume that I will do this for you.

Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy:

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://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf>

and

Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at

https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Disabilities

“Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aid or services) for this course must contact the Office of [Student Accessibility Resource Center](#), Room 445, Potter Hall. The SARC telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD/ Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services”

WHERE TO GET WHAT IN THIS

COURSE???.....

- 1) READ SYLLABUS thrice FOR COURSE TOPICS
AND EXAM POLICY
- 2) READ syllabus FOR COURSE TIME LINE
- 3) FIND PPT PRESENTATIONS UNDER COURSE
CONTENT
- 4) E. BOOK AND OTHER READING/Practice
RESOURCES ARE EVER ACCESIBLE, ONCE YOU
ARE LOGGED IN McGraw HILL CONNECT
- 5) CLICK TESTS & QUIZZES (ON BLACKBOARD
COURSE MENU) TO TAKE **midterms and**
LearnSmart assignments
- 6) CHECK ANNOUNCEMENT FOR Exams
- 7) Must register with WKU/DL testing center in
advance, once you receive its announcement for your
Final
- 8) Follow instructions to Register for McGraw Hill
Digital Package/Connect as below.

How to Register for Connect:

1. **CLICK TOOLS on BLACKBOARD COURSE SITE MENU FOR McGraw Hills Higher Education link. THIS LINK TAKES YOU TO "GO TO MY CONNECT SECTION- Biol (113) - spring 2019**
2. **Click on REGISTER NOW**
 - Student registration tutorials are available if you need help.
3. **Enter your email address**
4. Your E. Mail is your access code
5. **Next, you will need to fill out the registration form.**
 - Click on "Go To Connect Now" to complete your registration and continue to your instructor's course.
6. **You are now at your instructor's course.**
 - This is where you can access your assignments and study resources.
7. **To Return to Connect**
 - Go to the web address provided to you by your instructor. Again, you'll want to bookmark it to save time.
 - Once on the Connect homepage, enter your email address and password.

Please visit the [Student Registration Tutorial](#) for additional registration information.

If you need help or have any questions about Connect, you can visit our Customer Experience support center:

- Customer Support
 - [Visit our 24-hour online support site.](#)
 - Canadian customers, please visit our dedicated [Canadian online support site.](#)
 - Call us at 800-331-5094
 - Sunday: 6pm to 11pm (Central Time)
 - Monday – Thursday: 8am to 11pm (Central Time)
 - Friday: 8am to 6pm (Central Time)
 - Online Tutorials: <http://www.connectstudentsuccess.com>