

Biology 113 General Biology

Winter- December 14-31, 2020.

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

Office: KTH 3045

Biology Office: 270-745-3696

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Overview: This is a **3-week class that begins on Monday, December 14th**. Usually winter term begins in January so please note the start date of this course! I will send an email reminder closer to time for the class to begin.

This class is asynchronous, meaning that there are no set meeting times. However, there are deadlines, due dates and specific windows of time that tests can be taken. A schedule is provided in Blackboard that you need to carefully follow to make sure that you do not get behind or miss any due dates or deadlines. All assignments (except for exams) are open so you can work ahead if you choose.

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: *Inquiry Into Life* 16th Edition by Mader & Windelspecht -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, **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 (Smart Book Assignments)	10-20	12	140
Tests	100	2	200
Final Exam	100	1	100
Total Points			440

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!!***

Schedule: The Schedule posted in Blackboard is your guide! If you follow it you will always know what you are supposed to be doing everyday to stay on track. The schedule is color coded:

- **Date:** This is the date that I suggest you work on the items in this row of the schedule. You can work ahead if you want.
- **Topic:** This is the topic(s) you will be working with on the date listed.
- **Chapter:** This column lists the chapters that you need to read that cover the topic of the day. This is also the chapter where you will find help with the homework.
- **MediaSite Lecture:** This is a list of videos that you need to watch that cover the topic(s) of the day. These videos are designed to help you understand the topic and the content of the chapters.
- **Homework Assignments:** This is the list of homework that is assigned for the topic of the day. The date the homework is listed is the date it is assigned. These assignments are due on the date of the exam.

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 on 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 Smart Book assignments are adaptive to help you learn and pin-point your weaknesses. If you miss a question, you will get another question over that same concept before you complete the assignment. So, the better you understand the material, the fewer questions you will have! These assignments are tied to your book and are designed to force you to read and understand your text. You will have 12 Smart Book 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 at home 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 usually 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:

https://www.wku.edu/registrar/academic_calendars/regguide_2021winter.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.

I do take accommodations seriously and want to make sure you have the tools to succeed. Modifications in how tests are administered (such as taking the exam at SARC or in a testing facility) may be necessary in some cases (such as the need for extra time) to mitigate the fact that time is used as a mechanism to induce test preparation and reduce cheating.

Title IX: Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). 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