



BIOL 122 Biological Concepts- Evolution, Diversity & Ecology Generic (all terms) Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

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GENERAL EDUCATION CONTENT AND GOALS

Course Description: Biological Concepts: Evolution, Diversity & Ecology (BIOL 122) is an introductory course in biology that emphasizes evolutionary patterns and processes, diversity of life (bacteria, archaea, protists, plants, fungi, and animals), ecological principles, and conservation and management. 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.*

Content Outline: We will cover the topics of 1) evolution, 2) diversity, and 3) ecology

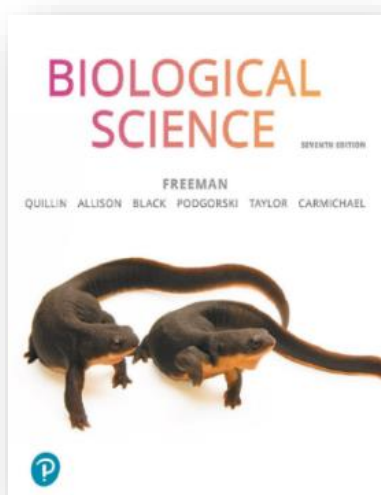
Course Goals

- 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

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, you will be able to: articulate 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

Colonnade Learning Outcomes: By the end of the semester, you will be able to: demonstrate an understanding of the methods of science inquiry, explain basic concepts and principles in one or more of the sciences, apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in one or more of the sciences, and explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance.

COURSE MATERIALS: MASTERING BIOLOGY



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

- *E-copy of: Biological Science, 6th edition, by Freeman*
- *The learning assistant: Mastering Biology (HW & study resources)*
- If you desire an optional printed copy, you must order it through the WKU Store during the first week of class. It is currently \$48-\$55.
- **Having issues accessing the e-book?** Go to Mastering in Blackboard >> Troubleshooting

Big Red BackPack (BRB): BRB is a consolidated method to purchase your course materials each semester. You are charged a blanket rate of \$25.00 per credit hour. You are automatically enrolled into BRB but can choose to opt-out. Whether or not you should opt-out depends on which BIOL course(s) you will take this year, as well as your other classes. **For MOST of you:** If you are taking the entire BIOL 120 series (BIOL 120, 121, 122, and 123) in a single year (over the Fall and Spring terms), the total BRB price will = \$200. Directions for opting out of Big Red Backpack will be posted on our Blackboard site.

STUDENTS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THIS SYLLABUS TO CHANGE AS NEEDED



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COURSE POLICIES

GRADING

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 if you submit before the due date and time. Please do not email asking when these grades will be posted. Please DO NOT ever rely on grade calculations shown in the Blackboard App. Use the "Current Grade" column on Blackboard, only. 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
Homework 18%	Syllabus Quiz	1	1	20	20
	HW (DSMs)	13	10	10	100
Participation 18%	In-Class Work	10	8	10	80
	Attendance	38	35	2	70
Exams 64%	Exams	5	4	100	400
	Final	1	1	100	100

Homework

- Syllabus Quiz: You must complete the quiz to have access to your homework (DSMs) 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 which sections to focus on and which to skip.
- Dynamic Study Modules (DSMs): 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 three lowest (or skipped) DSM grades will be dropped.

Exams

- All unit exams will be taken in a special web browser called Respondus, through Blackboard.
- Your lowest unit exam grade will be dropped from your final grade.
- The Comprehensive Final Exam will be taken 8-10 AM, Monday, December 8th.

In-Class Participation

- Attendance: Attendance is imperative for success. You must be marked as "present" through the attendance app to receive attendance points. However (nobody's perfect, and stuff happens), so you can miss four lectures without lowering your grade. **These "dropped" absences include all absences (excused or otherwise).** Attendance comprises half of your in-class grade.
- In-class work: We will have 8 to 10 in-class activities during the semester. You must submit these individually to the corresponding assignment in Blackboard. Your two lowest grades will be dropped. These activities make up the other part 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 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.



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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 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.** Directions on how to sign up will be posted on Blackboard.



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.**
- ✓ 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 (e.g., not just "I'm in your class")
- ✓ Always be professional; use appropriate grammar and punctuation.

TECHNOLOGY NEEDS



You will need a PC or Mac with the full office suite for this class. Chromebooks are not acceptable. 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](#) and review the [recommendations page](#).



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 will access it through our Blackboard course. 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 smartphone alternatives if needed.



Attendance Radar is a free app that will let me easily take attendance at some point during each lecture. I will auto-enroll you all in this app before our classes begin. All you'll need to do is download it and sign-in to your account using your WKU EMAIL ONLY. Instructions will also be emailed to you and posted on our Bb site. Alternatives are available if needed, and changes may be made based on app costs from term to term (student costs will always = \$0).

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. We can also arrange for loaner laptops as needed. Please, never hesitate to advocate for yourself.

Let me know how I can help you!



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COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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

Week of	In-Class			Homework	
	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Weekly Reading	Due Wed @ 10:59PM
1	Introduction	CH 01	CH 01	CH 01	Syllabus Quiz
2	CH 22	CH 22	CH 22	CH 22	CH 01 DSMs
3	Labor Day	CH 22	Exam 1		CH 22 DSMs
4	CH 23	CH 23	CH 23-34	CH 23-24	CH 23 DSMs
5	CH 24	CH 24	CH 24-25	CH 25	CH 24 DSMs
6	CH 25	CH 25	Exam 2		CH 25 DSMs
7	CH 26	CH 27	CH 27	CH 26-27	CH 26 DSMs
8	Fall Break	CH 27	CH 28	CH 28	CH 27 DSMs
9	CH 28	CH 28	Exam 3		CH 28 DSMs
10	CH 29	CH 29	CH 30	CH 29-30	CH 29 DSMs
11	CH 31-32	CH 31-32	Exam 4		CH 30 DSMs
12	CH 49	CH 49	CH 51	CH 49-50	CH 49 DSMs
13	CH 51-52	CH 52-53	CH 54	CH 51-52	CH 51 DSMs
14	CH 54	CH 54	Exam 5	CH 54	CH 54 DSMs
15	TBD	Thanksgiving Break		Content Review	
16	Study Sessions		Finals		
18	Finals Week				

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

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

Get your questions answered the day/week we first cover the content. Do not let misunderstandings snowball!

- ✓ **Weekends:** Read the upcoming week and preview content for Monday.
- ✓ **M:** Review content & note any remaining questions after lecture.
- ✓ **T:** Preview content for Wednesday and complete and turn in your DSMs.
- ✓ **W:** Review content & note any remaining questions after lecture.
- ✓ **R:** Preview content for Friday, complete readings.
- ✓ **F:** Review remaining questions after lecture. Start readings for next week.

JUDGEMENT

FREE

ZONE

ASK QUESTIONS!



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I MISSED OR WILL MISS CLASS

*Flexibility is built into this course. You can miss several lecture days with NO impact on your grade. **Please do not ever send me notices or excuses unless you have extenuating circumstances for a prolonged absence.** It is your responsibility to use the resources provided (PowerPoints, videos and podcasts) to stay on track when you have to miss. Please do not ever email asking “what you missed in class” -it is all clearly laid out here and on Blackboard. If you have a reason to miss more than the allotted attendance days, please let me know (e.g., military service, extended injury, or illness).*

I MISSED AN ASSIGNMENT. WHAT DO I DO?

*Review the grading policies for details. Your lowest HW grades will be dropped. **Please do not ever send me doctor's excuses, etc.** The flexibility is built into this course. There's no reason to ever petition for late work unless you have extenuating circumstances we need to discuss. 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: vacation, your brother's best friend's wedding, Greek Week, 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>.*

DO YOU GIVE EXTRA CREDIT?

Never 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 me on the first day of class. These are not accepted via email. I will review each one and sign off on your request before the following week. I take these seriously and will ensure you have everything you need to succeed. If you ever notice your accommodations have not been met, please let me know immediately so I can correct the issue (Blackboard can be a bit temperamental). Thanks!



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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: Academic Integrity & Student Conduct: Cheating/academic dishonesty in any form (plagiarism, altering exams, crib sheets, cell phone usage, etc.) is not tolerated. Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting or is clearly disrespectful to the instructor or fellow students will not be tolerated. Violations will result in dismissal from the course with a grade of 'F', and this policy will be strongly enforced.

Disruptive conduct or breeches in academic integrity may include but are 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
6. Inappropriate questions or advances toward your instructor or other students
7. Failure to work with your lab group
8. Fraudulent notes or excuses from professionals

Such conduct or actions will also result in disciplinary action as specified in the WKU Code of Conduct and per university guidelines, any instances of academic misconduct will also be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

AI Policy: Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for any type of work in this class. If you choose to use these tools, your actions will be considered academically dishonest and a violation of the [WKU Student Code of Conduct](#).

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/>

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