

# General Microbiology- Biol 207

## Syllabus (6 pages) -- Summer 2025

Instructor: Dr. Nilesh Sharma  
Office: KTH# 3037  
Phone: 270-745-6593  
E-mail: [nilesh.sharma@wku.edu](mailto:nilesh.sharma@wku.edu)

**General Education Course Content and Learning Outcomes:** Biol-207 fulfills the D.1. (Science/Mathematics) general education requirement. In addition, this course is a requirement for some degree programs such as nursing, pre-pharmacy, pre-veterinary medicine, and others. Please check your degree program and with your advisor to make certain that this course fulfills your degree requirements. This course will help you attain the following general education goal and its corresponding outcomes:

“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 fundamental principles or concept of microbiology*
- *Gain an understanding of bacteria, viruses and other microbes and their interaction with human lives*
- *Apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in the areas of human health and environment*
- *Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance*

### Required:

- **E-text: Microbiology Fundamentals: A clinical approach by Cowan (with Bunn and Herzog). ISBN: 978-0-07-340235-2**
- **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 access to Connect, LearnSmart practice module and a downloadable e-copy of the textbook, which is you can own. If you want a printed copy (at a substantially reduced price), 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, and less stress on your spine!

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 5 TO REGISTER FOR “McGraw Hill Connect”

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULES

| Week               | Chapter title   | Chapter Reading/Posted PPT   | Assignments  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| June 2<br>MODULE 1 | Intro to Microbes ----- Building Blocks   | Chapter 1;<br>PPT presentation 1   | SmartBook Assign 1   |
|                    | Prokaryotic Structure-----<br>Eukaryotic Structure  | Chapter 3, 4;<br>PPT presentation 2  | SmartBook Assign 2   |
|                    | Viral Structure ----- Life Cycles   | Chapter 5;<br>PPT presentation 3   | SmartBook Assign 3   |
|                    | Microbial Nutrition ----- Growth  | Chapter 6;<br>PPT presentation 4   | SmartBook Assign 4   |
| June 10-11/2025    | Exam-1  |  |  |
| MODULE-2           | Microbial Metabolism  | Chapter 7;<br>PPT presentation 5   | SmartBook Assign 5   |
|                    | Microbial Genetics----- Genetic Engineering   | Chapter 8;<br>PPT presentation 6   | SmartBook Assign 6   |
|                    | Physical and Chemical Control of Microbes   | Chapter 9;<br>PPT presentation 7   | SmartBook Assign 7   |
|                    | Interaction ----- Microbes and Humans   | Chapter 11;<br>PPT presentation 8  | SmartBook Assign 8   |
| June 20-21/2025    | Exam-2  |  |  |
| MODULE-3           | Infectious Diseases----<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respiratory System</li> <li>• Gastrointestinal Diseases</li> <li>• Sexually Transmitted Diseases</li> </ul> | Chapter 19;<br>PPT presentation 9<br>Chapter 20;<br>PPT presentation 10<br>Chapter 21<br>PPT Presentation 11 | SmartBook Assign 9<br>SmartBook Assign 10<br>SmartBook Assign 11 |
| July 2-3, 2025     | FINAL (Testing Center Exam)<br>All modules  | FINAL  |  |

## EXAM POLICY

Exams/assignments are designed to test an understanding of the methods of scientific inquiry.

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

1. SmartBook Assignment: SmartBook 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. This Blackboard assignment will be available to students before class PPT slides, so that students may be familiar with the terms, definitions and important concepts in advance. You will be accessing these time-sensitive assignments through blackboard browser menu (Tests/Quizzes). This practice speeds up a student's learning and understanding of the PPT materials. **There will be 11/12 assignments, carrying a total of 100 points.** No make-up for a missed assigned is allowed.
2. Exam-1 & Exam-2: These exams are the close-book, timed-tests, each carrying 100 points based on the materials covered from Module 1 and Module, respectively. The questions will be multiple choices, True/False type. **These exams will also be available on Blackboard for a period of 24 hours, and can be taken from your personal computer during the designated period.** I may recommend you to take midterms from WKU computer facilities because of the uninterrupted internet and technical services provided by WKU (optional). You will be responsible for your internet connection if you choose to take from your personal computer.
3. Final: Final is a cumulative exam to be held in the last week. It includes all the materials covered in the class. Questions will be multiple choices, True/False similar to midterms. **It will be a proctored exam conducted by the WKU/Distance Learning Testing Center (DLTC).** Students can take this exam from any approved testing centers in the country. **You will be notified about registration instructions by DLTC soon after the start of class. You must register, in advance, with the DLTC. I highly recommend reaching the DLTC office at 270-745-5122 or 270-745-2106 for registration-related questions/issues.**
4. *Makeup*: No makeup for LearnSmart assignments will be allowed in any circumstances, as they are available on your personal computer for many days. Make-up for midterms can be considered only on the presentation of valid documents (approved by WKU).

### Grading Pattern

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| LearnSmart assignments                                      | 100 |
| Exam-1 (Chapters 1, 3, 4–6)                                 | 100 |
| Exam-2 (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 11)                               | 100 |
| FINAL EXAM- Cumulative (Above all chapters including 19-21) | 150 |

---

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Total Points | 450 |
|--------------|-----|

**Grading scale: A= 90%; B=80%; C=70%; D=60% of a class total of 400**

### Grade Computation:

The official - Final grade (posted on TOPNET) will be calculated using the grading scale (given above) as follows: Earned Total Points divided by Exam Total Points X 100. All the earned points will be pooled from the Blackboard Gradebook for 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.

### **Expectations & Academic integrity**

You are expected to read book chapters and PPT slides every day. I must 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. You are not expected to seek help from any sources while taking midterms (midterms are close-book, timed-tests). Seeking internet help during these tests will be considered a violation of the academic integrity.

**Blackboard Discussion:** You are encouraged to join the Discussion forum floated by me. This is a Blackboard platform where you can post your questions with regard to materials or class dynamics. You are also encouraged to answer peer questions/concerns, if you can answer. I will answer your questions regularly.

**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.

### **Disabilities**

“Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aid or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS 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”

## 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 (207) - summer 2025

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>

## **COURSE NAVIGATION: WHERE TO GET WHAT**

**1) READ SYLLABUS FOR COURSE TOPICS AND EXAM POLICY**

**2) READ COURSE SCHEDULES FOR COURSE TIMELINE**

- 3) FIND PPT PRESENTATIONS UNDER Blackboard  
COURSE CONTENT
- 4) CLICK TESTS & QUIZZES FOR SMARTBOOK  
ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS
- 5) CHECK ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ASSIGNMENTS OR  
MIDTERMS
- 6) REGISTER WITH TESTING CENTERS IN ADVANCE  
FOR FINAL
- 7) For course-related questions, you can  
communicate with me through my E. Mail  
([Nilesh.sharma@wku.edu](mailto:Nilesh.sharma@wku.edu))
- 8) JOIN BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION FORUM FOR  
general QUESTIONS/CONCERNS
- 9) Follow instructions to Register for McGraw Hill Digital  
Package/Connect as above.