This is a sample syllabus for BSC1005. Students should reference the section syllabus provided at the beginning of the semester for specifics regarding assignments and grade assignments.
Use the BSC1005 Canvas website to check announcements, view the syllabus and FAQs, view your grades, submit assignments, and access course material.

*Note: We do not use Canvas messaging to communicate with students. Please use campus email addresses and label your subject with BSC1005.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course consists of four units of contemporary biology topics, taught by biology professors/researchers who specialize in the subject matter. Topics vary each semester and may include genetics and human inheritance, vertebrate biology, plant biology, human reproduction, marine biology, dinosaur paleobiology, viruses and viral disease, and ecology. The course emphasizes the development of science proficiency by teaching students to understand, use, and interpret scientific explanations of the natural world and apply this knowledge to social, environmental, political or wellness issues.

LIBERAL STUDIES:
This course has been approved to meet FSU’s Liberal Studies Natural Sciences requirements and is designed to help you become an effective interpreter of scientific results and a critical analyst of claims about the natural world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- **Pose questions or hypotheses based on scientific principles.** Students will learn about the scientific method and get opportunities to form their own questions and hypotheses about the natural world, as well as learn about questions and hypotheses in different fields of biology.
- **Use appropriate scientific methods to evaluate claims or theoretical arguments about the natural world.** Students will evaluate claims and arguments in class and through assignments, and use the knowledge they learn in class to develop scientific explanations. Students will also assess claims by biologists in many disciplines and relate them to the course content.
- **Analyze and interpret research results using appropriate methods.** Student will explore data from published scientific studies and draw conclusions about biology from these findings.

PLEASE NOTE: Three questions (one assessing each course objective above) will be included on each of the four unit exams given throughout the semester. The Nature of Science (NOS) Assignment will also assess student achievement of these objectives; details regarding the rubric for this can be found on the Canvas site.
COURSE MATERIALS:

*Required Booklets are written by the course instructors and available EXCLUSIVELY at the FSU Bookstore and Bill’s Bookstore:*

**Unit 1:** Biodiversity by Dr. Kevin Dixon  
(Print: 978-1-5339-4079-7)

**Unit 2:** Living With Dinosaurs by Dr. Greg Erickson  
(Print: 978-1-5339-3270-9)

**Unit 3:** Animal Behavior by Dr. William Herrnkind and Dr. Brittany Kraft  
(Print: 978-1-5339-1847-5)

**Unit 4:** Movement and Physiology by Dr. Bryant Chase  
(Print: 978-1-5339-1240-4)

*Required Instructional Technology:* A computer or laptop with reliable internet or Wi-Fi access that permits proper completion of coursework and facilitates students’ ability to take exams and turn in assignments online through the course Canvas site. Please use Firefox or Chrome browsers when completing Canvas quizzes and exams. Also use Microsoft Word, provided for free by the university, when completing essay assignments.

**Letter Grade Calculation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Assignments</td>
<td>4 @ 40 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Exams</td>
<td>4 @ 200 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOS Assignment</td>
<td>40 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000 points</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter grades are based solely on the total number of points earned out of 1000. There are no + or – grades. Grades will not be rounded up or down. There are no extra points available at the end of the semester. Consider doing all extra credit opportunities throughout the semester in case you end up needing them, and for practice with the material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>880 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>780 – 879.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>680 – 779.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>580 – 679.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>579.99 – 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE SCHEDULE: Spring 2023

First Day Attendance Quiz Due January 9th at 11:59 PM

Unit 1: Biodiversity
January 11 – February 7

Canvas Quiz Extra Credit Questions: 9 classes x 1 points/class = 9 points possible

| January 16 | No Class, MLK Day |
| January 20 – February 3 | Unit 1 Assignment Window |
| February 6 – 7 | Unit 1 Testing Window |

Unit 2: Living with Dinosaurs
February 8 – March 3

Canvas Quiz Extra Credit Questions: 9 classes x 1 points/class = 9 points possible

| February 15 – March 1 | Unit 2 Assignment Window |
| March 2 – 3 | Unit 2 Testing Window |

Unit 3: Animal Behavior
March 6 – April 5

Canvas Quiz Extra Credit Questions: 9 classes x 1 points/class = 9 points possible

| March 13 – 17 | No Class, Spring Break |
| March 20 – April 3 | Unit 3 Assignment Window |
| April 4 – 5 | Unit 3 Testing Window |

Unit 4: Movement and Physiology
April 7 – May 2

Canvas Quiz Extra Credit Questions: 9 classes x 1 points/class = 9 points possible

| April 14 – April 28 | Unit 4 Assignment Window |
| May 1 - 2 | Unit 4 Testing Days (during finals week) |
| April 12 | Nature of Science Assignment due |

GRADE, ABSENCE, AND ASSIGNMENT CONCERNS DEADLINES:
Requests for extensions on assignments or exams after their deadlines will require verifiable documentation. Students are expected to reach out to course administrators about absences or missed assignments within one week of the absence or missed assignment. The deadline for resolving concerns about previously graded work or past missed assignments is 5:00 pm on April 28, 2023, to have these changes reflected on the final grade submitted to the Registrar’s office. This includes submission AND grading of all assignments by this deadline. Additional changes may still be considered after this deadline, but these will need to be discussed with the faculty coordinator. Any changes after final grade submission must be approved by the Dean of the FSU College of Arts and Sciences. Students are encouraged to check their grades on Canvas frequently and reach out to course administrators about their coursework and grades throughout the semester prior to this deadline.
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:
BSC1005 consists of 4 units; each is like a mini-course and consists of a unit test (worth 200 points) and a unit assignment (worth 40 points). There is also an assignment on the Nature of Science (worth 40 points) due at the end of the semester. Extra credit opportunities are also available throughout the semester. Note: All course deadlines are firm and late work is not accepted except in cases of excused documented absences and documented technical errors. There is no partial credit. Students must complete all assignments individually and may not reuse assignments submitted in a previous semester or a different course.

UNIT EXAMS
Each unit exam is composed of 40 multiple choice questions, worth 5 points each (a total of 200 possible points per exam). The unit exams cover the material learned during each unit. Exams will be taken online through Canvas and will be timed for 60 minutes. They will be open-book and open-note. Each exam will begin with an Academic Honor Code agreement. Students must complete exams alone and only use course materials such as the unit booklets, their class notes, and any supplemental material published in the course Canvas site. Students are not permitted to consult the internet or use websites such as Chegg and CourseHero. If students are caught using resources such as these, future exams will be subject to Honorlock Proctoring. Student activity is monitored through Canvas and failure to observe exam policies may result in an Academic Honor Policy violation with a sanction of 0 points on the assignment.

*If you experience a technical error while taking an exam, please document it as best you can (i.e., take a screen shot that shows the date and time of the error, and what you saw on your Canvas screen. Report the issue to course administrators immediately.

UNIT ASSIGNMENTS
Each unit has a 40-point unit assignment that will be submitted or completed through Canvas. The composition of these assignments may vary from instructor to instructor. Details will be announced in class and on the course Canvas site. *Note: Students must complete these assignments individually.

NATURE OF SCIENCE (NOS) ASSIGNMENT
Each student will complete an assignment on the Nature of Science (NOS) that is worth up to 40 points. This required assignment was developed to encourage students to clarify the characteristics and processes of science, as well as to draw relationships between science, class material, and other disciplines. Students are expected to watch three TED Talks from the list we provide and to write a short paper (minimum of 750 words, excluding references) using the outline posted in the assignment guidelines. Note: The expectations for this assignment are high; full details regarding this assignment and a grading rubric can be found on the course site under the “Nature of Science Assignment” module. Unit assignment rules in the syllabus apply to this assignment. This assignment is due at 11:59 pm on April 12, 2023.

EXTRA CREDIT UNIT ASSIGNMENTS
There is a 5-point extra credit assignment associated with each unit. Students can complete all four extra credit assignments if they wish, earning up to 20 additional points in the course. The composition of these assignments varies from instructor to instructor. Details will be announced in class and on the course website. *Note: students must complete these assignments individually.

EXTRA CREDIT LECTURE QUIZZES
Lecture quizzes will be used as an opportunity for students to get practice answering questions and as an extra credit opportunity. Quizzes will be available in Canvas from 9:00am to 11:59pm the day of the lecture. Students can earn 1 extra credit points per lecture quiz for a total of 36 possible extra credit points throughout the semester. Students must score 100% on a quiz to earn any extra credit and have unlimited attempts to do so before the deadline.
ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION POLICIES:

i. **Assignments must be submitted through Canvas.**
   a. You have unlimited submission opportunities before the deadline, and the most recent submission will be graded.
   b. File types must be .doc or .docx (we cannot accept .pages files)
   c. Late assignments are not accepted. If you miss a deadline, DO NOT edit your document after the deadline.
   d. Assignments are not accepted via email.
   e. Assignments typed into a comment will not be graded.

iii. **Avoid plagiarism and other Academic Honor Policy Violations.**
   a. See the following link from FSU libraries about strategies to avoid plagiarism: [http://guides.lib.fsu.edu/plagiarism](http://guides.lib.fsu.edu/plagiarism)
   b. We use TurnItIn for originality checking. Assignments with TurnItIn similarity scores higher than 15% will be flagged for closer inspection and could result in an Academic Honor Policy violation. **TIP:** Do not put the assignment prompts in your document; it will increase the similarity score.
   c. Learn to view and interpret your TurnItIn results. [https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/1206-students-how-do-i-view-turnitin-results-for-my-submission/](https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/1206-students-how-do-i-view-turnitin-results-for-my-submission/) Consider submitting your assignment prior to the deadline and using your TurnItIn report as a guide for revising your assignment. If you need guidance, please reach out to the faculty coordinator before the deadline.

iv. **Attempt to solve and document all technical errors.**
   a. Always verify that your submission was successful by generating a digital TurnItIn receipt: [https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/1148-students-how-to-download-a-turnitin-digital-receipt/](https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/1148-students-how-to-download-a-turnitin-digital-receipt/). You can also click “Grades” in Canvas and make sure you see your uploaded assignment or a score for your exam.
   b. If you experience problems with Canvas or TurnItIn, contact Office of Distance Learning Technical Support at 850-644-8004 M-F 8:00-5:00 pm for assistance. Only after speaking with ODL, contact course administrators if the issue is not resolved.
   c. **NOTE:** If you experience a technical issue when submitting your assignment, you should:
      - Alert course administrators (bscoffice@bio.fsu.edu) before the assignment deadline
      - Provide documentation, such as the digital TurnItIn receipt as proof of submission, evidence of the technical error itself, and file history to demonstrate that the proper assignment was completed before the deadline.
      - The FSU Learning Management System uses sophisticated tools that accurately track all clicks by each user through the system. If you report technical difficulties with assignments, be honest or you could be charged with an Academic Honor Policy violation.

ATTENDANCE AND MISSED COURSEWORK POLICIES:

**UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY:**
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid written excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Note for this course:** Excuses for religious holy days will be based on the interfaith calendar: [http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/](http://www.interfaith-calendar.org/). Requests must be made in advance of the holiday.
ATTENDANCE AND MISSED COURSEWORK POLICIES FOR THIS COURSE:
Lecture attendance is strongly encouraged to improve your learning. Although attendance is not required in this course, the University Attendance Policy is applied to cases of missed assignment or exam deadlines. Assignment and exam deadlines are only extended in cases of excused absences or documented technical errors. Excused absences include those listed in the University Attendance Policy. All absence documentation must be submitted to course administrators by email to bsoffice@bio.fsu.edu and may be subject to verification. Students should address any concerns about documentation with a course administrator.

NOTE: Submission of falsified documentation constitutes a violation of FSU’s Academic Honor Policy. Students will be charged with a violation if they submit falsified documentation.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS:
  i. Attend lectures and take notes.
  ii. Prepare for lecture by reading your required text booklets.
  ii. Ask your unit instructors questions about material you do not understand.
  iii. Study actively: ask yourself questions, practice explaining concepts to yourself or a study partner, draw concept maps, treat extra credit lecture quizzes and in-class questions as practice for exams.
  iv. Powerpoint slides are not provided to students in BSC1005. If you missed something in class, you should visit your instructor’s office hours to review.
  iv. Each unit instructor will hold a review session at the end of their unit. Tutoring for BSC1005 is available through the ACE Tutoring Center.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS:
Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Dean of Students office to learn more.

FREE TUTORING from FSU:
On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options at http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

PRE Program @ ACE: Free Academic Assistance
This class will participate in the Proactive Referral and Engagement (PRE) program (https://ace.fsu.edu/pre-student-faqs). The purpose of this program is to give you early academic assistance and advice so that you succeed in this class. Therefore, the course faculty or instructor may share information about your class performance with Dr. Samantha Tackett at ACE. You may contact ACE directly for course-based tutoring and study support via Campus Connect for Zoom or in-person appointments: https://fsu.campus.eab.com/student/appointments/new?type=tutoring
If you would like to contact Dr. Samantha Tackett directly for assistance, please use the information below:
Email: stackett@fsu.edu
Phone: 850-645-4047
Office: William Johnston Building G015B
ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY:
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy)

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy has eight different types of violations:
1. **Plagiarism:** Presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgement of the source).
2. **Cheating:** Improper access to or use of any information or material that is not specifically condoned by the instructor for use in the academic exercise.
3. **Unauthorized Group Work:** Unauthorized collaborating with others. Typical examples include: working with another person or persons on any activity that is intended to be individual work, where such collaboration has not been specifically authorized by the instructor.
4. **Fabrication, Falsification, and Misrepresentation:** Unauthorized altering or inventing of any information or citation that is used in assessing academic work. Typical examples include: submitting a false excuse for a class absence or tardiness in a scheduled academic exercise.
5. **Multiple Submissions:** Submitting the same academic work (including oral presentations) for credit more than once without instructor permission.
6. **Abuse of Academic Materials:** Intentionally damaging, destroying, stealing, or making inaccessible library or other academic resource material.
7. **Complicity in Academic Dishonesty:** Intentionally helping another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.
8. **Attempting to commit any offense as outlined above.**

Students are expected to do their own original work. Any suspected Academic Honor Policy violations will be investigated according to the procedures outlined in the Academic Honor Policy. Sanctions for violations are typically a grade of 0 on the assignment in question. Note that resubmitting your own work from previous courses is also considered a violation.

DEAN OF STUDENTS:
The office of the Dean of Students is there to support regarding policies and procedures, especially those related to the Academic Honor Policy. If you are struggling with life events and these are impacting your classes, the Dean of Students is there for you. Please contact them if you ever need help. They can be found at http://deanofstudents.fsu.edu/

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:
CONFIDENTIAL CAMPUS RESOURCES:
Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

- **Victim Advocate Program**
  University Center A, Room 4100, (850) 644-7161.
  Available 24/7/365, Office Hours: M-F 8-5
  [https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap](https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap)

- **Counseling & Psychological Services**
  Askew Student Life Center, 2ndFloor, 942 Learning Way (850) 644-8255
  [https://counseling.fsu.edu/](https://counseling.fsu.edu/)

- **University Health Services**
  Health and Wellness Center (850) 644-6230
  [https://uhs.fsu.edu/](https://uhs.fsu.edu/)

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT:
The faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Biological Science are committed to making our department and discipline more inclusive. We share a collective responsibility towards each other’s well-being, with an understanding that the relevance and ingenuity of biological science depends on greater inclusion of under-represented groups. For this reason, we are dedicated to preventing all forms of discrimination that unfairly disadvantage some, privilege others, and run counter to our values of equity and justice. We strive for a cohesive and collaborative culture focused on excellence in research, teaching, mentoring, and service. We are committed to valuing, celebrating and leveraging the differences and similarities within our community to create a fertile environment for problem-solving—one that is both inventive and compassionate.

HB233 RECORDING:
In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for personal use only. As noted, sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may subject you to honor code violations and legal penalties associated with theft of intellectual property and violations of other state law. Moreover, students and educators have expressed concern that recording classroom activities may negatively impact the learning experience for others, especially in classes that involve questions, discussion, or participation. To protect a learning environment in which everyone feels free to experiment with ideas, we ask you refrain from recording in ways that could make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.