

General Biology for Non-Majors

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.

Course Learning Objectives (including liberal studies learning objectives assigned to the course):

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.

Grading Assignments:

Unit Exams (4 total, 20% each)

Unit Assignments (4 total, 4% each)

Nature of Science Assignment (4%)

LIBERAL STUDIES STATEMENT

This course has been approved to meet FSU's Liberal Studies Natural Sciences requirement and helps you become an effective interpreter of scientific results and a critical analyst of claims about the natural world.

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Pose questions or hypotheses based on scientific principles.
2. Use appropriate scientific methods and evidence to evaluate claims or theoretical arguments

- about the natural world.
3. Analyze and interpret research results using appropriate methods.

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 excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

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>)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

(1) must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS); (2) must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and, (3) should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

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.

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>

Counseling & Psychological Services
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd Floor
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.fsu.edu>