

Biology 1050 – Introduction to Life

Fall 2017, 3 or 4 Credits

Course website: www.blackboard.wayne.edu

Instructor: Dr. Karen Myhr

Lectures: Sections 001 and 002 2:30 to 3:20 pm Mon., Wed. and Fri.; 100 General Lectures

Lectures: Section 025 10:30 am to 11:20 pm Mon., Wed. and Fri.; 146 DeRoy (Upper Deroy)

Objectives: The overall goal of the course is for you to demonstrate an understanding of basic biology from molecules to ecology and evolution, as stated in learning objective 4. This goal depends on your acquiring the skills necessary for you to learn biology effectively, as stated in learning objectives 1-3.

Learning Objective 1 is that you *set a goal, and a strategy* to meet your goal at the beginning of the semester, and reevaluate your goal & strategy after each exam.

Learning Objective 2 is that you *use the tools & resources* for this course, including learning communities, homework assignments, lectures, textbook, Bio 1050 study room and the academic success center, to help you achieve your goals.

Learning Objective 3 is that you *assess your own learning* to evaluate how to improve by using the assessment tools in the homework three times per week.

Learning Objective 4 is that by applying the first three objectives in the context of biology throughout the semester, you will be able to demonstrate that you are an educated consumer, patient and voter in issues related to biology, and you are able to succeed in biology courses that you enroll in later.

To assist you with these learning objectives, the course includes online homework and class participation via activities including clickers (see below). You also are in a learning community to support you during lecture and an extra expected hour of instruction.

Textbook & Biology: Concepts & Connections with MasteringBiology (Ninth Ed.)

Web Site: by Martha R. Taylor, Eric J. Simon, Jean L. Dickey, Kelly A. Hogan, Jane B. Reece. Access to the textbook (paper or digital) is required for success in this course. If you do not have access yet, or want to study on campus, there will be copies available in the STEM Commons and on reserve in the undergraduate library (ask at the front desk). Each student must purchase their own MasteringBiology (Ninth Ed.), the online homework and digital materials site.

Clickers: We will be using clickers this semester to enhance your experience of the course. Clickers are remote control-like devices that allow you to answer questions in class and see how the class answered. Students like clickers because they enable them to participate actively in class and it can improve learning and grades. You are required to have an iClicker2. See Blackboard for more information on buying clickers.

CONTACTING DR. MYHR AND GETTING HELP

Office Hours Location for Dr. Myhr: Room 2113 Biological Sciences Building, or the STEM Commons

E-mail: kmyhr@wayne.edu

Office Phone: 313-577-1504

Blackboard: When you go to your Blackboard home page (www.blackboard.wayne.edu) you will see one or more Blackboard courses associated with this course. If you are in the 10:30-11:20 am section of the course, you will just see one Blackboard course. If you are in the 2:30-3:20 pm section of the course, you will see an active combined 001.002 Blackboard course. These are for lecture information. The discussion board in your lecture Blackboard site is a place to ask questions about the material. I will try to answer questions posted there, but often another student will answer you even faster. In your lecture site you will also see groups and your team area, after you sign up for a team. This is where you can communicate with your team.

If you are in the 2:30 pm section and not in the lab, then you will see an inactive 001 section in addition to the combined course. We will not use this Blackboard site and you can hide it (hover in the upper right corner of the box around the courses, and click on the gear symbol). If you are in the lab, you will see an additional all labs course for general lab information, and you may also have a Blackboard course for your specific TA to communicate with you.

If there is a Blackboard problem, please contact Computing & Information Technology (C& IT) at (313) 577-4778 or helpdesk@wayne.edu. I cannot fix global Blackboard problems.

Lecture Recordings: The lectures usually will be recorded and posted in Blackboard in the EchoCenter. I cannot resolve problems with the lecture capture system. If there is a problem, please contact Computing & Information Technology (C& IT) at (313) 577-4778 or helpdesk@wayne.edu. You are also welcome to record lectures for your personal use. You may take pictures, but please disable your flash because flashes going off in class are very distracting. **I will post the powerpoint files before lecture without the clicker question and activities.**

MasteringBiology: The publisher runs the MasteringBiology site and its technical support. For questions on content, post your questions to the Blackboard discussion board. For help with technical problems with the Mastering system, contact the publisher by live chat at 247pearsoned.custhelp.com/app/chat/chat_launch by phone at 1-877-672-6877, or online at 247pearsoned.custhelp.com/. If the publisher does not resolve your issue in two business days, email Dr. Myhr a description of the issue and the Mastering case number.

Office Hours: Office hours are a good time get help with your questions on the material from the course or issues that require discussion or are specific to you, such as concerns about the course, study strategies, grade problems, special needs or career issues. **Dr. Myhr's office hours are on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 pm in Rm 2113 Biological Sciences Building. I have additional office hours in the STEM Commons from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on Tuesdays, and from 9 to 10 am on Fridays.** You do not need an appointment to come to office hours, just come to my office. You can come as a group. Our time will be most productive if you bring specific questions. There is a map to my office in Course Information in Blackboard. Personal questions are best addressed in my office hours that are in my office. Biology questions are great for STEM Commons office hours. If you cannot make office hours, I hope to be able to see you by appointment to be arranged by email at least one business day in advance.

Email: If you cannot make it to office hours, you can email me a list of three times that you are available to see if our schedules allow setting up a different meeting time. I will answer as soon as I can, which will usually be within **two business days**. **See the email guidelines in General Policy 2.** Email does not work well for complex questions that require discussion.

At Class: Once I have the lecture is ready to go, or I have cleared out of the way for the next professor, you can ask questions that have relatively quick answers and are not personal. Note that I will not have grade information with me, and conversations may end up recorded on lecture capture. Sometimes I will be in the lobby before class and can take questions there.

LEARNING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Peer Mentors: You have a free learning community of peers and a peer mentor that meets once a week (small group meeting, discussion) and sits together in lecture. This community is a resource for your success in this course and at WSU. Our data shows the learning community has increased the pass rate in the class by about 15%, but it will only work for you if you take advantage of the peer mentors and your team.

Your Learning Community: The members of your learning community are another resource. Some of them have been at WSU for a while and know how to succeed. Others are just starting out. Support each other in your mutual success by asking for help when you need it and sharing your strategies for success.

STEM Commons: Your peer mentors will be available in the [STEM Commons](#) in the Science and Engineering Library from 9 am to 9 pm Mondays through Thursdays, and 9 am to 5 pm on Fridays. See the map in the Course Information folder in Blackboard. You may use the STEM Commons for small group study or to ask the peer mentors questions about the

material, study skills, how to succeed at WSU, or to study for your other classes, especially science classes. Feel free to talk to any peer mentor there, not just your own.

OTHER SUPPORT

Academic Success Center: Get free individual **tutoring** and group **workshops** in the Academic Success Center. You can also make a free appointment with a learning specialist to design study strategies just for you. See success.wayne.edu/ and watch Blackboard for more information.

Office for Multicultural Student Engagement (OMSE). Room 799 in the Student Center.

How to get help with questions in Bio 1050

If you have a question, following the steps below in order will get you your answers most quickly; help you learn the most; help you become self-sufficient; and will give Dr. Myhr's time to help with questions that cannot be solved other ways.

For questions about course policies, including grades, follow the steps below in order.

1. Check your syllabus and the course Blackboard site.
2. Ask a peer mentor or team mate.
3. If the syllabus, course Blackboard site and peer mentors cannot help, come to office hours to talk to Dr. Myhr.
4. If you cannot make it to office hours, talk to Dr. Myhr at class as described above.
5. If you cannot talk to Dr. Myhr at office hours or at class, email kmyhr@wayne.edu, suggesting three unique times when you could meet.

For questions about biology, follow the steps below in order.

1. Stop and think about what you know that is related to your question. Check the lecture recordings or textbook. Remember you can use the index at the back of the book.
2. Ask a classmate, in person or on the discussion board in Blackboard.
3. Ask your peer mentor for help before or after lecture, or in your small group meeting; or ask any Bio 1050 peer mentor in the STEM Commons.
4. Ask Dr. Myhr at office hours or as described above.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Exams: The four unit exams will each be worth 100 points. Your lowest exam score will be dropped. The cumulative final will be worth 200 points, for a total of 500 exam points. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. Some of the points on exams will be earned via assignments in Blackboard or Mastering Biology to help you prepare for the exam. There are no alternative unit exams. The lowest exam score is automatically dropped to accommodate personal reasons to miss an exam.

The final exam cannot be dropped or replaced with another assignment. Alternate final exam times will be provided only as required under University policy available at reg.wayne.edu/finals/final_exam_schedule_fall_2017.pdf

All exams will be in the regular lecture room. Hourly exams are during lecture on the days indicated in the schedule (page 8). Rules and procedures for exams will be explained before exams and must be followed for all exams.

Clickers: We will be using the IClicker2 system, which enables active participation of every student in lecture classes. You need to buy an IClicker2 unit and register it for this course. More instructions are available on the class Blackboard site.

There will be up to 30 points for participating in class with your IClicker2. There are no make-up opportunities or second chances for missed clicker opportunities for any reason, including illness, personal reasons to miss class, dead batteries or technical failures. Instead, so you can still earn a perfect score if you have an occasional problem because there will be at least 38 opportunities to earn 30 points (1 point in each of the 38 lectures that are not exams, starting on Wednesday, 8/30/17). **You will earn a point every day that you answer at least half of the clicker questions. You do not have to answer correctly.**

Students who accumulate more than 30 clicker points will earn 30 clicker points, not more. If there is a systematic clicker problem, please let Dr. Myhr know.

To earn clicker points you must register your clicker using the "Register my IClicker2" button in Blackboard **before exam 1**. Use your clicker as soon as you get one. If you register before exam 1 you will earn all of the points assigned to that clicker. After exam 1, no points will be given for clickers until after they are registered. If you get a new clicker, add it to your old clicker in Blackboard as soon as possible. You will earn points from the new clicker **starting from the time you start using it, if you register it before the next upload to Blackboard**. You can see which dates have been uploaded in My Grades in Blackboard.

You may not have anyone else use your clicker to earn credit. **Using someone else's clicker in lecture or having someone else use your clicker is a violation of the student code of conduct, and may result in penalties from losing all the clicker points for the unit or semester to expulsion from the university.**

Homework: You will earn up to 58 points from homework assignments that will be completed online in the MasteringBiology system. These assignments will be two points each and due before every lecture, with a grace period until September 8 as we get started. There will be at least 38 two-point assignments (76 point opportunities) to earn the maximum 58 points. As with clickers, there are no make-up opportunities for missed homework for any reason, including technical failures. Instead, there are more chances to earn points than necessary

to earn the maximum, so you can still earn a perfect score even with occasional technical failures or personal reasons for missing an assignment.

LC: You have a learning community (LC) for support. You will earn up to 12 points for participating in your Learning Community weekly meetings (one point per meeting, up to 12 points). From past data, attending the learning community will increase your exam grades by 10%.

Grades: For students enrolled in the three-credit course (no lab):

Unit Exams 1-4 (100 points each)	400 points
Drop one lowest hourly exam	-100
Final exam	200
Homework	58
Learning Community	12
<u>Classroom Participation (clickers)</u>	<u>30</u>
Total	600 points

Labs: Students enrolled in the four-credit version of this course with the lab will receive a separate lab syllabus, and will earn up to 200 points in the lab. Grades will be calculated out of 800 points, instead of 600 points for these students. Students in the four-credit version of the course will get one grade on their transcript based on the 800 points at the end of the semester.

Grading Policy: Grades will be calculated on the following scale:

	A	92.5-100%	A-	90.0-92.4%	
B+	87.5-89.9%	B	82.5-87.4%	B-	80.0-82.4%
C+	77.5-79.9%	C	72.5-77.4%	C-	70.0-72.4%
D+	67.5-69.9%	D	62.5-67.4%	D-	60.0-62.4%
	F	0-59.9%			

I do not curve grades. Everyone can earn an A, if they perform well. I do not offer any extra credit. Instead, I offer many ways to help you succeed throughout the semester.

General Policies:

1) **Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will automatically receive a failing grade for the exam, assignment or course, and may be expelled from the University.** Cheating includes cheating on exams and **misuse of clicker units (see clickers above)**. For discussions of cheating see the "Student Code of Conduct," www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct/Student_Code_Conduct.html. It is encouraged to work with other students on homework. This is not a cheating, but you need to enter your own answers to earn credit fairly, and to have the homework help you learn and earn exam points. **Note that no electronics are allowed on your person during an exam. This means any electronics, including all watches, must be in a bag away from you during the exam.**

2) **Email guidelines:** I am not able to reply to emails when the answer can be found in the syllabus or on Blackboard or requires a discussion. I will respond to most other emails within two business days. After two business days, please email me again. **You must email me from your WSU email account because the WSU email system blocks some email from other addresses, to be professional, and to comply with privacy laws.** I expect emails to be in a professional style, with a subject that includes your course number, which lecture you are in (11:30 or 2:30), a proper greeting, e.g. "Dear Professor Myhr, Prof. Myhr or Dr. Myhr," a proper salutation, e.g. "Sincerely, Chris Smith," correct punctuation including capitalization and no texting abbreviations. If I cannot figure out what you want, I cannot help you. Communicating effectively is important for your success at WSU and beyond.

3) Professional and respectful behavior is expected in all parts of this course. This includes respecting your classmates by **arriving on time, staying for the whole class, only using electronics for class and not eating or drinking during class.** You are encouraged to discuss differences of opinion with each other, respectfully. Students who do not follow these rules will be asked to leave, and will lose any points for that day.

4) Only students registered for the course are allowed in the lecture room and labs. Children are **not an exception.** Children are not allowed in any part of the class (lab, lecture, or team meetings). They are adorable, but they are a distraction to other students.

One exception to this rule is that you are welcome to host family and friends who are considering enrolling in Wayne State University and would like to see what a class is like. They may attend lecture and your team meeting. Guests may not attend exams. For safety reasons, only enrolled students, not guests, may attend lab. As a courtesy, please let Dr. Myhr and your peer mentor know when you plan to bring a guest. Occasionally, it is not a good time to host guests and we will let you know.

5) Any special considerations (disabilities, religious holiday conflicts, etc.) must be brought to the attention of Dr. Myhr by September 22, 2017 or as soon as possible as the situation arises. If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TTY: telecommunication device for the deaf; phone for hearing impaired students only). Once you have your accommodations in place, we need to meet privately **during my office hours** to discuss your special needs. Please refer to the SDS website for further information about students with disabilities and the services we provide for faculty and students: <http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/> **Please email me if you have a conflict due to representing WSU for sports or other events, jury duty or court dates that you can't move.**

6) University closures will be publicized through:

- the University Newsline (313) 577-5345*,
- WSU Homepage (www.wayne.edu)*,
- WSU Pipeline (www.pipeline.wayne.edu)*,
- WDET-FM (Public Radio 101.9) and
- by other local radio and television stations.

*The information on closures and class cancellations is likely to be found at these locations before it is broadcast by local radio and television stations. You should set up your WSU Broadcast Messaging settings in Academica so you get notices the way that works best for you.

If a unit exam is scheduled on a day when the University or lecture room is officially closed during class, the exam will be held during the next scheduled meeting of lecture that occurs when the University and room are open, or as indicated on the class Blackboard site.

7) I do not write letters of recommendation for students who I only know through a lecture course. I need to be able to tell a first-hand story about you that will help you get a position. Consider getting involved in more than classes at Wayne State to get strong letters of recommendation. See www.clas.wayne.edu/stemcommons/wall-of-opportunity.

8) **Withdrawing:** I encourage you to get help instead of withdrawing. See pages 2 and 3 to find help that meets your needs, so you can save money and graduate sooner. If you need to withdraw, September 15, 2017 is the last day you can drop the class and get your tuition refunded. The last day you can drop this course and have no record on your transcript is September 27, 2017. After September 27, if you withdraw from the course you will receive a WP if you have greater than 60% of the points possible at the time of your request on exams, class participation and homework; or a WF if you have less than 60% of the points possible at the time of your request. No exams or other grades are dropped or replaced in this calculation. Lab grades are not included in this calculation. You initiate a withdrawal request in Academica, and the system will contact me. I will respond within five business days. For more dates see reg.wayne.edu/students/calendar17-18.php

9) For any and all issues not covered in this syllabus, refer to the "Student Code of Conduct", which can be found at: doso.wayne.edu/conduct/student

Bio1050 Schedule, Fall 2017

Although I anticipate following this schedule, if changes are necessary they will be announced in class and on Blackboard. It is very unlikely that I would change an exam date for any reason other than University closure. See detailed unit Learning Objectives, which will be posted in Blackboard, for more information.

Unit 1: Diabetes

Note: Learning Community Meetings (LCs, Discussion Sections) meet starting on 8/30/2017, even if the session is before lecture.

Lectures: 8/30/2017 through 9/20/2017 (no classes or LCs on Labor Day, 9/4/2017)

Exam 1: during lecture time on Wednesday, 9/20/2017

Unit 2: Forensics

Lectures: 9/22/2017 through 10/11/2017

Exam 2: during lecture time on Wednesday, 10/11/2017

Unit 3: Reproduction

Lectures: 10/13/2017 through 11/6/2017

Exam 3: during lecture time on **Monday**, 11/6/2017

Unit 4: Inheritance

Lectures: 11/8/2017 through 11/29/2017 (no classes or LCs 11/22 to 11/24; Thanksgiving)

Exam 4: during lecture time on Wednesday, 11/29/2017

Unit 5: Water

Lectures on 12/1/17 through 12/11/17

This is a short unit. This material will be part of the final exam. The rest of the final exam will be cumulative, including material from the whole semester.

Final exam

The final exam will be during the University-assigned time in the lecture hall. See reg.wayne.edu/finals/final_exam_schedule_fall_2017.pdf for the final exam schedule and University final exam policies. If you have a conflict with the final exam time **as defined by the rules of the University**, please notify me as soon as possible, and at the latest by 12/6/2017. Exceptions are not made for personal travel plans, even if it is for specific events like weddings.