BIO 1500: BASIC LIFE DIVERSITY (SECTION 001)

Course Syllabus, Spring/Summer 2020 (4 credits with lab)

Assigned class meeting time: Monday, Wednesday; 10:30 pm-12 pm
(We will not meet at this time. Instruction will be via recorded lectures from previous semesters. You will be able to watch the lectures whenever you wish. I will probably use Wednesdays at 10:30 to open exams.)

Instructor: Dr. William Branford
Email address: wbranford@wayne.edu

Office Hours: I will answer questions as I receive them. I can do so by email or discussion board. I think that I may favor discussion board because then all students can see my answers. I can also meet with you individually by video conference. To do so, just write me for an appointment; when doing so, please suggest some appointment times from which I can choose.

WELCOME TO BIOLOGY 1500

In this document, you will find information that you need regarding course structure, the content of this course, grading policies, exam dates and other important information. By registering for this class, you agree to follow all of the policies listed in this syllabus and those that are mandated by the University. Therefore, **I highly recommend that you read this syllabus in great detail.** I look forward to a fun and exciting semester with all of you.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is an overview of the diversity of plants and animals. We will study organisms that represent the variety of life on this planet and examine their classification, structure, function, growth, origin, evolution, and distribution.

This course is the first of two courses in a two-semester sequence of introductory biology for biology and science majors, including science education and pre-allied health students. This course is required for students planning to major in biology and is a prerequisite for all higher-level biology courses. **Students must take both the lecture and laboratory components.**

The objective of this course is to expose students to the diversity of life on Earth. Biology is the study of organisms, as well as the composition of those organisms. Whether you have aspirations to be a doctor, lawyer, teacher, engineer or janitor, having an appreciation of the life around you is a critical skill that is invaluable both to you and the world.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Recognize major differences between four kingdoms of life (protists, fungi, plants, and animals).
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the structure and function of the organisms in these kingdoms and how they are adapted to interact with their environment.
3. Appraise the relevance of protists, fungi, plants, and animals to the everyday life of humans and to critically consider modern biological issues that involve these organisms.
4. Enter advanced biology courses with a solid foundation of the diversity of life on this planet.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Students are required to have completed **EITHER** BIO 1050 (Introduction to Life) with a grade of C- or above, **OR** have an ACT score of 24 or higher, **OR** have a passing score on the Biology placement examination. Students who managed to enroll in this course without satisfying these prerequisites are not likely to succeed in this course and for this reason will be required to drop it. Students who have questions about these prerequisites should see a Biology Department undergraduate advisor during the first week of class.

REQUIRED

Textbook – Biology, 12th edition, by Raven, Johnson, Mason, Losos and Singer (ISBN: 9781260169614).

Laboratory Manual–BIO 1500 Laboratory Manual – 2019 edition (ISBN: 9781307481976).

Reliable internet access and equipment required to participate in and complete online class meetings, assignments, and exams.

OFFICE HOURS AND COMMUNICATION

Office Hours: By appointment; just contact me by email and we can set up a video chat.

Any questions/comments regarding the lecture portion of this course should be directed to: Dr. William Branford.

Any questions regarding the lab portion of the course should be directed to your lab teaching assistant or Dr. Madelyn Tucker, Room 2012, Science Hall; e-mail: ax6019@wayne.edu .

When e-mailing me, Dr. Tucker or your teaching assistant, please be professional. Include your course number in the subject line, a proper greeting (e.g., "Dear Dr. Branford, Dr. Tucker, or Ms./Mr./Mrs. Teaching assistant") and use correct punctuation, spelling, and grammar. No texting abbreviations should be used.

EXAMS

There will be **FOUR online midterm examinations** of 50 true/false, multiple choice or short answer questions. Each exam will be worth 175 points. There will also be **ONE optional cumulative final exam** (also worth 175 points) that will cover material presented in the entire course. **Only the highest four scores will count towards your final grade (your lowest score will be dropped).** Exams cover material presented in lecture and assigned in readings of the textbook.

Exam dates will be Monday, May 25th; Friday, June 12th; Wednesday, July 1st; and Wednesday, July 22nd. Your only opportunity to make up an exam will be taking the optional, cumulative final exam on **Wednesday, July 29th**. (The final exam date is normally scheduled as designated in the Schedule of Classes. The schedule for this semester is not currently available, so I used the same time frame as given in the Spring/Summer 2019 Schedule of Classes.) **Exams will be held online. Exams will be open for at least 24 hours.**

If you need to miss an exam, including the final exam, for any reason and have not missed any previous exams, <u>you must use your drop for the exam that you will be missing</u>. Make-up exams for a second missed exam will <u>only</u> be given under extremely extenuating, documented circumstances, such as a severe illness, family death, etc. Such circumstances will require notification to the instructor <u>prior to the exam</u> and must be followed with <u>original, official signed documentation confirming your extenuating circumstance</u>. Otherwise, missed exams will be scored as 0 points. Headaches, common bouts of illness, waking up late, vacations, work, etc. are not extenuating circumstances.

<u>Religious holiday conflicts (from the online Academic Calendar)</u>
(https://wayne.edu/registrar/registration/calendar19-20/)
*"Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, it is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors **<u>well in advance</u>** so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out."*

<u>Final exam time conflict university policy</u>
(https://wayne.edu/registrar/scheduling/final_exam_schedule_winter_2020.pdf)
*"Students are not required to take more than two exams in one day. A student with more than two scheduled final exams on one day may (not must) petition to the instructor of the course with the lowest number students enrolled, to arrange an alternate time for the final exam. **Such petitions must be made at least one week prior to the scheduled date of the final exam**."*

"In situations where conflicts exist between the regular day schedule and the group exam schedule, the group exam takes precedence. If there is a conflict among the regular schedule, group exam and evening schedule, the group exam takes precedence. The instructor with the fewest students in the remaining two classes will offer alternate arrangements to students."

As of 5/4/2020, our class has 106 students.

"Any student unable to take a final exam at the scheduled time due to religious convictions shall petition the instructor in advance of the final exam to arrange an alternate time."

<u>GRADING</u>

A total of 1,000 points is available to be earned in this course: 700 from lecture exams and 300 from the laboratory. **There may be extra credit questions on the exams, but otherwise, there is absolutely no opportunity for extra credit or alternate assignments.** Under this scheme, each exam is worth 17.5% of your final grade and your lab grade is 30% of your grade. **The optional make-up exam can only substitute for one midterm lecture exam, even if two or more midterm lecture exams are missed.** Course grades are determined from total point accumulation (lecture + lab) at the end of the semester, with letter grades assigned based on the following scale (1,000 possible points):

929.5 or more	A	799.5 – 829.49	B-	669.5 – 699.49	D+
899.5 – 929.49	A-	769.5 – 799.49	C+	629.5 – 669.49	D
869.5 – 899.49	B+	729.5 – 769.49	C	599.5 – 629.49	D-
829.5 – 869.49	B	699.5 – 729.49	C-	599.49 or less	F

Exam grades will be posted on Canvas as soon as everyone has completed the exam.

EXAM GRADE DISPUTES / CHALLENGE OPTION

Students will have one week after the posting of the exam answer key to challenge any question. Failure to challenge the question within this period indicates a willingness to accept the question's answer as is. The challenge should consist of a written description of why your answer is correct based on published material that you cite. It is not an opportunity to complain.

CHEATING POLICY

Students found to be cheating during an exam (using a "cheat sheet", looking at another's paper, allowing another to look at yours, etc.), will receive a zero for that test with no opportunity to drop or replace that score. A second episode of cheating will result in a grade of F for the course and may also result in initiation of university disciplinary action.

In short, don't cheat. It rarely helps you with your final course grade and the consequences are simply not worth the risk. Be aware that cheating is a very personal and disrespectful insult to me, your TA, and your classmates, and I will show no leniency in how it is handled.

For discussions of cheating and plagiarism see below and/or see the "Student Code of Conduct" that can be found at http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html.

Academic Misbehavior - Plagiarism and Cheating (from DOSO website)

"2.1 "Academic misbehavior" means any activity which tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. Examples of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (1) cheating, as defined in Section 2.3; (2) fabrication, as defined in Section 2.5; (3) plagiarism, as defined in Section 2.8; (4) 2 unauthorized reuse of work product, as defined in Section 2.11; (5) academic obstruction, as defined in Section 2.10; (6) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (7) violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student.

2.3 "Cheating" means intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise.

2.5 "Fabrication" means intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation.

2.8 "Plagiarism" means to take and use another's words or ideas as one's own.

2.10 "Academic obstruction" means any attempt to limit another student's access to

educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users.

2.11 "Unauthorized reuse of work product" means submission for academic credit, without the prior permission of the instructor, of substantial work previously submitted for credit in another course."

COURSE DROPS AND WITHDRAWALS

(https://wayne.edu/registrar/registration/dropping-and-withdrawing/**)**

In the first two weeks of the (full) term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. After the end of the second week, there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request online. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the tenth week. Students enrolled in the tenth week and beyond will receive a grade. Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering course withdrawal should make sure they fully understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information on this can be found at https://wayne.edu/registrar/withdrawing-from-a-course/.

Class specifics

Students can enroll in this class up through **May 17th**. I will not add a student to a closed lab, so please don't ask.

If a student drops this class by **May 17th**, the tuition for this class will be cancelled and the student will be reimbursed. In addition, this class will not show on his/her transcript.

If a student drops this class between **May 18th** and **July 12th**, tuition will not be reimbursed and a final grade of "WP" (withdraw pass, if average of all lecture exam scores earned to date is greater than or equal to 60%) or "WF" (withdraw fail, if average of all lecture exam scores earned to date is less than 60%) will show on his/her transcript.

Withdrawals must be requested online and cannot be granted after July 12th. If a student signs up for this class, stops participating and fails to withdraw, he/she will receive a grade of F for the course. Please note that "incomplete" grades will not be issued to students in poor standing who are seeking an alternative to a late drop.

STUDENT DISABILITIES SERVICES (http://studentdisability.wayne.edu/)

"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 in the Adamany Undergraduate Library. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 (Videophone use only). Once your accommodation is in place, someone can meet with you privately to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University."

"Students who are registered with Student Disability Services and who are eligible for alternate testing accommodations such as extended test time and/or a distraction-reduced environment should present the required test permit to the professor at least one week in advance of the exam. Federal law requires that a student registered with SDS is entitled to the reasonable accommodations specified in the student's accommodation letter, which might include allowing the student to take the final exam on a day different than the rest of the class."

STUDENT SERVICES

- The Academic Success Center (1600 Undergraduate Library) assists students with content in select courses and in strengthening study skills. Visit www.success.wayne.edu for schedules and information on study skills, workshops, tutoring and supplemental instruction (primarily in 1000 and 2000 level courses).

- The Writing Center is located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library and provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge. Visit http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing to obtain information on tutors, appointments and the type of help they can provide.

OTHER

Any specific issue not covered by this syllabus will be resolved using University policies. Disputes that cannot be resolved following the guidelines present in this syllabus will be resolved by following the guidelines of the University "Student Due Process".

Also, I am happy to write letters of recommendation for students who earn a grade of A, A- or B+ and communicate with me often enough that I know them relatively well.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND EXAMS

Below are a.) the textbook chapters that will be covered and b.) the dates of all the exams.

Order of topics

Genes within Populations (Ch. 20.1, 20.3 - 20.4, 20.9)
Protists (Ch. 28.1 - 28.2)
Fungi (Ch. 31.2 - 31.4)
Seedless Plants (All of Ch. 29)
Seed Plants (All of Ch. 30)
Plant Reproduction (Ch. 40.1 - 40.2)
Plant Form (All of Ch. 35)
Transport in Plants (All of Ch. 36)
Animal Diversity & Evolution of Body Plans (All of Ch. 32)
Protostomes (Ch. 33.1 - 33.2, 33.4, 33.6, 33.8 - 33.9)
Deuterostomes (Ch. 34.1 - 34.9)

Exam dates

5/25	**Exam I (Ch.20, 28, 31, and 29)**
6/12	**Exam II (Ch.30, 40 and 35)**
7/1	**Exam III (Ch.36 and 32)**

7/22	**Exam IV (Ch.33 and 34)**
7/29	**Final Exam**