



# Syllabus

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## What You Should Already Know

Because this is a general biology course, there are no prerequisites for it. You may have taken other biology, life science, or earth systems classes before. These may help you in your studies in this class; however, you can be just as successful without having had any previous biology classes. I have written the course so that any motivated student will be able to learn and earn a good grade.

## Learning Outcomes

When you complete this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. List the steps of the scientific method.
2. Describe the characteristics of living things.
3. Demonstrate your knowledge of organic macromolecules.
4. Describe the structures of a cell and indicate their functions and locations.
5. Describe the process of photosynthesis.
6. Model the structure of the DNA molecule.
7. Figure genetics equations.
8. Summarize the process of natural selection.

## Course Materials

This course is self-contained, which means you do not need a separate biology book. There are video segments in each unit. These videos are important and you will be tested on the information they contain. It will also

be helpful to have access to the Internet because many of the lessons have addresses to Web sites that will increase your understanding of the material. While the Web sites will help you understand the topics better, all assignment and test questions will come exclusively from the course material. If a Web site is no longer accessible, you are welcome to enjoy learning about the concept by looking for other sites on the Internet; however, you are not required to do so.

## **Course Organization**

### **Assignments**

#### **Units**

This course consists of seven units and a final exam. After unit 3 is a review quiz testing the first three units and after unit 7 is another review. The review quizzes test all previous content. In each unit you will read the material, watch a video, do a lab, and complete the unit quiz. Each of these units is divided into lessons followed by a Self Check exercise.

#### **Self Check Exercises**

After reading the discussion material for each lesson you will have the opportunity to check your understanding by completing the Self Check questions. Although these are not graded, they are an important part of the course for two reasons: First, they let you know if you are ready to move on. Second, they prepare you for the unit quizzes and the final exam. If you do not feel ready to move forward after completing a set of Self Check questions, try reviewing the lesson material again. If you still don't feel comfortable with the material, you may want to contact a tutor by following the directions below.

#### **Unit Quizzes**

You will be responsible for completing seven unit quizzes. These assignments come at the end of each unit. They consist entirely of multiple choice questions and come directly from the lesson material, the videos, and the labs. After completing each quiz, pay attention to the feedback given for any wrong answers. The feedback will help you understand why you answered the question wrong and how you can prepare to answer similar questions correctly on the final exam.

#### **Review Quizzes**

This course includes two review quizzes. These assignments test whether you understand all of the concepts covered previously, and will help you prepare for the final.

### **Labs**

After you have completed the material for each lesson, complete the laboratory assignment. The laboratory assignments are designed to help you further understand a concept from the lesson. These lab assignments are not graded; however, there are questions from the lab in the unit quizzes as well as on the final exam.

### **Videos**

Each unit has one or more videos that go along with the lesson material. Make sure you view these because the information from the videos will be tested on in the unit quizzes and the final exam.

### **Web Links**

Throughout the lessons there are Web addresses that you can visit for further reading. These have great information, but are not required. You will only be tested on the information from this course. If a Web site is not accessible, just continue on with the course.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam for this course consists entirely of multiple-choice questions. You may use a calculator and scratch paper. The exam is worth 20 percent of your grade. The exam is meant to test how well you understand the material in the course. If you have worked hard and completed the assignments, completed the labs, and watched the videos, you should do well.

## **Grading**

In this course you will be graded on the unit quizzes, the review quizzes, and the final exam. Your grade for the course will be calculated according to the tables below.

#### **Grade Breakdown**

7 Unit Quizzes (Each assignment is worth 10%.)	70
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2 Review Quizzes (Each review is worth 5%.)	10
Final Exam	20

### Grading Table

A	100-95
A-	94-90
B+	89-87
B	86-85
B-	84-80
C+	79-77
C	76-75
C-	74-70
D+	69-67
D	66-65
D-	64-60
E (fail)	59 or below