



BSC 1005: Biological Principles  
Summer (A) 2023 Syllabus  
College of Sciences, Department of Biology

**Instructor:** Dr. Joshua King

**Lecture Location:** Health Sciences I (HS1), Room 119

**Course Schedule:** Monday thru Thursday 10-11:50am. This course is an in-person course with some online support. Attendance of scheduled class time is expected.

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**Instructor Contact Information**

E-mail: [joshua.king@ucf.edu](mailto:joshua.king@ucf.edu)

Office Hours: Zoom office hours will also be available upon request.

Emails: Email and Webcourses Messages are the only acceptable method of routine communication. Only e-mails from your UCF's Knightsmail account or messages through Webcourses will receive replies, without exception.

- Do NOT leave phone messages on office phones as they will not be returned (I do not have an office or lab phone).
- Do NOT leave phone messages in the Biology Department Office.
- All attempts will be made to answer emails within 48 hours. If you do not receive a response after 48 hours, please re-send. I experience a very high volume of emails and occasionally some will slip through unread.
- Emails must be written in a professional manner with proper grammar.
- State in the subject line a brief description of the inquiry (e.g. Question about Exam 2 content).
- State that you are a BSC 1005 student and sign off your email with your full name and UCF ID# or NID. Emails that do not include this information will NOT be answered.

Redundant e-mails: I will NOT reply to messages requesting information that is available in this syllabus or the course schedule or that has been posted as an announcement in Webcourses. Keep in mind, Florida has a very broad open records law (F.S. 119). Emails between faculty and students may be subject to public disclosure.

Webcourses Announcements: Check Webcourses' Announcements regularly and/or adjust your Webcourses' settings to allow notification emails of Webcourses' Announcements. I will try not to overload you with unnecessary messages. Knowing the important information released in these announcements will be your own responsibility.

## **Course Description**

Biological Principles: A study of various biological factors which affect the health and survival of man in modern society. Designed for non-majors.

This class is designed for undergraduate students interested in learning basic biological concepts, including cellular biology, human systems, evolution, ecology, and conservation, with a focus on real-world applications in today's society.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the semester, students who complete all assignments and coursework will be able to:

1. Knowledge Application: Define basic biological concepts.
2. Interpretation and Evaluation: Identify reputable sources for biological information.
3. Communication: Apply basic biological concepts to decisions on health and public affairs in today's society.
4. Problem Solving: Understand the scientific method and its applications in biology.

## **Course Credit Hours**

3 credits

## **Course Prerequisites**

None

## **Course Requirements**

Internet Access: This is an online-enhanced course and all class announcements, supplementary reading material/websites, and quizzes will be posted on UCF Webcourses.

Textbook (recommended): *Biology: The Essentials* 4<sup>th</sup> Edition by Marielle Hoefnagels (ISBN: 978-1265998967). E-books are available in bookstore and [www.mheducation.com](http://www.mheducation.com) (Connect option includes Smartbook and e-book). See the "Course Materials" tab, for access, as well, during the first week of class.

## Grade Scale

- A 90% or more
- B 80%-89%
- C 70%-79%
- D 60%-69%
- F less than 60%

## Grade Policies

There will be NO automatic additional curving of grades and no “extra credit” or “bonus” points awarded. This includes secret or double-secret and even, top secret extra credit. You will earn your grade based only upon your performance on quizzes and exams. Final semester grades will NOT be rounded up. (e.g. An 89.9% will be a “B”). This is a definitive cut off and NO grades will be altered unless there is a documented error in the grade calculation that would change a student’s course letter grade.

Final grades will be calculated by the instructor using the grading scale described in the syllabus. **\*\*\*Please note, Webcourses often calculates grades incorrectly and the “final grade” and “current grade” values shown on Webcourses may be inaccurate.**

Your final grade will be based on chapter quizzes (online, weekly), an in-person (paper-based) mid term exam, and an in-person (paper-based) final exam. There will be a quiz for each chapter we cover (23 total). Each quiz is limited to 30 minutes, so be sure you have done the reading and listened to the lecture before your attempt. Quizzes will be available during the week the chapters are scheduled and must be taken before the end of the week (Sunday night). Quizzes are open book but only one attempt is permitted.

Exams will be a series of multiple-choice questions, closed note and book, taken in class as scheduled. Scantrons will be provided.

Assessment	Points per assessment	Total points possible
Quizzes (23)	10	230
Mid-Term Exam	varies	100
Final Exam	varies	100

## Make-Up Quizzes

Per university policy, you are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for authorized university-sponsored activities, religious observances, or legal

obligations (such as jury duty). If this participation conflicts with your course assignments, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed assignments and/or exams. The make-up assignment and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale. In the case of an authorized university activity, it is your responsibility to show me a signed copy of the Program Verification Form for which you will be absent, prior to the class in which the absence occurs. In any of these cases, please contact us ahead of time to notify us of upcoming needs. Note that for quizzes, you have an entire week to complete them so if you have a planned absence on a coming weekend, for example, be sure to take the quizzes before the weekend rather than trying to make them up.

In practice, this means the following: For known conflicts ahead of time, you must contact the instructor to arrange for a makeup exam prior to quizzes or questions being due. For emergencies, please try your best to email the instructor within 24 hours of the assessment date and provide written documentation as soon as possible. Valid excuses must be from an appropriate authority (doctor, police, judge, UCF sporting event, military supervisor, etc.) and on letterhead with original signature and date. Excuses from relatives (including relatives who are doctors, dentists, attorneys, etc.) are NOT accepted. **Important:** Job or other work-related absences will NOT be considered a valid excuse for missing quizzes over the week-long period that they are available. The absence must have been caused by a valid emergency or circumstance as determined by the instructors including but not limited to: major illness, serious family emergency, jury duty, military obligation, observance of a religious holiday, etc. in order to warrant a makeup. If approved, makeup quizzes will be scheduled within one week of the exam date. Makeup quizzes will be given by Dr. King via Webcourses. Undocumented or unapproved absences will NOT be considered for a makeup. Students will receive a score of zero for an unexcused missed quiz.

### **Deployed Active Duty Military Students**

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu>) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. A "Z Designation", meaning the letter Z will precede student's final grade for this course, will be placed on student's official UCF transcripts to indicate academic dishonesty (for more information on Z designation see <http://z.ucf.edu>). At the instructor's

discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course and confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.

### **Disability Access**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.