



BSC 1005: Biological Principles  
Fall 2023 Syllabus  
College of Sciences, Department of Biology

**Instructor:** Pam Thomas

**Lecture: Online Synchronous in Zoom; Links posted in Webcourses Announcements**

**Lecture Days and Time:** MWF 11:30 AM- 12:20PM

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Instructor Contact Information

E-mail: [pamela.thomas@ucf.edu](mailto:pamela.thomas@ucf.edu)

Office Hours in Zoom: Monday 2-3:30 PM; Tuesday 8-9:30 PM; Wednesday 3-4 PM and Thursday 9-10 AM

Office Hours will be held in Zoom at the listed times. The Zoom links to Office Hours are posted in Webcourses Announcements.

### **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 understand biology at the following levels:

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 course and all class announcements, lectures, supplementary reading material/websites be posted on UCF Webcourses. All quizzes and exams will be submitted electronically through Webcourses and grades will also appear in UCF Webcourses.

Textbook (**required**): *Biology: The Essentials* 4<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Marielle Hoefnagels with Connect. [www.mheducation.com](http://www.mheducation.com) (**Connect option includes Smartbook and e-book**). Connect Program from MHHE is required. Directions regarding how to “opt -in” and for First Day Access / how to access and use Connect are posted in Webcourses Modules.

**To Register for Connect follow the directions in Webcourses First Day Access Power Point with the following change: Knightsmail no longer is used. Register for Connect with your new UCF email address. This address has the ending ucf.edu To Register into CONNECT: Go to the McGraw-Hill Connect Tab, not the Assignment Tab ,at the left of your computer screen while in your BSC1005 Webcourses and follow the prompts.**

**If you do not opt in because you do not have financial aid the information below can be used to directly buy Connect Online:**

1. Click on McGraw Hill Connect link in your Canvas course or access the first connect assignment.
2. They will be prompted to create an account – please have them use their UCF email so that the grades will sync.
3. They will then hit the screen pictured below. There they can enter a code, if purchased from the bookstore (left hand side), Use Pay Pal or CC (middle), or Temporary Access for 14-days (right hand side).
4. Once they complete this step, they will be able to access their assignments.

**Or If you prefer to go to the bookstore and do not have financial aid, thus did not opt in:**

If you do not have financial aid and are **buying directly from the bookstore**, this is the ISBN for that: ISBN for students who buy directly from the bookstore ONLY:

Connect Online Access for Biology: The Essentials

ISBN: 9781264386659

## **Grade Scale**

100- 90 = A
89-80 =B
79-70 =C
69- 60 = D
59 or below = F

## **Grade Policies**

All grades will be posted on UCF Webcourses. Questions about grades should be addressed in a way as to maintain confidentiality. Final grades will be calculated by the instructor using the grading scale described in the syllabus. **\*\*\*Please note, Webcourses often temporarily calculates grades incorrectly and the “final grade” and “current grade” values shown on Webcourses may be inaccurate, at various times, prior to grades being finalized. Each exam is worth 15% of your grade. Thus, the total of all 4 Exams is worth a total of 60% of your grade. The total of all quizzes is worth 40 % of your grade. There is no extra credit.**

**Lectures:** Lectures will be provided in **Zoom Live** during all 50-minute lecture classes, except during Exam days/Final Exam days. Zoom lectures are not recorded and are not turned into videos. In order to do well in the class you should plan on attending all Zoom lectures. The PowerPoints provided in Webcourses are outlines and we add to those concepts during lectures. Please be prepared to take notes during lectures. The best way to do well is to print out the PowerPoints in note view or outline view, where there is space to write notes next to each topic. You will want to organize your notes when you study, so you will be ready to take the weekly quizzes. The Zoom Link with Passcode to get into each Zoom Lecture will be posted in Webcourses Announcements.

### **1. Exams: Total of all Exams is worth 60% of your grade**

Class Lecture Zooms will not take place during the Exams/ Final Exam. Four regular exams will be given during the semester, one of which is the final exam. None of the exams is dropped. Only a single attempt will be provided on Exams. Exams will be 100% online in Webcourses and will be 40 questions each. They will only be given during the 50 minutes scheduled for regular class time. The exam will open at 11:30 AM on an Exam Day and close at 12:20 PM on that same day. Although you could use time to look up questions you do not know, realize that the time given for the exam assumes that you have studied and learned the material. If you do not study and learn the material, there will not be time for you to look up each answer. Although books and notes can be used during exams, as necessary, you may not attempt to receive help from any other individual. ***If you are on any sort of text/chat/GroupMe during an exam, you may be subject to academic dishonesty violation.***

Exam Number	Chapters/ Topics Covered	Due Date
Exam 1	Chapters 1-6	September 13, 2023 at 12:20 PM
Exam 2	Chapters 7-10	October 4, 2023 at 12:20 PM
Exam 3	Chapters 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29	November 1 2023 at 12:20 PM
Exam 4 (Final)	Chapters 12, 14,18, 19, 20, Animal Behavior/ Social Interactions	December 6, 2023 at 10:50 AM

## 2. Final Exam Date

**The Fourth exam will be given during the scheduled Final Exam Day at the Final Exam starting time. It will consist of 40 questions and you will have 50 minutes to complete the 40 questions. The Final Exam date is December 6, 2023. Final Exam is open in Webcourses at 10AM and closes at 10:50 AM. If you miss the final exam a make -up is not guaranteed based on timeframes and nature of excuse.**

## 3. Weekly Quizzes

All quizzes will be given through Webcourses that will show you a button that takes you to Connect(20 Questions) and grades will show up in Webcourses. You will have a total of 13 quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will be given on a weekly basis during the semester (with a few exceptions) and the **lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester** prior to final grade calculation. Quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 PM on the due date. Due dates for each quiz are listed in the table below this paragraph. For each of the weekly quizzes, you will have two attempts and your highest grade out of the two attempts will be recorded. These quizzes are open book/notes and 30 minutes. All quizzes must be completed before or on their due date and no make-up quizzes will be given, except in cases of documented illness with a note from a doctor visit, religious excuse, military service excuse or UCF approved event excuse, such as athletic competitions. The note is due within 48 hours of the start time of the missed quiz and the quiz must be made-up within one week after the original assignment opened. No quizzes will be given early. Credit will not be provided for late quizzes, unless one of the approved excuse types has been provided in a timely manner.

Quiz Number	Chapter Content	Quiz Due Date
Quiz 1	Syllabus and Connect	August 25, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 2	Chapter 2	September 1, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 3	Chapters 3-6	September 11, 2023 at 11:59PM

Quiz 4	Chapter 7	September 20, 2023 at 11:59PM
Quiz 5	Chapters 8 and 9	September 27, 2023 at 11:59PM
Quiz 6	Chapter 10	October 2, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 7	Chapter 23	October 11, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 8	Chapters 24 and 27	October 18, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 9	Chapters 26 and 28	October 23, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 10	Chapter 29	October 30, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 11	Chapter 18	November 8, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 12	Chapters 19, 20 & Animal Behavior and Socialization	November 20, 2023 at 11:59 PM
Quiz 13	Chapters 12 and 14	December 1, 2023 at 11:59 PM

### **Make-Up Exams**

For unexcused absences on exam days/ quiz days, there will be no make-up exams. For excused absences on exam days (i.e. official UCF school and sports-related events, court appearance, religious holiday etc.), official documentation must be given to the instructor within 48 hours of day and time of exam start for absence to schedule make-up exam. Illnesses will only be excused when accompanied by documentation of doctor's visit. No exams will be given early. Make-up exams for excused absences must be completed within one week of the original exam date.

### **Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities**

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <<http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.1MakeupAssignmentsForAuthorizedUniversityEventsOrCocurricularActivities.pdf>>

### **Religious Observances**

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <<http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALOct17.pdf>>.

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

Students who are deployed to 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.

### **Incomplete Grades**

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in extreme situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester the professor teaches the class. The instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished within a year or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

### **Classroom Policies**

E-mails to the instructor must be made from your official e-mail UCF address (name@ucf.edu) or through Webcourses. You will not receive a reply if sent from any other e-mail addresses. All e-mails from instructor will also be sent to your UCF address or Webcourses, so please check regularly throughout the semester. I will respond to e-mails as soon as possible, however, please expect it to take 48 hrs (working day hours) for a response, due to the size of the class. Responses are provided M-F from 8AM to 4PM.

Attendance in Online Zoom class regularly is necessary for successful completion of this course. Lecture PowerPoints are posted in Webcourses Modules but are an outline only. Zoom lectures will not be recorded or posted. Please do not disrupt the Zoom classroom or you will be removed from the class lecture immediately. Be sure that your microphone is set to mute during lectures so that there is no background noise observable. Questions are encouraged to be asked during Zoom lectures, as long as they are asked in an orderly manner.

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 the student's file and the student receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. You may also be referred to the UCF Academic Disciplinary Committee. A "Z Designation", meaning the letter Z will precede student's final grade for this course, may 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 SAS at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until

the student and SAS have notified the Professor, to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, or [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu) before requesting accommodations from the professor. Your previous accommodations from other schools do not automatically transfer. At UCF accommodations must be re-requested or re-activated from SAS each semester. Please note that you must be registered in Connect for additional time accommodation to be added. The accommodation cannot be worked out until your Professor has received the accommodation letter from SAS. Please note that extra time cannot be added to assignments that are in progress.

**UCF Cares:** UCF provides free, confidential assistance via social workers, counselors and much more for various situations. Please visit their website and read about the services available. The contact information is:

Phone: 407-823-5607

Fax: 407-823-4544

Email: [ucfcares@ucf.edu](mailto:ucfcares@ucf.edu)

**Expectations:** We don't want you to be apprehensive; we want you to be determined to succeed! Even if you have made all excellent grades in high school, community college (state college) or in other classes, if this is your first Biological Sciences class in a University, you may find that it is fast-moving and it may become difficult for you. This class is the easiest of the Biology/ Biomedical/ Chemistry classes at UCF, although none of them are "easy".

We maintain and must teach at a specific standard in the University. The topics I teach you and how much material I teach you, is determined not by me, as your teacher, but by a committee within my Department in the University. Even the book you use is chosen by a group and not by me individually as your teacher. This is all to ensure University standards are met and your UCF Degree gives you awesome opportunities when you graduate. Given that I must teach at a certain speed to complete all necessary material, that is why sometimes students may feel we are going too fast. This speed is a normal speed for a Biology class, and in more advanced classes the pace is even more rapid and includes much more detail.

A grade of "C" on tests and assignments is normal in science classes in a University. I know many of you are not happy with a grade of C and will strive for higher grades and that is admirable. Many of you may not ever have gotten a C before. Normally in science classes this large the "A" rate is 10-20%. I am always very happy when the rate is higher than that. If you are a first semester freshman, please understand that you may not have had to study much, rapidly or in detail in high school. You also may not have been exposed to the expectation of critical thinking, so this could be an entirely different

situation for you. The main thing to do if you start to get C, D or even F on tests or assignments, is to get help, get organized and be prepared to study 3-4 hours per day for this class at least 3-4 times per week, using very active study methods. Don't just memorize it, understand the concepts and cross link the information in order to be able to answer critical thinking questions.

This class is designed for non-majors that are required to take this class, please hang in there. You are in the class because you College or Department has determined that you need the information.

Always remember that I am here to help you. We want you to come to Zoom Lectures and office hours for help if you need it, so don't be afraid to ask.

**Retakes and points for assignments/ final class grade:**

**If you have done a test, or quiz, there are no "retakes". This policy was popular in high school, but we do not do it in a university. If you were not prepared, tried your best but did not do well, were not present, slept through a test or lecture or just forgot an exam/quiz there are no retakes, reopens. You earn the points on each and every test and quiz, we do not "give" them to you. Please consider that we already drop your lowest quiz, with no effect on your lecture grade, thus we have been very generous already. It is indeed heartbreaking if you are very close to the next letter grade, but your final grade at the end of this class will not be changed, so please do not e-mail us to request that. In order to maintain University standards and the integrity of your UCF Degree and Diploma, we have this policy of no retakes and no grade "bumping". Any e-mail that is written at the end of the semester requesting that we give points or bump up your grade, will not receive a response from faculty or staff. If you do have valid questions regarding your grade we will certainly be happy to explain that or to respond to that concern.**



### Tentative Schedule for Syllabus BSC1005 Fall 2023

M August 21: Introduction to Class and Syllabus

W August 23: Introduction to Connect and Webcourses

F August 25: Chapter 1 Sci Study of Life and Chapter 2 Chem of Life; Mandatory Attendance Quiz Due

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M August 28: Chapter 2 Molecules of Life/Chapter 3 Cells

W August 30: Chapter 3 Cells

F September 1: Chapter 4 Energy of Life

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M September 4: Labor Day Holiday No Classes

W September 6: Chapter 6 Respiration

F September 8: Chapter 5 Photosynthesis

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M September 11: Catch up time/ Question and answer Time

W September 13: Exam 1 over Chapter 1-6

F September 15: Chapter 7 DNA Structure and Function

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M September 18: Finish Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 DNA Replication, Mitosis, Cell Cycle and Cancer

W September 20: Finish Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 Meiosis and Chromosomal Aberrations

F September 22: Finish Chapter 9 Meiosis and Chromosomal Aberrations

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M September 25: Chapter 10 Patterns of Inheritance

W September 27: Chapter 10 Patterns of Inheritance

F September 29: Chapter 10 Patterns of Inheritance

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M October 2: Catch up time/ Questions and Answer Time

W October 4: Exam 2 over Chapters 7-10

F October 6: Chapter 23 Introduction to Animal Structure (Animal Tissues and Organ Systems)

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M October 9: Chapter 24 Nervous System

W October 11: Chapter 24 Nervous System

F October 13: Chapter 27 Circulatory and Respiratory Systems

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M October 16: Chapter 26 Skin, Skeletal and Muscular Systems

W October 18: Chapter 26 Skin, Skeletal and Muscular Systems

F October 20: Chapter 28 Nutrition Digestive and Urinary Systems

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M October 23: Chapter 28 Nutrition Digestive and Urinary Systems

W October 25: Chapter 29 Immune System

F October 27: Chapter 29 Immune System

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M October 30: Catch up day/ Question and Answer Time

W November 1: Exam 3 over Chapters, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28 and 29

F November 3: Chapter 18 Populations

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M November 6: Chapter 18 Populations and Chapter 19 Communities and Ecosystems

W November 8: Chapter 19 Communities and Ecosystems

F November 10: Veteran's Day Holiday No Classes

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M November 13: Chapter 20 Biodiversity

W November 15: Chapter 20 Biodiversity

F November 17: Animal Behavior Special Topic

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M November 20: Chapter 12 Forces of Change

W November 22: Thanksgiving Holiday

F November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday

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M November 27: Chapter 14 Speciation and Extinction

W November 29: Chapter 14 Speciation and Extinction

F Dec 1: Question and Answer time prior to Final ( Exam 4 is the Final Exam Over Chapters 18, 19, 20  
Animal Behavior, 12 and 14 during Finals week )

**Final Exam ( Exam 4): Will be held online in Webcourses on December 6, 2023 and will open at 10:00AM and close at 10:50 AM. The Final Exam is over Chapters 18, 19, 20, 12 and 14.**

