



BSC 1005: Biological Principles
Summer 2024 Syllabus
College of Sciences, Department of Biology

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Atkinson

Lecture Location:

Classroom Building 2 Room 206

Course Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

9:00 am-10:50 am EST

Instructor Contact Information

E-mail: Matthew.Atkinson@ucf.edu

Office Hours: Office hours will primarily be held in the Biology Building in room 102A on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 am-8:30am and Tuesdays from 11:30am – 12:30 pm. However, Dr. Atkinson will also try to accommodate appointment requests whenever they are made for times outside of these.

Emails: Email and is the only acceptable method of routine communication. Do NOT leave phone messages in the Biology Department Office. All attempts will be made to answer emails within 24 hours during the work week (Mon-Fri) or 72 hours during the weekend. If you do not receive a response during this time period, 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. Emails that do not include this information will NOT be answered. 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. We 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 primarily an in-person lecture, however all class announcements, lecture slides, supplementary reading material/websites, and quizzes will be posted on UCF Webcourses. Weekly quizzes and Connecting with Biology assignments will be submitted electronically through UCF Webcourses.

Textbook (recommended but **not required**): *Biology: The Essentials* 4th Edition by Marielle Hoefnagels (ISBN: 978-1260140606). E-books are available in bookstore and www.mheducation.com (Connect option includes Smartbook and e-book).

Course Activity Details

Lecture Exam Details (50% of semester grade)

- Four multiple choice exams will be given throughout the semester
- Exam content is based on material covered in the Lecture PowerPoints, Chapter Homework, and the active learning activities
- Exam Protocol
 - Exams will be 40 questions
 - The following are prohibited during all exams:
 - Calculators
 - Cell phones
 - Headphones, ear buds, and other listening devices
 - Smart Watches
 - Computer/tablets/any electronic device
 - Textbook and notes
 - Cheating is obviously not permitted. Cheating includes using any of the above mentioned tools, using another person, using GroupMe, Chegg, etc.

Chapter Post-Quizzes (25% of semester grade)

- A Post-Quiz will be assigned for multiple chapters
- Post-Quizzes are based on chapter reading and lecture material
- The lowest scoring Post-Quiz will be dropped
- Post-Quizzes open and closed according to the schedule
- Post-Quizzes are timed for 30 minutes

Connecting with Biology (25% of semester grade)

- Three assignments will be given during the course of the semester that allow you to engage in science (specifically biology)
- More details will be announced during lecture

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 outside of those mentioned in lecture or in the syllabus. 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 the post-chapter quizzes, 3 connecting with science assignments and 4 exams. Each quiz is limited to 30 minutes, so be sure you have done the reading and attended the lecture before your attempt. Quizzes will be available at the beginning of the week and will close before the beginning of the following week. Quizzes are open book but only one attempt is permitted. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. Exams will be non-cumulative, and each exam will cover a specific unit (i.e. Exam 4 will focus on all lectures related to Ecology). Each exam is in person and is limited to the duration of the class. The 3 connecting with biology assignments are designed to allow students to engage in science communication and research, more details will be given at a later date for each assignment.

Assessment	Assignment Weight
Quizzes (8)	25%
Connecting with Biology (3)	25%
Exams (4)	50%

Make-Up Quizzes/Exams

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 us 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.

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 quiz 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. Atkinson 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 Integrity Statement

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's

PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.

4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, The Golden Rule. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course

learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversations with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <<http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF>> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <<https://my.ucf.edu>> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>>).

UCF Cares:

During your UCF career, you may experience challenges including struggles with academics, finances, or your personal well-being. UCF has a multitude of resources available to all students. Please visit UCFcares.com if you are seeking resources and support, or if you are worried about a friend or classmate. Free services and information are included for a variety of student concerns, including but not limited to alcohol use, bias incidents, mental health concerns, and financial challenges. You can also e-mail ucfcares@ucf.edu with questions or for additional assistance. You can reach a UCF Cares staff member between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 407-823-5607. If you are in immediate distress, please call Counseling and Psychological Services to speak directly with a counselor 24/7 at 407-823-2811, or please call 911.

Knights Pantry

The Knights Helping Knights Pantry is committed to serving UCF students by providing basic needs including food, clothing, and personal hygiene items to foster continued academic success and increase retention for students in need. Access to the Knights Pantry is reserved for UCF Students who present a valid Student ID upon entry. Students are limited to 5 food items per day. There is currently no limit for toiletries or clothing.

The Knights Pantry relies on the support of students, faculty, and staff. Donations of food, toiletries, or clothing (business professional or casual) can be dropped off at the Pantry in Ferrell Commons or to one of our many donation boxes around campus. Campus donation boxes can be found on the UCF Mobile app maps. In addition to tangible donations, the Knights Party accepts monetary donations to ensure food is available when demand is high. Also, the Pantry would not be able to keep our doors open without the help of student volunteers.

Location: Ferrell Commons, Room 7H - 101

Phone: 407-823-3663

Hours: Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm, Sat. 12pm-5pm

FINAL NOTE:

We reserve the right to change the syllabus and management of the class at any time during the semester. These changes will be announced.

	Date	Chapters cover in Lecture	Post Chapter Quiz Due	CWB Assignments Due	*Combined Chapter Quizzes
Week 1					
Monday	13-May	Introduction to Course, Chapter 1			Unit 1
Tuesday	14-May	Chapter 2			Unit 2
Wednesday	15-May	Chapter 3 and 4	Post Quiz (Chapters 1-3)		Unit 3
Thursday	16-May	Chapter 5 and 6			Unit 4
Friday	17-May	--			
Week 2					
Monday	20-May	Chapter 21 and 23	Post Quiz (Chapters 4, 5, 6)		
Tuesday	21-May	Exam 1 (Ch 1-6)			
Wednesday	22-May	Chapter 24 and 25			
Thursday	23-May	Chapter 26 and 27	Post Quiz (Chapters 21, 23, 24, 25)		
Friday	24-May	--		CWB 1: Communicating Science	
Week 3					
Monday	27-May	No Class (Memorial Day)			
Tuesday	28-May	Chapter 28 and 29			
Wednesday	29-May	Chapter 15 and Review	Post Quiz (Chapters 26 - 29)		
Thursday	30-May	Exam 2 (Ch 21, 23-29)			
Friday	31-May	--			
Week 4					
Monday	3-Jun	Chapter 16			
Tuesday	4-Jun	Chapter 17			
Wednesday	5-Jun	Chapter 7 and Chapter 10	Post Quiz (Chapter 15 - 17)		
Thursday	6-Jun	Chapter 8 and Chapter 9			
Friday	7-Jun	--		CWB 2: Citizen Science	
Week 5					
Monday	10-Jun	Chapter 12	Post Quiz (Chapter 7, 8, 9,10)		
Tuesday	11-Jun	Chapter 13 and 14			
Wednesday	12-Jun	CWB2 Recap and Chapter 18	Post Quiz (Chapter 12-14)		
Thursday	13-Jun	Exam 3 (7-10, 12-17)			
Friday	14-Jun	--			
Week 6					
Monday	17-Jun	Chapter 19	Post Quiz (Chapter 18 and 19)	CWB 3: Conducting Science	
Tuesday	18-Jun	Chapter 20			
Wednesday	19-Jun	Special Topics: Disease Ecology/Florida Natural History/Invasion Ecology	Post Quiz (Chapter 20, Special Topics)		
Thursday	20-Jun	Exam 4 (Ch 18-20, Bonus Lectures)			
Friday	21-Jun	--			