



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Introduction to Biology – Section Syllabus

BSC1005, Section P1025

Summer 2025, Session A

Instructor: Michael Johnson

Email: mfjohnson@pensacolastate.edu

Office Hours: TBD

Department Head: Dr. Vasanth Ramachandran

Department Head Phone: (850) 484-1106

Department Head Email: vramachandran@pensacolastate.edu

Final Exam Date: TBD

Last Date of Drop/Add: 5/15/2025

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: 7/14/2025

Course Description:

This course applies the scientific method to critically examine and explain the natural world including but not limited to cells, organisms, genetics, evolution, ecology, and behavior.

Class Meeting Time: M_W | 11:30 AM - 1:05 PM

Class Location: Pensacola Campus, Bldg. 17, Room 1710

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Offered: FA, SU, SP

Distribution: Meets AA General Education Core, Natural Sciences (Biological Sciences) requirement.

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials:

Biology the Core (mastering access w/etext) OR; Simon, Eric; 9780138276577; 3rd; Pearson; 2020

Biology the Core (mastering access etext @ 3 hole punch text); Simon, Eric; 9780135204320; 3rd; Pearson; 2020

Methods of Evaluation:

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grade calculation: Your final grade is based on 4 unit exams (100 pts. ea.), 13 homework's (15-28 pts. ea.), and several class assignments (5-25 pts. ea.). A comprehensive final exam may replace 1 missing or low unit exam score.

➤ **Exams**

(100 points each) may be composed of multiple choice, matching, short answer, essay, and identification type questions. Four exams will be given at various times throughout the semester, each valued at 100 points. There is NO comprehensive final; the final will actually be EXAM 4. All students are required to take the last exam, no matter their grade. If you choose to skip the final, then your zero on Exam 4 will count towards your final grade and the next lowest grade will be dropped. All exams are retained by the instructor.

➤ **Class Assignments/Participation**

There will be several class assignments given, either in class or online. Points may range from 5-25 points each. Class participation and attendance will be used in assigning letter grades, especially when the student is on the borderline between two grades.

Grading Scale and Evaluations

90 – 100 A	70 – 77.9 C
88 – 89.9 B+	68 – 67.9 D+
80 – 87.9 B	60 – 67.9 D
78 – 79.9 C+	0 – 59.9 F

Attendance

You are allowed 2 absences during this course, no matter what the reason. After that, you may be withdrawn from the course for non-attendance. It is up to the instructor’s discretion to determine how to deal with a student missing too many days after the withdrawal day has passed. A deduction in grade of 1 letter grade may result or the student may receive an early ‘F’ for failure to follow the attendance policy.

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. Clearly identified course objectives;
2. Productive class meetings;
3. A positive learning environment;
4. Opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. Effective instruction;
6. Positive and appropriate interactions;
7. Assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. Evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. Clear and well-organized instruction.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes: (if applicable)

Critical Thinking: The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

Scientific and Mathematical Literacy: The student properly identifies and applies scientific or mathematical principles and methods.

Information Literacy: The student effectively locates, evaluates, and applies information from a variety of sources.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Become familiar with the principles of biology including the cell theory, cellular processes, theory of heredity and evolution, and the major groups of organisms.
2. Describe the levels of organization of life.
3. Identify characteristics of living organisms.
4. Describe the structure of an atom.
5. Explain the various types of chemical bonds and how they are formed.
6. Relate chemistry and chemical processes to living organisms.
7. Differentiate between organic and inorganic molecules that are important for the survival of living organisms.
8. Explain the cell theory.
9. Distinguish among various cell types including prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
10. Identify major cellular organelles and their functions.
11. Explain the function of the cell membrane including the various types of transport across the cell membrane.
12. Compare and contrast mitosis and meiosis.
13. Explain the basic concepts of heredity.
14. Describe the basic structure and function of DNA and RNA.
15. Explain the process of protein synthesis.
16. Discuss cellular respiration and photosynthesis.
17. Distinguish between anaerobic and aerobic respiration
18. Evaluate evolution and the role of random mutation and natural selection to the adaptation of organisms.
19. Describe species and speciation.
20. Relate the importance of other living organisms to the existence of humans.
21. Categorize living organisms according to domain, kingdom, and phyla.
22. Identify the major organs, functions, and homeostatic imbalances of the human body systems.
23. Compare human body systems to the systems of other living organisms.
24. Evaluate the effect of various human practices on the environment.

Academic Dishonesty Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details: <https://pensacolastate.smartcatalogiq.com/2024-2025/catalog/student-handbook/student-responsibilities/plagiarism-and-academic-cheating/>

Student Email Accounts:

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

Flexibility:

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

ADA Statement:

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

Pirates CARE Student Resource Center

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with your academic and personal success. These can include things such as basic needs (food, housing, transportation, healthcare, etc.), increased anxiety, depression, substance use, grief, or other stressful experiences. The Pirates CARE Student Resource Center provides free services to students, including emergency aid, campus food pantries, career clothing closets, connections to local resources for basic needs support, and confidential mental health counseling services provided in-person or via telehealth.

You can contact the Pirates CARE Student Resource Center at 850-484-1759 or by email at PiratesCARE@pensacolastate.edu. More information about our services can be found online at www.pensacolastate.edu/PiratesCARE.

For additional 24/7 crisis help, the Crisis Text Line can be accessed by texting "GULF" to 741-741, and the Suicide Lifeline can be reached by phone at 9-8-8.

Equity Statement:

Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or genetic information in its programs, activities, and employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Student Conduct, 1000 College Blvd., Building 5, Pensacola, Florida 32504, (850) 484-1759.

Security Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Emergency Statement:

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.