



Biology 102

Concepts and Applications in Biology

Professor: Dr. Jessica McCoy

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Office Hours: Mondays 9am-10am
or by appointment.

MEETING TIME

MWF 8:00-8:50 am in RHSC 154

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a non-science majors' course, which will provide a background for understanding and evaluating contemporary topics in biology and societal/environmental issues. The course emphasizes physiology and anatomy of organisms, ecological and evolutionary concepts, biodiversity, and conservation biology. An understanding of methods, history, and the dynamic nature of science will also be emphasized.

Prerequisite: BIOL 101

Co-requisite: You MUST enroll in the lab section (BIOL 102L) in addition to this lecture.

YOUR BOOK (cover image → →)

REQUIRED: *Biology: Concepts and Applications* by C. Starr et al., 9th ed



COURSE POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

You are expected to attend all lectures. We will frequently complete in-class assignments and case studies. If you miss these sessions, then you will receive an incomplete ("0") for that assignment. I will allow you to make up the assignment if you have a valid excuse and reach out to me within **24 hours of the missed class**.

Students are responsible for getting their own notes from a classmate for any class missed. Exams will be based almost entirely on lecture materials. In addition to reading the textbook in preparation for lecture, I encourage you to read relevant information from your text book.

Technology Use Policy

No cell phones, computers, iPads or similar electronic devices are permitted in lecture without my authorization. If such devices are used without my consent, you may be asked to leave. You will be permitted to use your computer for the completion of in-class assignments.

Your Grade

Assignments including Case Studies (40%)

Assignments (n= ~10) are intended to reinforce material covered in class and to encourage critical thinking. A missed assignment will result in a "0" for that quiz, unless the student provides a valid and documented absence memo.

Acceptable excuses include serious illness, personal tragedy or extreme circumstances beyond the student's control

Exams (60%)

There are 4 exams scheduled during lecture, and 1 final exam scheduled during the **final examination period on May 1st (8am-11am)**. You will need to bring a #2 pencil with you to exams. There will be no make-up exams. Any student who misses an exam will receive a "0," unless the student provides a valid and documented absence memo (through the [Absence Memo Office](#)) for missing a scheduled exam. Acceptable excuses include serious illness, personal tragedy or extreme circumstances beyond the student's control. If you have any conflicts with the scheduled exams, you must see me two weeks in advance of the exam date. Any scheduling conflict outside your role at the College (e.g., vacation) is not an acceptable reason for missing an exam. After receiving one excused exam, a student will be in danger of receiving a grade of "Incomplete" for the course if any more exams are missed. All cell phones, pagers, PDAs, iPods, laptops, etc. are to be powered down and put away during each exam.

Your final grade calculation

The lecture and lab sections form a single course.

Final grade for **Biology 102 = lecture grade (75%) + lab grade (25%)**.

You can use the assessments section above to calculate your lecture grade. Letter grades will be determined by the following breakdown:

A	≥ 93%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	≤ 59%
XXF	0% due to academic dishonesty

Honor Code & Academic Integrity

Students are required to adhere to the guidelines outlined by the Honor Board. All work in the course is done under the College of Charleston Honor Code. When specified, assignments and projects may be completed as a group. Assignments for this course must be your original work and completed for this course only. Note that handing in previously graded work is in clear violation of the College of Charleston Honor Code. Suspected Honor Code infractions will be reported to the Dean's Office and will result in a "0" for the assignment in question. Any form of plagiarism (intentional and unintentional), cheating, or presenting someone else's work as one's own will be treated as a serious academic transgression and will be communicated accordingly by the instructor as an honor code violation to the Division of Student Affairs. Be especially cautious of plagiarism when using Internet sources. Cheating, attempted cheating, or plagiarism will result in a grade of zero on that assignment or exam and may result in a final overall grade of "F" or "XXF" (failure due to academic dishonesty) for the course.

"Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission--is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor. Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the [Student Handbook](#)."

Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Book Chapter
1	Jan 9	Welcome and Course Policy Review	
	Jan 11	What are Animals? Invertebrates	Ch 23
2	Jan 14 (last day to Drop)	What are Animals? Invertebrates	Ch 23
	Jan 16	What are Animals? Invertebrates	Ch 23
	Jan 18	What are Animals? Chordates	Ch 24
3	Jan 21	NO CLASS	MLK Jr. Holiday
	Jan 23	What are Animals? Chordates	Ch 24
	Jan 25	What are Animals? Chordates	Ch 24
4	Jan 28	EXAM #1	
	Jan 30	How do Animals Work? Organ System Review	Ch 28
	Feb 1	How do Animals Work? Organ System Review	Ch 28
5	Feb 4	How do Animals Work? Organ System Review	Ch 28, 34
	Feb 6	How do Animals Work? Organ System Review	Ch 28, 34
	Feb 8	How do Animals Work? Organ System Review	Ch 28, 36
6	Feb 11	How do Animals Work? Organ System Review	Ch 28, 36
	Feb 13	How do Animals Work? Organ System Review	Ch 28, 38
	Feb 15	How do Animals Work? Organ System Review	Ch 28, 38
7	Feb 18	EXAM #2	
	Feb 20	Principles of Ecology- Animal Behavior	Ch 39
	Feb 22	Principles of Ecology- Animal Behavior	Ch 39
8	Feb 25	Principles of Ecology- Animal Behavior	Ch 39
	Feb 27	Principles of Ecology- Community Ecology	Ch 40
	Mar 1	Principles of Ecology- Community Ecology	Ch 40
9	Mar 4	Principles of Ecology- Ecosystems	Ch 42
	Mar 6	Principles of Ecology- The Biosphere	Ch 43
	Mar 8	Principles of Ecology- The Biosphere	Ch 43
10	Mar 11	Principles of Ecology- Humans & the Biosphere	Ch 44
	Mar 13	Principles of Ecology- Humans & the Biosphere	Ch 44
	Mar 15	EXAM #3	
11	Mar 18	NO CLASS	Spring Break
	Mar 20	NO CLASS	Spring Break
	Mar 22	NO CLASS	Spring Break
12	Mar 25	Evidence for Evolution	Ch 16
	Mar 27	Evidence for Evolution	Ch 16
	Mar 29	Processes of Evolution	Ch 17
13	Apr 1	Processes of Evolution	Ch 17
	Apr 3	Processes of Evolution	Ch 17
	Apr 5	The Origin of Life	Ch 18
14	Apr 8	EXAM #4	
	Apr 10	Special Topics	tba
	Apr 12	Special Topics	tba
15	Apr 15	Special Topics	tba
	Apr 17	Special Topics	tba

	Apr 19	Special Topics	tba
16	Apr 22	Special Topics	tba
	May 1	Final Exam - 8am in lecture room	

