

**Biology 102: Concepts and Applications in Biology II--section 01
Paddling Towards Sustainability Learning Community
Spring 2020 Syllabus**

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Office Hours: I do not set office hours. Rather, so that I may accommodate all students' schedules, I ask that you send me an email with your schedule, so that I may look at my schedule and come up with a time that will work for both of us.

Class Meeting Times and Place: TR 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM in RITA 273

Prerequisites/Corequisites: BIOL 101 and BIOL 101L are prerequisites for BIOL 102. BIOL 102L is a corequisite.

Text: *Biology: Concepts and Applications*, 10th ed., by Starr, Evers, and Starr

Also Required: a charged mobile phone with internet access--if you do not have a phone, come talk to me immediately so we can come up with a solution

Lab Manual: Be sure to purchase the BIOL 102 Lab Manual from the bookstore prior to your first lab.

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 dynamic nature of science will also be emphasized. A case study based approach will be used to learn much of the material in this course. We will apply biological concepts to real-life problems.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completing this course, students will demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding in each of the following content areas as is covered in class, as well as demonstrate the ability to apply this knowledge to real-life situations:

- Evolutionary Processes
- Origins of Life
- Biodiversity
 - Viruses, Bacteria, and Archaeans
 - "Protist" Lineages
 - Plants
 - Fungi
 - Animals
- Principles of Ecology

Sustainability Literacy: This course is designated as sustainability-focused. We will discuss sustainability throughout the course as it applies to much of our biological study with consideration to the triple bottom line, which includes not only environmental (which will come naturally in this course), but also economic, and social systems. Upon completing the course, students should be able to synthesize information from two or more of these systems to address a sustainability problem.

Lecture attendance: Your grade in this course relies heavily on your participation in class. Excessive absences are guaranteed to affect your grade. Attendance will not be taken in lecture; however, no make-ups will be allowed for missed assignments or quizzes. If you are late to class and miss the quiz, you will not be allowed to take it. Therefore, regular attendance is highly recommended. It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed in case of unavoidable absence. If you must miss a class due to illness, you may be allowed to complete the missed work or an alternate assignment, but you must obtain an absence memo from the Office of the Associate Dean of Students at 67 George Street. It must be a **documented** absence to be excused; you must talk to me about it, and it is at my discretion. You may access the required forms at the following address: <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/services/absence.php>. **MISSING 4-5 CLASSES IN A ROW WILL RESULT IN A "WA" GRADE (WITHDRAWN FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCE) AT MIDTERM AND/OR FINAL GRADE. A FINAL "WA" GRADE IS CALCULATED AS AN "F" IN YOUR GPA.** It is the student's responsibility to contact me immediately with any issues. If you have extenuating circumstances, then please speak to me on an individual basis.

Lab attendance: Your attendance is required at all laboratory sessions. If you do not attend lab as required, you will be removed from both the lab and the lecture. Please make sure you have purchased a lab manual before your first lab.

Synthesis Seminar attendance: The synthesis seminar is an important aspect of this learning community. It will be lead by a peer facilitator who is a student at the College. This weekly seminar will help to acquaint you with much of what is available to you at the College as well as be a support system while you are still adjusting to the College. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. **If you miss more than three of the synthesis seminars, excused or unexcused, you will not pass the FYE component of the learning community and will be required to take another FYE course next semester.** Moreover, your overall course grade for this class will reflect your attendance and participation in the synthesis seminar; this is detailed later in this syllabus under grading.

Course format: This course will be using a “flipped” course format. For the most part, you will be watching your lectures at home online, and in class, we will be doing active learning and discussion-based activities. This requires a lot of discipline on your part to ensure you keep up with the lectures and reading. However, it also offers you the ability to watch the lectures at your own pace and rewind as needed. The course lectures are typically broken down into shorter segments than a typical class, so you will often have to watch several of the lectures before each class. You should be prepared for a quiz on the lecture material at the beginning of each class. **Lectures that are due for the next class are posted on the Daily Course Schedule which you can access through OAKS.** You should check this daily; the entire semester is planned ahead so you can work ahead if you want to and have the time, but things can and often do change.

My reason for using this format is to benefit you. You will learn a lot of information in this class! It can be difficult to retain it all, but even more difficult to understand it all. It will not do you any good to just memorize information in this class; you must be able to understand and apply it. That can be very tough to do on your own. However, there is so much material to “cover” that there is not typically enough time to lecture and do additional activities that help you to understand. Instead, you end up doing those activities at home where there is no one to help you get through it. By “flipping” the classroom, you will have the support of a classroom group and of me to help ensure your understanding.

Inclement weather: In the case that class is canceled due to inclement weather or for any other reason, it is your responsibility to check the news feed on OAKS and the daily course schedule to know what is expected of you by the next class. Realize that these may not be updated immediately after the cancellation because I have to have time to figure out how I am going to adjust the schedule to accommodate the change.

Tests: There will be four tests over the course of the semester. All will be offered in OAKS, and you will be given a specific timeframe in which you must have the test completed. The tests will open at noon on the first day of testing and will close at 9 PM on the last day of testing. There will not be a cumulative final exam. ***Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration—working together without permission—is a form of cheating—this includes collaborating with classmates or other individuals on online tests.***

Missed tests or assignments: There will be **no make-ups** given for in-class assignments, quizzes, or tests. Students with extenuating circumstances must contact me in advance of the class or test that will be missed to discuss their options.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least one week before any accommodation is needed.

Final project: You will be given a collaborative project to complete at the end of the semester. Details on this project will be given as the time nears.

Academic dishonesty: Guidelines for this course will follow the College of Charleston Undergraduate Catalog policies for Academic Integrity and the Honor Code, Student Code of Conduct, and Classroom Code of Conduct. 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.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration—working together without permission—is a form of cheating—this includes collaborating with classmates or other individuals on online tests. 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.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at: <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>

Online discussion: Because of the “flipped” format of this course, there will also be an online discussion board so that you can ask questions as you work through the material called the Course Lounge. This is where you should post any questions or comments from which the whole class could benefit from either the question or the response. I encourage all of you to answer one another’s questions, and I will step in if something is incorrect. You should all subscribe to this discussion board so that you are notified when someone posts. Hopefully, we can generate some good, helpful discussion online.

Extra help: The Center for Student Learning (CSL) has a walk-in science tutoring lab. You may use the walk-in lab during the scheduled times of operation which can be found at <http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/>.

Food insecurity: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide connections to any resources of which I may be aware.

OAKS: OAKS is the learning management system that is used by the College of Charleston. It is imperative that you learn to use OAKS, as it will be used by many of your classes as a way to provide material, give quizzes or tests, as a way to collect assignments, as a way to have class discussions, and as a way to communicate grades. I will be using OAKS extensively for this course, and will keep a running grade average for you on OAKS. You can log in to OAKS through MyCharleston, and there are many tutorials if you have trouble familiarizing yourself on your own. Here is a link to the OAKS support page, which is an excellent resource and links out to all of the tutorials: <http://blogs.cofc.edu/oaks/students/getting-started/>.

Community engagement and extra credit: It is important that as good citizens you engage yourself in the local community. Because of this, I offer extra credit opportunities that encourage good citizenship and community engagement. I will discuss these options with you in class. These will be the only opportunities for extra credit. Please do not ask me for any other extra credit.

One of these opportunities is that you may complete up to five hours of community service for up to five points of extra credit. (There will be a total of ten points of extra credit available to be earned, which could give you up to a five percent boost on your test average). To receive credit, your community service must be documented properly. You must either have something signed by an organizer or have an email sent to me from someone involved with the organization confirming what you did, when you did it, how long you did it for, and where you did it (physically where and for which organization). Your service cannot be verified by another student; rather it must be by a faculty or staff member or someone who works with the organization for which you served. You also need to include contact information for the person verifying your service and state their role within the organization; including a business card is fine. We will discuss this further in class.

Required campus activities: You must attend four campus activities this semester. One of these must be an educational seminar sponsored by at least one of the departments on campus. One must be a study skills seminar sponsored by the Center for Student Learning. And, one must be a sustainability-related event sponsored by the College's Sustainability Literacy Institute. For the other, you are free to choose any organized campus activity. FYE events or other events required by the courses that are a part of this learning community will not count. For the educational seminar, you are required to submit a one-page synopsis within a week of attendance. If your synopsis is not turned in within a week, you will be required to attend another seminar. Make sure you include the details of the seminar in the synopsis--name of presentation and presenter, date, and sponsoring department. Study skills seminars do not require a synopsis, but you must sign in and that serves as your proof of attendance. Other campus activities also do not require a synopsis but do require proof of attendance. All synopses and other proof of attendance at campus activities must be uploaded to the campus activities dropbox in OAKS with a comment explaining what you are uploading. These campus activities will be a portion of your synthesis seminar grade. In order to keep you from procrastinating, you are being given dates by which you must have attended each of these activities. You must have attended one by **Jan. 31st**. You must have attended the second by **Feb. 21st**. You must have attended the third by **Mar. 13th**, and you must have attended all four by **Apr. 10th**.

There is an understood "etiquette" that should be followed at professional seminars. Talks often last about 45 minutes with a period of time following the seminar allotted for questions and answers. Please be courteous and do not use electronics during a seminar. If you would like to take notes, use a pen and paper. Also, please stay until the end of the question and answer session, and do not get up and down during the talk. If a seminar goes over time and you must leave to get to class, please get up and excuse yourself quietly. It is important that you keep a proper decorum in these seminars; the speakers are often guests from other institutions and we want to show them respect.

First-Year Experience learning objectives: The purpose of the First-Year Experience at the College of Charleston is to address the following learning objectives for first-year students. Some of these will be focused on in this learning community more than others, but all will be an important part of this learning community. Students should become stronger in each of these areas as a first-year student to prepare them for their remaining years as a student at the College:

- Students will be able to identify and use the appropriate academic resources and student support services at the College of Charleston. These would include the Addlestone library, information technology, the Center for Student Learning, the Career Center, and other appropriate academic resources, student support services, and cultural resources. This will be assessed with an end of semester exam in the First Year Synthesis Seminar course.
- Students will be able to use appropriate tools and search strategies for identifying particular types of information specific to the discipline; Evaluate the relevance, quality, and appropriateness of different sources of information; Recognize and classify the information contained within a bibliographic citation; Access and use information ethically and legally. This will be assessed with a source identification and source relevance activity that will be part of the FYE embedded librarian session.
- Students will be able to use appropriate critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques in appropriate disciplinary contexts and make connections across disciplines and/or relevant experiences

Grading:

Grade Scale	Final Grade Computation
A 93-100 % 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 0-59 %	In-class and occasional out-of-class assignments will constitute 20% of the final grade. The four tests will count 12.5% each (50% total). Quizzes will count 15%. The final project will count 15%. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the final grade based on lack of participation during group activities.

Your attendance and participation in the synthesis seminar for this learning community will impact your overall grade for this course in the following way:

Grade from synthesis seminar	Effect on overall course grade
90-100 %	Bonus up a 1/3 of a letter grade (i.e. from B to B+).
80-89 %	Course grade stays the same.
70-79 %	Course grade goes down 1/3 of a letter grade (i.e. from B to B-).
60-69 %	Course grade goes down 2/3 of a letter grade (i.e. from B to C+).
0-59 %	Course grade goes down a full letter grade (i.e. from B to C).

Weekly Schedule and Relevant Readings (schedule is subject to change):Daily Course Schedule (schedule is subject to change):

Week	Date	Topic	Relevant Chapters
1	1-9	Class introduction; Introduction to evolution/Darwin	16
2	1-14	Natural Selection; Evidence of Evolution; Processes of Evolution	16
	1-16		
3	1-21		
	1-23	Speciation and Macroevolution	17
4	1-28		
	1-30	NO CLASS—Test I available on OAKS from Thurs., Jan. 30th, at noon through Sat., Feb. 1st, at 9 PM First campus activity must be attended by Fri., Jan. 31st.	16-17
5	2-4	How Life Began—Early Evolution	18
	2-6	Prokaryotes and Viruses	19
6	2-11	Protists	20
	2-13	Plants	21
7	2-18	NO CLASS—Test II available on OAKS from Sun., Feb. 16th, at noon through Tues., Feb. 18th, at 9 PM	18-21
	2-20	Fungi Second campus activity must be attended by Fri., Feb. 21st.	22
8	2-25	Introduction to Animals	23
	2-27	Invertebrates	23
9	3-3	Invertebrate Chordates and Vertebrates	24-25
	3-5		
10	3-10		
	3-12	NO CLASS—Test III available on OAKS from Thurs., Mar. 12th, at noon through Sat., Mar. 14th, at 9 PM Third campus activity must be attended by Fri., Mar. 13th.	22-25
11	3-17	NO CLASS--Spring Break	
	3-19		
12	3-24	Ecology Case Studies Fourth and last campus activity must be attended by Fri., Apr. 10th.	material posted on OAKS—selected topics from 39-44
	3-26		
13	3-31		
	4-2		
14	4-7		
	4-9		
15	4-14		
	4-16		
16	4-21	NO CLASS—Test IV available on OAKS from Sun., Apr. 19th, at noon through Sat., Apr. 21st, at 9 PM	

Final project due date to be announced later and will be at the end of the semester in lieu of a final exam.

General Education Learning Goals & Objectives: This general education science course provides a background for understanding and evaluating contemporary topics in biology and societal/environmental issues. Students develop a general understanding of core concepts and develop the critical competencies that form the bases for the practice of science and use of scientific knowledge.

Core Concepts

This 2-semester course sequence in general biology addresses fundamental principles in biology which broadly include:

- Evolution: The diversity of life evolved over time by processes of mutation, selection, and genetic change. The theory of evolution by natural selection allows scientists to understand patterns, processes, and relationships that characterize the diversity of life.
- Structure and Function: Basic units of structure define the function of all living things. Structural complexity, together with the information it provides, is built upon combinations of subunits that drive increasingly diverse and dynamic physiological responses in living organisms. Fundamental structural units and molecular and cellular processes are conserved through evolution and yield the extraordinary diversity of biological systems seen today.
- Information flow, exchange and storage: The growth and behavior of organisms are activated through the expression of genetic information at different levels of biological organization and depend on specific interactions and information transfer.
- Pathways and transformation of energy and matter: Biological systems grow and change by processes based upon chemical transformation pathways and are governed by the laws of thermodynamic and will be explored to understand how living systems operate, how they maintain orderly structure and function, and how physical and chemical processes underlie processes at the cellular level (i.e. metabolic pathways, membrane dynamics), organismal level (i.e. homeostasis) and ecosystem level (i.e. nutrient cycling).
- Biological systems: Living systems are interconnected and interacting and biological phenomena are the result of emergent properties at all levels of organization, from molecules to ecosystems to social systems. The course will explore the dynamic interactions of components at one level of biological organization to the functional properties that emerge at higher organizational levels.

These ideas are explored from the perspective of the following topics in each course:

BIOL 101 & 101L

- Chemical and Physical Properties of Life
- Evolution as a unifying principle in biology
- Cell Form & Function
- Energetics and Metabolism
- The Cell Cycle
 - Meiosis and Sexual Reproduction
 - Mitosis and Cell Reproduction
- Mendelian Genetics
- Patterns of Inherited Traits
- Human Inheritance
- The Molecular Basis of Inheritance
- DNA and protein production
- Regulation of gene expression
- Biotechnology

BIOL 102 & 102 L

- Evolutionary Processes
- Origins of Life
- Biodiversity
 - Viruses, Bacteria and Archaeans
 - "Protist" Lineages
 - Plants
 - Fungi
 - Animals
- Plant Form & Function
- Animal Form & Function
- Principles of Ecology

Core Competencies

- Nature of Scientific Knowledge
 - Understand the intellectual standards used by scientists to establish the validity of knowledge, evidence, and decisions about hypothesis & theory acceptance? These standards include: 1) science relies on external and naturalistic observations, and not internal convictions. 2) scientific knowledge is based on the outcome of the testing of hypotheses and theories that are under constant scrutiny and subject to revision based on new observations 3) the validity of scientifically generated knowledge is established by the community of scientists through peer review and open publication of work.
 - Understand that new ideas in science are limited by the context in which they are conceived; are often rejected by the scientific establishment; sometimes spring from unexpected findings; and usually grow slowly, through contributions from many investigators.
 - Understand that science operates in the real world as defined by the laws of chemistry and physics.
 - Understand the differences between and relations among a scientific theory, hypothesis, fact, law, & opinion.
 - Understand the differences between science and technology but also their interrelations.
 - Understand the dynamic (tentative) nature of science.

- Scientific Methods of Discovery
 - ¹Understand the methods scientists use to understand the natural world (observing; questioning; formulating testable deductive hypotheses; controlled experimentation when possible; observing a wide range of natural occurrences and discerning (inducing) patterns.)
 - Apply physical/natural principles to analyze and solve problems.
- Developing a Scientific Attitude
 - Develop habits of mind that foster interdisciplinary and integrative thinking (within biology; between biology and other sciences; between science and other disciplines)
 - Develop an appreciation for the scientific attitude - a basic curiosity about nature and how it works.
- Developing scientific analysis and communication skills
 - Develop quantitative reasoning skills (quantitatively expressing the results of scientific investigations, or patterns in nature and using knowledge of biological concepts to explain quantitatively-expressed data or patterns).
 - Understand the probabilistic nature of science and the use/application of inferential statistics to test hypotheses.
 - Develop scientific information literacy (library, internet, databases etc...); finding and evaluating the validity of science-related information.
 - Communicate scientific knowledge, arguments, ideas in a variety of different contexts (scientific, social, cultural) and utilizing a variety of different media (scientific articles, policy statements, editorials, oral presentations etc...).
 - Develop cooperative problem-solving skills (working effectively in teams), but also habits of mind and skills that foster autonomous learning.
- Develop an appreciation for the impact of science on society.
 - Develop an appreciation of humans as a part of the biosphere and the ²impact of biological science on contemporary societal/environmental concerns.
 - Knowledge of the history of the biological sciences and the influences of politics, culture, religion, race, and gender on the scientific endeavor.

Signature assignments for measuring learning outcomes

Learning Outcome 1: Students apply physical/natural principles to analyze and solve problems.

This learning outcome is assessed using the poster (or scientific article) generated in Biology 102 lab as part of the multi-week student-directed independent research project. In this project students use ecological data they collect (or which has been collected in actual research investigations) to test an ecological hypothesis of their choosing. This multi-week project begins with students becoming experts in various areas of ecological sampling. Students, working in small research teams, decide on a question they would like to explore. Teams then develop a research proposal to test their hypothesis. Students collect (or use already collected data), summarize and analyze the data, and draw conclusions.

Learning Outcome #2 - Students demonstrate an understanding of the impact that science has on society.

BIOL 102 lab students produce a written document (examples - policy statement, article, stake-holder professional letter or poster) which requires them to research and apply biological knowledge or evidence to defend or critique a proposed solution to a biology-related societal issue. Although the choice of the specific issue or proposed solution is course-section specific, some examples of potential issues include

- exploring environmental/health impacts of genetically modified organisms
- the epidemic of diabetes in the United States
- solutions for mitigating global climate change

¹ This learning goal is measured as part of the general education assessment. The specific learning outcome to be measured is: *Students apply physical/natural principles to analyze and solve problems.*

² This learning goal is measured as part of the general education assessment. The specific learning outcome to be measured is: *Students demonstrate an understanding of the impact that science has on society.*