

Syllabus
GENERAL BIOLOGY II
Biology 1307
Fall 2025

Instructor Information: Jared Dickson

Office: HPR 104

Email: jdickson@uttyler.edu

Office phone: 903-566-6329

Office hours: Tuesday 11AM – 2PM, or by appointment

Class hours: TuTh 5:30PM – 6:50PM

Ratliff Building South (RBS) 1031

Course Description: Biology 1307 is the second of two courses designed to help students understand the scientific study of life at the organismal, population, and community levels including form, function, reproduction, taxonomy, systematics, ecology, and evolutionary history of biodiversity.

Student Learning Objectives: After this class you should be able to...

- Describe and understand the concept of evolution and how evolution is a unifying theme in biology.
- Describe the concept of phylogeny and apply it to prokaryotes, protists, plants, fungi, and animals.
- Describe and understand the ecology of populations, communities, ecosystems, and the biosphere.
- Understand human impacts on the ecology of the biosphere.
- Understand the significance of biology to your daily life and apply the knowledge acquired in making educated decisions as a member of society.

Evaluation and Grading:

1. Participation is worth 10% of your grade. This will include keeping up with readings, attendance, and actively participating in class discussions.
2. Quizzes worth 15% of final grade
3. Group Project worth 20% of final grade
4. Examinations. Three regular exams (30%) and a final exam (25%) will be given. **In the event you wish to dispute an exam question, an essay outlining your argument must be submitted within one week of the exam being handed back.** Your written appeal should be based on course materials and should stress the scientific validity of your original response.
5. We will follow a 10-point scale for grading:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79 = C

60-69% = D

0-59% = F

All your course grades will be in Canvas, so you will be able to view your current course grade at any time. Please be aware that I cannot give you EXTRA CREDIT or WORK at the end of the semester. Your average shown in Canvas will determine your final grade in the course.

Recommended Textbooks:

Biology 2e – Open Stax (Free Textbook)

<https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e/?Book%20details>

Scantrons: we will use scantrons for every exam. You need to bring your own scantron to the exams. You will need Scantron Form 882-E. These can be purchased online or in the bookstore on campus.

Attendance: Attendance is **essential** to success in this class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact another student to get notes and other announcements made during the lecture. Be aware that if you do not attend the lecture on a regular basis, you will miss points through missed quizzes and participation.

Class Content and Schedule

Evolution and the Origin of Species (Ch. 18), The Evolution of Populations (Ch. 19),
Phylogenies and History of Life (Ch. 20)

September 25th - Exam 1 (covers Ch. 18 - 20)

Prokaryotes: Bacteria and Archaea (Ch. 22), Protists (Ch. 23), Fungi and Seedless Plants (24 – 25), Seed Plants (Ch. 26)

October 23rd - Exam 2 (covers Ch. 22 - 26)

Introduction to Animal Diversity (Ch. 27), Invertebrates (Ch. 28), Vertebrates (Ch. 29),
Animal Body: Basic Form and Function (Ch. 33 with excerpts from
chapters 34 – 43)

November 20th - Exam 3 (covers Chapter 27 – 33 with excerpts from chapters 34 – 43)

Ecology and the Biosphere (Ch. 44), Population and Community Ecology (Ch. 45),
Ecosystems (Ch. 46)

***Tuesday, December 9th 4:15PM – 6:15PM - Final Exam (Comprehensive:
covers Ch. 44 – 46 and old material from exams 1 - 3)***

Important Dates:

Census Date: September 8th

Labor Day: September 1st : no class

November 3rd: Last Day to Drop with a “W”

November 24th – 28th: Thanksgiving break, no class

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 9th

Exam policy: There will be four exams during the semester. The first three are regular exams consisting of approximately 50 questions (2pt each), while the fourth exam will be a comprehensive final that will consist of approximately 100 questions (1pt each). All exams will be multiple-choice questions. The comprehensive exam will contain new and old content (terminology seen in all old exams). The **majority of questions** will be taken from **the lecture content**. **Be warned that I typically DO NOT curve exams, so don't bother to ask! Exams will be scored using the 882-E Green Scantrons. You will need to purchase your scantrons prior to taking the exams!**

Make-up Exams: If you have a valid reason, **with documentation**, I will offer you a make-up exam. Valid excuses include sporting or other university-related events, a death in the family, or serious illness requiring doctor's notes.

If you are unable to take an exam as scheduled for some sort of non-emergency issues, then you must let me know well in **ADVANCE**. Students who fail to make timely arrangements will most likely receive a grade of "0" for the exam missed.

Quizzes: There will be at least 9 quizzes during the semester. The quizzes are designed to help you keep up with material and to practice for the exams. You will have 10-15 minutes to complete each quiz. If you arrive after a quiz has started, you will only have the time remaining on the quiz clock to complete your quiz. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Your 7 highest quiz scores will count toward your grade. If you miss a quiz for ANY reason (including illness and excused travel absences), that quiz will be counted as one of the dropped scores.

Canvas: Students should log onto Canvas **ASAP** and carefully read all announcements. Canvas and student email should be checked **DAILY** for new announcements or messages. On Canvas you will find lecture outlines and other material that will be very helpful for you as you take this course. All course grades will be uploaded to Canvas so students will be able to view and calculate their current course grade at any time.

Group Project: In this group project, students will work in teams of 3-4 to create a professional-quality field guide featuring 50 species centered around a unifying theme (e.g., regional plants, evolutionary relationships, or habitat-specific fauna). For each species, students will include detailed identification information, labeled photos, habitat and behavior descriptions, a range map, conservation status, and an identification key. The project emphasizes teamwork, research skills, and the use of credible scientific sources, culminating in a written field guide that demonstrates mastery of biological diversity and classification concepts.