
Introduction to Life Science I
Biology 1301 (section 001)
Spring 2026

Instructor: Elexis Anderson

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Office hours: T/TR 9:00 am – 10:30 am , or by appointment

Course Objectives: Biology 1301 is the first of two courses designed to provide a thorough introduction to biological science. The goal of the course is for students to learn important facts about the natural world and understand the significance of these facts within the context of major biological concepts.

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

- To define biology and evolution.
- Contrast the types of biological literature and utilize search engines to engage with it.
- Comprehend and apply the scientific method.
- Understand experimentation and its limitations.
- Describe the characteristics of living organisms.
- Analyze the chemical nature of life.
- State and discuss cell theory.
- Compare and contrast prokaryotic and eukaryotic cell structure.
- Be familiar with cellular metabolic pathways and analyze the implications of diet on health.
- Compare and contrast mitosis and meiosis
- Describe how cell division and cancer are linked.
- Diagram and solve basic genetic crosses and health impact.
- Understand the significance of biology to you and your life.
- Apply the knowledge you have acquired to making educated decisions as a member of society.

Required Textbook: Hoefnagels, Mariëlle. 2025. Biology: The Essentials. McGraw Hill, New York NY. ISBN: 9781266436369

NOTE: This comes bundled with an electronic version of the textbook. Therefore, you do not need to buy the textbook separately unless you want a print copy.

Grading:

1. Connect Assignments (30%)
2. Chapter Quizzes (20%)
3. **FIVE** Science Round-up Assignments (15%)
4. **TWO** Virtual Connect Lab Assignments (10%)
5. **THREE** Discussion Board Posts (10%)
6. **ONE** Group Project: Infographic (15%)

Grading: Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A = above 89.5 B = 79.5 – 89.49 C = 69.5 – 79.49 D = 59.5 – 69.49 F = Below 59.5

All your course grades will be available in Canvas, allowing you to view your current grade at any time. Please be aware that I cannot offer extra credit or work at the end of the semester. Your average shown in Canvas will determine your final grade in the course.

At the end of the semester, grades will be calculated in Canvas following the syllabus. If your average is **within 0.5 points** of the following letter grade, I will round it up **automatically** (see grade scale above). The only other adjustment that will be made is if the final percentage is **WITHIN ONE POINT** of the following letter grade (and NO more), and the student has missed **THREE OR FEWER LECTURES, TWO or FEWER WEEKLY QUIZZES**, and has a **CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADE OF 80% or HIGHER**. If you meet these criteria, I will **round up to the next letter grade**. (Mitigating circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the instructor).

Late work and Make-up policy: All assignments are expected to be submitted by the posted deadlines. However, late work will be accepted, but it will incur a penalty. For each day the assignment is late, a 5% deduction will be applied. If an assignment is 10 days late, the maximum point value it could receive is 50%. An assignment that is late by 20 days or more will no longer receive points.

Extensions or make-up opportunities may be granted in cases of documented emergencies or other serious circumstances (e.g., illness, family emergencies, university-sanctioned events). To be eligible for an extension:

- You must contact the instructor as soon as possible – ideally before the due date.
- Appropriate documentation (doctor's note, official university letter, etc) must be provided.
- Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and are not guaranteed.

Please note that simply missing a deadline without prior communication is not a valid reason for an extension or grade adjustment.

Attendance/Participation: Attendance is essential to success in this class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact another student (not the instructor) to get notes and other announcements made during class time.

Connect Assignments: You will be required to complete weekly homework assignments, reading quizzes, and/or adaptive learning modules (SmartBook Assignments) through Connect. These activities are designed to help you engage actively with the course material and improve your understanding.

- Connect Assignments are typically due every **[insert day, or time]**
- Late submissions will be penalized; see above for late work/makeup policy.
- Grades from Connect will be imported into Canvas and account for 30% of your grade

Quizzes: There will be **at least eleven quizzes** during the semester. There will be individual and group quizzes this semester. There will be both in-class and online (posted on CANVAS) quizzes for you to complete during the semester. For each quiz (both individual and group), you

will have 10-15 minutes to complete. For those quizzes taken during class time, if you arrive after a quiz has started, you will only have the time remaining on the quiz clock to complete your quiz. For quizzes you take online, you will have points deducted for going over the time allotted for each quiz. Each quiz will be worth 10 points.

For online quizzes, please make sure you are using a computer that is on a RELIABLE Internet connection. If you are knocked offline while taking a quiz, I may have to clear the quiz before another attempt can be made. If this happens, email me immediately, and I will clear your attempt. Remember that if you start the quiz with only a few minutes left before it closes, I will not be able to clear your response, and you will get a “0” for the attempt.

Science Round-up: Changes in journalism have decreased the amount of science and biology specifically that is reported in the popular press; however, several shows and websites still focus on distributing science to the public. You will listen to your choice of Radio Program/Articles /Videos (from a list of podcasts *See canvas page for links), then answer the following Questions for each round-up.

- Which podcast/date did you listen to?
- What was one biology story you found interesting?
- What was their hypothesis? If not explicit, you may need to infer their hypothesis.
- How did the story correlate with topics that have been covered in class?
- What was one question that you had based on one of these stories?

Virtual Labs: This course includes virtual lab assignments delivered through McGraw-Hill Connect. These simulations are designed to help you build laboratory skills and reinforce key biological concepts through interactive and online experiments. Additional information will be posted on Canvas, where you should be able to access each virtual lab.

- Virtual Lab Assignments 1 – Scientific Method and Chemistry Labs
- Virtual Lab Assignments 2 – Photosynthesis, Respiration, Genetics labs

Discussion Posts: There will be three discussion boards that you will need to complete. In each discussion board, a portion of your grade will come from the post that you create, while the other portion of the score will come from your participation by commenting on other students’ work.

- Topic 1 – Introductions
- Topic 2 – Cancer
- Topic 3 – CRISPR Technology

Group Project (Infographic): You will be assigned to a group of four or five this semester to complete a group project. This project involves creating an infographic on a specific topic. Your final score on the group project will include a team assessment that you must complete on your team members. Grades for this group project may vary depending on your level of activity in planning, creating, and submitting the final project. More details will be posted on Canvas and will be discussed in class within the first two weeks of the semester.

CANVAS: Students should log into Canvas as soon as possible 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, videos, discussion board posts, quizzes, and much more that will be very helpful for you as you take this course. You will also have quizzes posted throughout the semester under the module sections, labeled "Quizzes." Announcements will be posted when these quizzes are active for you to take. Another helpful tool is that all course grades will be available in Canvas, allowing students to view and calculate their current course grades at any time.

Academic Integrity: Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student in all undertakings at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. **Be forewarned that possessing anything containing course content will be considered cheating, whether you refer to it during the exam.** Also, be aware that **TALKING to anyone other than the instructor or proctor during an EXAM will automatically be considered cheating.** It does not matter what you were talking about. This includes using **cell phones** (even if they call YOU) or any other electronic device that could be used to record test material. Violation of this policy will be **considered cheating and treated accordingly.** Penalties for cheating include anything from a **zero on the exam or quiz** during which the cheating occurred up to an **F for the course in question**, at the instructor's discretion.

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is **explicitly prohibited** unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. **It is imperative that all work submitted should be your own.** Any assignment found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and/or be reported for academic misconduct.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Withdrawing from Class: Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the [Withdrawal portal](#).

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped include those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check

with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement: UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

Final Exam Policy: Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy: If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy: Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students: UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa: To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct: The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA: UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities: This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays: This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

Absence for Pregnant Students: This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

Campus Carry: We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

Student Resources:

Resources to assist you in this course

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas](#) Links to an external site.
- [Robert Muntz Library](#) , and [Library Liaison](#)
- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [My SSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for all of our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THIS SYLLABUS AT ANY TIME. THEREFORE, YOUR ATTENDANCE AND ATTENTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN CANVAS ARE CRUCIAL BECAUSE THEY WILL ASSIST YOU IN REMAINING CURRENT ON THE MATERIAL AND KNOWING WHEN THE SYLLABUS MAY BE MODIFIED.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS – BIOL 1301				
Week of	Topics	Chapter	Assignments	Due Dates
Aug 25 th Sept 1 st	Introduction to Course & The Scientific Study of Life	1	Quiz 1 (Syllabus) Discussion Topic #1	
Sept 8 th	The Scientific Study of Life	1	Connect Ch. 1 Quiz 2	
Sept 15 th	The Chemistry of Life	2	Connect Ch. 2 Quiz 3 Science Round-up #1	
Sept 22 nd	Cells	3	Connect Ch. 3 Quiz 4 Virtual Lab #1	
Sept 29 th	The Energy of Life	4	Connect Ch. 4 Quiz 5 Science Round-up #2	
Oct 6 th	Photosynthesis	5	Connect Ch. 5 Quiz 6 Science Round-up #3	
Oct 13 th	Respiration and Fermentation	6	Connect Ch. 6 Quiz 7 Group Infographic	
Oct 20 th	DNA Structure and Gene Function	7	Connect Ch. 7 Quiz 8 Science Round-up #4	
Oct 27 th	DNA Replication, Binary Fission, and Mitosis	8	Connect Ch. 8 Quiz 9 Discussion Topic #2	
Nov 3 rd	Sexual Reproduction and Meiosis	9	Connect Ch. 9 Quiz 10 Science Round-up #5	
Nov 10 th Nov 17 th	Patterns of Inheritance	10	Connect Ch. 10 Quiz 11 Virtual Lab #2	
Nov 24 th	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes			
Dec 1 st	DNA Technology	11	Connect Ch. 11 Quiz 12 Discussion Topic #3	
Dec 8 th	Finals Week – No Class			

Last Day to Withdraw from the course: November 5th, 2025