

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2013
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs BIOL 1082D_390: Biology for Educators Laboratory: 0 Hrs	
Department of Health and Life Sciences	Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Irene T. Rodriguez
Office Location:	Room 253, Founder's Hall (Building 2)
Office Phone:	972-338-1525
Email Address:	Irene.Rodriguez@unt.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday: 10:00 - 11:00 am Thursday: 10:00 - 11:00 am (or by appointment)
Virtual Office Hours:	N/A
Classroom Location:	Room 255, Founder's Hall (Building 2)
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesday 1:00 pm – 3:50 pm
Course Catalog Description:	Develop a meaningful and functional command of key biological concepts; an understanding of the interrelationships among all living things; and a correlation between what pre-service teachers are required to learn and what they will be required to teach. Includes laboratory. BIOL 1082D is a general biology course with laboratory designated for elementary and middle school education majors for seeking teacher certification. Note: this course may not be used to satisfy the laboratory science requirement for majors in the College of Arts and Sciences.
Prerequisites:	None
Co-requisites:	BIOL 1082D_090 Lecture
Required Text:	Laboratory Manual: Thompson R, Nugent J, King MK, Piccolo KC. 2007. <i>The Scope of Biology. From Cells to Ecosystems</i> . Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co. Dubuque, IA, United States of America. ISBN: 978-0-7575-4428-6
Recommended Text and References:	
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com
Course Goals or Overview:	The goal of this course is to provide the student with a broad background in biology that can be used in elementary and secondary education. This course will provide a brief overview of the major topics within the biological sciences.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	
1	Explore the natural sciences
2	Be able to locate, evaluate and organize information including the use of information technologies
3	Be able to think critically and creatively, and learn to apply different systems of analysis
4	Develop problem solving skills that incorporate multiple viewpoints and differing contexts in their analysis

5	Cultivate intellectual curiosity and self-responsibility, building a foundation for life-long learning
6	Engage with a variety of others in thoughtful and well crafted communication
7	Broaden and refine their thinking as a part of the give and take of ideas, seeking to better understand other's perspectives as well as their own

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by the instructor in class.

Laboratory Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Points
1	Sep 3	Lab Safety and Movie: <i>Estrogen Effect</i>	5
2	Sep 10	Biologically Important Molecules	5
3	Sep 17	Presentations Unit I. LIFE	20
4	Sep 24	Isolating Microbes from the Environment	5
5	Oct 1	Movie: <i>Corals</i>	5
6	Oct 8	Presentations Unit III. HUMAN SYSTEMS	20
7	Oct 15	Movie: <i>Cane Toads</i>	5
8	Oct 22	Oompa Loompa Genetics and Building a Bee-bop	5
9	Oct 29	Presentations Unit IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS	20
10	Nov 5	Owl Pellet	5
11	Nov 12	Natural Selection	5
12	Nov 19	Movie: <i>TBD</i>	5
13	Nov 26	SEMESTER PRESENTATION	50
14	Dec 3	<u><i>Tentative</i></u> Field Trip to <i>Perot Museum of Nature and Science</i> Actual date to be announced at a later time	10 extra points (optional)
15	Dec 10	- NO LAB -	

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Laboratory (155 points) – You will perform experiments designed to give you hands-on real-world applications of the lecture material. In some cases, you will watch documentaries to complement the experiments. After each laboratory exercise, you will have an assignment worth 5 points. **Each assignment is due at the beginning of the next lab session.** You do not receive a separate grade for lab, so the points received for the laboratory (out of 155) will be added into the lecture grade calculation.

Note: The lab is worth 25% of your final overall grade for the course. However, you must receive a passing grade (60% or higher) in the laboratory to receive a passing grade in the class. Students must pass both the lecture and the lab independently to pass the course (i.e. if you fail the lab, you automatically fail the entire course and if you fail the lecture, you automatically fail the course).

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Exam 1	15%	100
Exam 2	15%	100
Exam 3	15%	100
Final Exam	30%	200
Laboratory	25%	155
Total		655

Grade Determination:

A = 90% or better
 B = 80 – 89 %
 C = 70 – 79 %
 D = 60 – 69 %
 F = less than 60%

Course Policies and Procedures

Late work and make-up exams

No late assignments, including laboratories, will be accepted without obtaining prior authorization or proving validity of absence. Exams will only be administered on the dates provided in the syllabus. If you will be observing a religious holy day that is coincidental with an exam, make your instructor aware before its observance. Make-up exams will be administered the directly following the class period **preceding** the regular exam date.

Cell phone policy

Do not use your cell phone in class; this includes calling, texting, internet surfing, and gaming. If your cell phone must be on during class, apply its "silent" settings. If you keep your phone on during class time, do not keep it on top of the table you are sitting at, please keep it in your pocket, purse, or bag. If your phone rings during an exam, even if the silent setting has been applied, you must turn in your exam immediately.

Laptop policy

You may use your laptop in class to take notes, but only to take notes. If it becomes apparent that laptops are being used by the class for activities other than lecture note taking, all laptop use will be prohibited during class time. Laptops are not to be used during exams. If you bring a laptop to an exam, it must remain in a bag and under the table.

Cheating and plagiarism

Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. If you are found cheating on an assignment or exam, you will not receive credit for the assignment/exam, and student services will be notified. Cheating includes using unauthorized material or devices on an exam, the work of another individual without proper citations, using larger portions of another's work, even with proper citations, and copying the work of a classmate. There are no exceptions to this policy.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from this office. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. Disability Services is located in the Student Life Office in DAL2, Suite 200 and is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number is (972) 338-1775.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

Assignments are intended to reinforce material covered in lecture, and prepare you for the exams. Collaborative efforts on completing the assignments are encouraged so long as all member of the collaboration contribute equally. As with all other graded assessments, cheating will not be tolerated. While collaborations are encouraged, each student must submit their own work, which cannot be identical to the work submitted by the other members of the collaboration. Assignments should be turned in on time. Late assignments will be graded, but with a penalty of 10% each day it is late.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). Any student caught cheating will automatically receive a 0 on the exam, and the instructor may pursue further disciplinary action. After the first exam is turned in, no more exams will be distributed to students that arrive late to the exam period.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

Use of Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom:

You are allowed to take notes using laptops/iPads/other electronic devices. You are allowed to record the lectures. The instructor reserves the right to ask you to discontinue use of an electronic device if it becomes disruptive to others in the classroom.

Food/Drink Policy

No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom or the laboratory, except for water.