

**BL 1150: Biology for the Contemporary Scene**  
**Fall 2003**

Instructor information

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Office Hours: MWF, 9-10, TR, 2-3

Class Meeting

Lecture: TR 12:30-1:45, RIC 315

Catalog Description: This course for students in non-science majors is designed to cover basic biological concepts and their application to current problems and philosophies. Class time includes lecture, discussion and a concurrent lab (BL 1151). This course emphasizes biological principles that apply to all living things and current scientific developments and issues relevant to our society.

Textbook information:

- Biology Today, An Issues Approach. 2nd Edition. Minkoff and Baker

Assigned reading: 1 of the following 4 books

- Flu by Gina Kolata
- Ebola by Close
- Hot Zone by Richard Preston
- Demon in the Freezer by Richard Preston

Course Objectives: At the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Explain how scientists make discoveries about the natural world and how the scientific method can be used to solve problems.
2. Relate current issues in biology to your life and interests.
3. Describe the common elements of all living systems.
4. Know how genes work and evaluate the implications of genetic knowledge.
5. Describe how living systems evolve and integrate these ideas with your previous thoughts on evolution.
6. Understand the importance of biodiversity and interactions between living organisms and their environment.

Course plan: A variety of learning activities will be used to accomplish the course objectives. The lecture part of this course will consist mostly of lectures and discussions. The laboratory component will provide hands-on experiments that supplement material from lectures and allow you to apply the scientific method.

CONTENT OUTLINE: SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION

Biology Science and Ethics (Ch. 1)  
Chemistry (student led)  
Genes Chromosomes and DNA (Ch. 2)  
-Mendelian Genetics pp. 36-41

- Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance pp. 45-51 (Mitosis and Meiosis)
- Molecular Basis of Inheritance, pp. 52-63.

Exam I, Sep. 25, 2003

Human Genetics (Ch. 3)

- Genes Carried on Sex Chromosomes-pp. 70-78
- Some genetic diseases (student led)
- Molecular techniques and uses of genetic information pp. 89-99.

Evolution and Classification (ch. 4)

- Darwinian Paradigm and Modern Evolutionary Paradigm pp. 122-146
- How life originated-pp. 151-158
- Diversity of life and classification pp. 162-180 student led

Exam 2, Oct 16, 2003

Mind and Body (Ch. 12)

- Immune system maintains health pp. 492-511

HIV and AIDS (Ch. 13)

Book discussions

Exam 3, Nov. 20, 2003

Biodiversity and Threatened Habitats (Ch. 15)

Cancer (Ch. 9)

Final Exam: Dec 18, 2003, 10:30-12:30.

Attendance policy: Regular and prompt attendance are expected. According to the Rockhurst Attendance policy, during the semester students are only permitted: 6 absences in MWF classes. Excessive absences may result in a DF grade. Attendance records will be maintained throughout the semester. Students will be informed by the Deans Office of a possible failure due to absences. Historic records indicate few students complete the course successfully who do not practice regularity and promptness in their attendance. Students who miss a lecture or lab are completely responsible for obtaining the material they missed. No make-up exams or labs will be given. Policy for missed exams is detailed in grading policy.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT CHEATING:** Should the instructor suspect dishonesty / cheating affecting the student's grade, no overt action will be taken. If, however, the instructor becomes convinced beyond all doubt that dishonesty / cheating affecting the students grade is occurring or has occurred, that student will receive a grade of zero (0) for that grading effort. Should this experience be repeated a second time, the student will receive a failing grade for the course. Cheating includes plagiarism, cheating on exams, lab reports and stealing materials placed either on reserve or in the laboratory for everyone to use. I hope that you will work together with your fellow classmates, but copying a friend's answers does qualify as cheating.

Exams and Grading Policy: The regular, lecture exams will be worth 80 points each. The final which is comprehensive will be worth 100 points. There will be no makeup exams. If you miss an exam the final exam will be weighted twice. For example, if you score 90/100 or 90% on the final exam, the test you missed will be scored as an 90%. or 72 pts If you miss more than one test, a 0 will be recorded.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A 92.5-100 %	C 72.5%-77.4%
A-90-92.4%	C-70-72.4%
B+ 87.5%-89.9%	D+ 67.5-69.9%
B 82.5%-87.4 %	D 62.5-67.5%
B- 80-82.4 %	D- 60-62.4%
C+ 77.5%-79.9%	F Less than 60 %

You will receive two grades for this class (one from lecture and one for lab).

**NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Your papers are due at the beginning of class on the date they are due. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**