[This Syllabus Template is provided to ensure that all important information is included. Fill out the information below each of the heading. You may change or edit most of the text below but items highlighted in green are required to be on your syllabus verbatim. Anything not highlighted can be edited as you see fit.    Remove the green highlight from this template and DELETE BRACKETED TEXT when your syllabus is complete.]

**BIOL 1010**General Biology

***Welcome to BIOL 1010 Online!*** In this class we will explore how biology applies to YOU and will practice scientific thinking skills that will help you make more informed decisions related to your health, what you buy, and the your role as a citizen of this planet. You will engage with and be supported by an online community that includes your peers and me (your instructor). I am confident that you can be successful in this course and will leave feeling empowered by your knowledge of biology.

  Instructor Contact Information

[**Professor [Add faculty name]**](https://uvu.instructure.com/courses/508917/pages/meet-your-instructor)

**Canvas Inbox**(preferred method of communication)

  Course Description

Introduces major themes and concepts of biology including cell and molecular biology, genetics, diversity, evolution, and ecology. Provides students with necessary information and skills to critically evaluate what they hear, read, and see in the living world; communicate clearly; and apply methods to interpret data for making informed decisions concerning the role of biology in a world of which they are a part.

This course fulfills the General Education requirement for Biology.

  Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish the process of science from other ways of understanding the world.
2. Evaluate evidence to solve problems using scientific thinking.
3. Apply scientific literacy to issues of today, such as evolution, human population growth, genomic medicine, climate change, GMOs, vaccination and disease, ecosystem health and conservation, among others.
4. Explain evolution as the cornerstone of modern biology, uniting the main topics of cell, molecular biology, genetics, organismal biology, and ecology.
5. Apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of all life and the environment to personal attitudes and actions concerning the health of this planet.

Specific learning objectives will be provided for each module in the course. Your exam questions will assess these learning objectives so think of these as your study guides!

  Materials, Fees and Technology Tools

Required materials, fees and technology

* **No textbook required**, you will be provided with open educational resources for each module in the course.
* **Access to a computer and reliable internet connection-**The Fulton Library is currently loaning out laptops free of charge and CARES funds are available to help students pay for internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please contact me so I can give you the most up-to-date information on accessing these resources.
* **Word Processing Program-**A word processing program that saves in .doc, .docx or .pdf format. Office 365 is [available for download (Links to an external site.)](https://uvu.edu/software/) for all currently enrolled students.

Optional materials, fees and technology

* **Access to a webcam or camera phone** would be useful but not required in this course.

How This Course Works

**Course Mode: Online**

This is a fully online course. Online learning offers the convenience of continuing your education regardless of your access to the physical classroom. Be aware that online courses at UVU have regular due dates and must be completed within the term you are registered. You are expected to log in to class online each week.

**Course Structure and Schedule:**

Canvas is where content, grades, and communications will reside for this course.

You will complete one module per week in this course for a total of 14 modules. Each module follows a similar pattern in assignments. Weekly assignments appear in the Course Schedule and on the Canvas Calendar.

**Here is a suggested weekly schedule for completing a module:**

**Monday-Tuesday**

* + - Read the Module Overview page
    - Complete the Read & Engage Assignment to unlock the rest of the module
    - Maybe start watching some of the Module Video Quizzes
    - Preview the Module Discussion and Weekly Reflection prompts

**Tuesday-Thursday**

* + - Finish watching and complete all the Module Video Quizzes (2-5 per module)
    - Post and start engaging in the Module Discussion

**Thursday-Sunday**

* + - Continue engaging on the Module Discussion
    - Write and submit the Weekly Module Reflection

Occasionally there will be a Module Activity and before each exam you will complete a Learning Check Quiz. There are three midterms and final exam in this course. You will complete three to four modules before each exam.

For this **three (3) credit-hour** course students should expect to spend up to**9+ hours a week** completing course activities.

**Modules will unlock a week before their intended completion date so you may work ahead on all but the Module Discussions.**

**Attendance**

You are expected to regularly login to class and participate in all activities.  Absence from class makes it extremely difficult to be a successful student.

**Class Culture:**

“Come as you are. UVU has a place for you.”--President Tuminez.

Your experience in this class is important to me and I want you to feel included, respected and that your voice is heard.  As your instructor, it is my intent to create an inclusive and equitable learning atmosphere that is representative of a diversity of perspectives, and where all students are encouraged to share, express, and contribute in a safe environment.  Please feel free to contact me if you would like to talk about any suggestions and/or concerns. If that feels uncomfortable to you, you can also contact the [Inclusion and Diversity Committee (Links to an external site.)](https://www.uvu.edu/inclusion/about/index.html) to ask for help and support.

**Student Responsibilities:**

* *Start class the first week of the term.*
* ***Be accountable by setting aside regular time each week to complete course activities and assignments on time as noted per the due dates****.*
* *Learn how to use Canvas including communication tools (e.g. discussion, Canvas inbox, etc.). If you have technology-related problems contact the*[*Service Desk (Links to an external site.)*](https://www.uvu.edu/servicedesk/)*.*
* *Abide by ethical standards. Your work must be your own.*
* *In all situations display respect, tolerance, and patience when interacting with others.*
* *Be open to learning in many different ways and trying new learning and study strategies.*
* *Communicate with your instructor as early as possible if an emergency arises or you need help with the course. I am here to help you be successful!*

**Instructor Responsibilities:**

* *Respond to emails within ONE business day. If multiple emails are received regarding the same question or concern, they may be responded to with an announcement to the entire class.*
* *Provide timely, meaningful and constructive feedback on assignments.*
* *Facilitate an effective learning experience and positive classroom culture.*
* *Refer students to appropriate services for issues that are non-course content specific. For instance, technical issue, writing labs, accessibility services, etc.*
* *Mentor students through the course.*

 Grading and Late Work Statement

**Grading Scale:**

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Percent** |
| **A** | 94-100 |
| **A-** | 90-93 |
| **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 |
| **E** | 0-59 |

**Assignment Categories**

| **Activity** | **Percent of Grade** |
| --- | --- |
| Video Quizzes | 15% |
| Module Discussions | 15% |
| Weekly Reflections & Learning Checks | 20% |
| Midterm Exams (3) | 30% |
| Final Exam | 20% |

**Late Work Statement:**

The best way to be successful in this course is to submit all assignments by their due date. However, sometimes you may need to put other priorities first. Life happens, I get it. My late policy aims to give you the freedom to make your own decisions about how you prioritize your time while still maintaining accountability and fairness.

Here is what to do if you have missed a due date:

Video Quizzes (due Thursdays): You will still be able to access these after the due date. Please complete them as soon as possible. You will not be penalized for completing them late, however, they are important for being able to complete the rest of the module assignments so you will want to get in the habit of watching the in the first half of the week. Video quizzes that have not been completed will be receive a zero.

Module Discussions (first post Thursday, final posts Sunday): Because online discussions are more robust when everyone is posting at the same time, late posts will not receive credit and can not be made up. However, you are only required to participate in 12 of the 14 Module Discussions in this course.

Weekly Reflections (due Sunday): If you miss a weekly reflection, you have two "Life Happens Passes" available to you that will allow you to submit an assignment late for full credit. You may also use these to resubmit a reflection to improve your score. You can see the passes available to you in a column of the gradebook. In general, you will need to submit/resubmit the assignment within a week of the original due date. You may not wait until the end of the semester to make up a reflection. See here for more [details on using a Life Happens pass](https://uvu.instructure.com/courses/508917/assignments/4975312).

Learning Checks: See video quizzes above.

Exams: Exams will be open for five days Friday-Tuesday. You should plan ahead so you can complete the exam during this time. Makeup exams will only be allowed in the case of unavoidable obligations or medical/family emergencies. You are responsible for communicating with me and making arrangements for a makeup exam **BEFORE** the exam closing date. If you miss an exam and have not made prior arrangements you will receive a zero.

*If you are dealing with ongoing health or personal circumstances that are making it difficult for you to log in to class, turn work in on time, or complete an exam, please reach out so we can make a plan and minimize any impact this could have on your success at UVU. I know everyone is trying their best and I am here to help!*

 Assignment and Assessment Descriptions

**Syllabus Quiz:**

One of your first assignments is to complete the Syllabus Quiz.  It is important that you familiarize yourself with the syllabus (this document) and all of the information in the Course Orientation module. This quiz is multiple/choice, true/false and must be taken as many times as necessary to receive a perfect score. This will ensure that course expectations are clear.

**Read & Engage Assignments:**

These assignments will help jump-start your learning each week by directing you to important background knowledge and encouraging you to engage with what you already do/don't know about a topic. This is important for your learning for two reasons:

1. By activating this background knowledge first, you are much more likely to effectively learn and remember new ideas.
2. By reviewing your responses, I will be able to share and address common ideas, questions, and misunderstandings with the class early on in your progression through this week's material.

These assignments are not graded but **must be submitted to unlock the rest of the module.**They should be completed**no later than Wednesday each week.**

**Video Quiz Assignments:**

Each week there will be 2-5 video quizzes to complete with short video segments and associated questions to help support your learning of the module objectives. Video quizzes will help prepare you for the rest of the module assignments and should be completed **no later than Thursday** each week.

The videos in this online course have been contributed by nine different biology faculty at UVU, so it will be a bit like we have a guest lecturer each week! You'll get to learn about who they are and what fascinates them about biology throughout the course.

**Module Discussions:**

Your peers are the most important people to your learning and success in this course. The weekly Module Discussions will provide a place for you to actively engage with each other and work together to master the learning objectives. I will be reading all messages and I will participate in the discussion as appropriate. I will also post a weekly summary of the main discussion points.

Posts to the discussion should add significantly to the conversation and support your point of view. *Comments that do not add significantly to a discussion will receive****no credit****.* It is okay to disagree in a discussion. In fact much learning happens when we disagree. However we need to be respectful and keep our online classroom a safe place to learn.

You may**choose whether to record (video/audio) or write** your post. You must **make at least three meaningful posts/replies throughout the week.**The more you engage, the more you will benefit.

Due dates for discussions correspond with the initial post date on **Thursday**.  Follow up comments are due by Sunday. Follow up posts are expected to be after the due date and are not marked late. Discussions conclude by the **Sunday** following the due date. After this, posts will be marked late and will not receive credit.

In this course, students may work ahead by a week on all but the discussions. Online discussions are more robust when they are an actual discussion, not just a public post. It helps us have a better discussion when we are **all posting at the same time**.

**Weekly Reflections:**

Reflection is an integral part of learning and a powerful life skill. It allows you to move from receiving knowledge to building new knowledge for yourself. By stepping back to reflect on what you have learned each week you will (1) connect new ideas to previous learning and experiences (2) synthesize information and data from the week's readings, videos, assignments, and interactions, (3) apply your new understanding to your daily life.

These responses will also help me see how the class is progressing in their understanding of course content so I can better facilitate your learning.

You will want to preview the reflection prompt at the beginning of each week and then write and submit a response **no later than Sunday at 11:59pm**

**Learning Checks:**

One week prior to an exam opening you will have a chance to do a final check of your understanding of the content we have covered for that exam with a Learning Check Quiz. These will consist of 10 exam style questions. You will have **three attempts** to take these quizzes and **your score will be an average** of your three attempts.

**Exams:**

There will be three midterm and one final exams that will test student understanding of course content using multiple choice questions. The final exam will be twice as long as a midterm and include content from the last section of the course and cumulative questions that will evaluate your understanding of the big picture ideas and themes throughout the course.

There will be an exam at the completion of every 3-4 modules. Exams will be open for five days Friday-Tuesday. For exam open and close dates see the [Course Schedule](https://uvu.instructure.com/courses/508917/pages/course-schedule) or the Canvas Calendar.

**Exam Corrections:**

Exams in BIOL 1010 are a tool for learning, not just a way to measure how much you know. You have the opportunity to improve your exam score by demonstrating your understanding of the material that was not mastered on your first attempt.

For any multiple choice question that you missed, you may earn a maximum of ½ a point by completing a second attempt of the exam and submit and exam correction form. See exam instructions for more details.

 Course Schedule

See our [**Course Schedule**](https://uvu.instructure.com/courses/508917/pages/course-schedule)**.**

 UVU Policies and Resources

[Policies and Success Strategies (Links to an external site.)](https://greengold.uvu.edu/_crs_info_master/success.html)

[Campus Resources (Links to an external site.)](https://www.uvu.edu/otl/students/campus_resources.html)

[Accessibility Services  (Links to an external site.)](https://www.uvu.edu/accessibility-services/)

Students who need accommodations because of a disability may contact the UVU Office of Accessibility Services (OAS), located on the Orem Campus in LC 312. To schedule an appointment or to speak with a counselor, call the OAS office at 801-863-8747. Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals, email nicole.hemmingsen@uvu.edu or text 385-208-2677.

[Title IX Statement (Links to an external site.)](https://www.uvu.edu/equalopportunity/)

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or  
genetic information. If you or someone you know has experienced or experiences harassment or sexual assault including, dating and domestic violence, stalking or sexual exploitation, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, BA-203, (801) 863-7999.

Please be aware that all faculty members and university employees are considered “Responsible Employees” and are required to report incidents of sexual misconduct and relationship violence and thus cannot guarantee confidentiality. Please know that you can seek confidential resources at UVU  
Student Health Services, SC-221, (801) 863-8876.

Please visit https://www.uvu.edu/equalopportunity/ for more information.

  Technology Support Services

 For 24/7  technical support contact [Instructure's Canvas Support Live Chat  (Links to an external site.)](https://cases.canvaslms.com/liveagentchat?chattype=student&sfid=001A00000085cNxIAI)

(385) 204-4930 (Available 24/7)