



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

Course Name: General Biology

Course Number: BSC1005

Section: 10386

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Name: Dr. Geoffrey Smith

Instructor Office Location: 350/216 Niceville Campus

Instructor Email: smithg33@nwfsc.edu

Course Curriculum

This course applies the scientific method to critically examine and explain the natural world including but not limited to cells, organisms, genetics, evolution, ecology, and behavior.

Goals

- Students will understand the structure and function of the two major types of cells and the cell's importance as the basic unit of life.
- Students will be able to explain cellular metabolism and the energy cycle, with an emphasis on photosynthesis and cellular respiration.
- Students will develop an appreciation for the interconnected relationships of living organisms, from the cellular level to the biosphere, and how humans interact with the natural world.
- Students will understand how DNA is used to code the instructions for life, how it is transmitted to future generations, and how changes to it affect survival.
- Students will learn basic human anatomy and physiology.

Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will evaluate data regarding validity.
- Students will read and interpret a variety of scientific data.
- Students will describe the natural world.
- Students will articulate and practice the scientific method.

Student Expectations of the Course

- **Office Hours:** The instructor will be available for a minimum of six hours a week outside of class time to answer questions and address any concerns of the student.
- **The Use of Canvas as the Learning Management System:** All courses utilize Canvas as an online class component. Students can access the course syllabus and their grades at any time and may be required to submit coursework through Canvas. As such, access to a computer with internet connectivity is required for the course. Students have free access to computers at all campuses and centers.
- **Email/voicemail Response Time of the Instructor:** Students can expect responses to inquiries and questions within 24 – 48 business hour (NOTE: NWFSC is closed Fridays and weekends).
- **Student Attendance and Participation:** Student attendance and participation is expected.

How Student Performance will be Measured

Student performance will be measured by one or more of the following methods:

- Written exams (multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, essay, etc.)
- Homework assignments
- In-class/online participation and discussions
- Term paper(s)
- Online quizzes
- Group projects