

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2025

Course ID & Section #: BIOL-1-E0547

Instructor's name: Kyle Orr

Course units: 4.0

Instructor Contact Information

Office hours: By request, please message me to schedule something!

Please contact me through the Canvas Inbox. I check and respond to messages through Canvas every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00pm-1:00pm.

Catalog Description

An introductory course in life science dealing with basic biological concepts including molecular and cell biology, metabolism, heredity, evolution, ecology, natural history, and biodiversity.

Note: This course is designed for non-science majors and nursing/health occupation students. Not open to students who have completed or who are currently enrolled in BIOL-3.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (from course outline of record)

1. Apply the scientific method to critically evaluate observable phenomena.
2. Describe attributes of life and explain how cells fulfill these characteristics.
3. Relate the mechanisms of evolutionary change to the production of biological diversity.

Required Materials

1. The textbook Concepts of Biology (free) – You can find the book here:
<https://openstax.org/details/books/concepts-biology>
2. BIOL-1 General Biology Lab Manual – You can purchase this for \$25 at the CR Bookstore.

Accessibility

Students will have access to online course materials that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Students who discover access issues with this class should contact the instructor.

College of the Redwoods is also committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

During COVID19, approved accommodations for distance education classes will be emailed to the instructor by DSPS. In the case of face to face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments cannot usually be accommodated.

Support for online learners during COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, College of the Redwoods moved many of its courses online to protect health and safety. As the faculty and students adjust to this change, clear communication about student needs will help everyone be successful. Please let me know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. I want every student to thrive.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Late Work: Pay attention to deadlines listed in your Canvas Calendar! Assignments will be opened on Canvas every Monday and closed every Sunday at 11:59pm. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED unless you have made previous arrangements with the instructor. However, at the end of the semester, I will drop the quiz, discussion, and lab with the lowest score.

Assignment Weights: 750 points total

- 1. Labs (150 points)** There are two parts to each lab. First, you will work through completing your lab and will submit the completed lab in Canvas (worth 10 points each).
- 2. Discussions (150 points)** These are my way of both ensuring that you are watching the lectures and engaging in (hopefully) meaningful discussions about the lecture topics with your classmates. You will have to make an initial post answering a prompt about the week's lectures to "open" the discussion forum and see other students' responses. Once the forum is open, you'll have a response requirement that will be detailed in the description of the discussion forum. Each Discussion is worth 10 points.
- 3. Quizzes (150 points)** Weekly quizzes are posted on Canvas and will cover lecture material for the week. Every week, quizzes will be posted in that week's module and will be open at least 1 week prior to their due date. No late quizzes will be accepted, so make sure to stay up to date on these! Each Quiz is worth 10 points.
- 4. Exams (300 points)** There will be two midterm exams throughout the semester that cover material from both lecture and lab. There will also be a comprehensive final exam. Each Exam is worth 100 points.

Grading Scale:

< 60%	60-69%	70-76%	77-79%	80-82%	83-86%	87-89%	90-92%	93-100%
F	D	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

Important for Nursing Program Students:

- The CR Nursing Program's "Repeatability Rule": Students must earn a cumulative 2.5 GPA in BIOL-2, BIOL-6, and BIOL-7 in order to apply to the CR nursing program. If you pass these classes with C's, you will not earn a 2.5 GPA. Additionally, if you pass a class with a C, you cannot retake it at CR to improve your grade. The only way you can retake a class at CR is if you fail it (with a D or F). Keep this in mind when deciding whether or not to drop one of these 3 biology courses.
- The prerequisites for BIOL-7 (Human Physiology) include: BIOL-6 and CHEM-2 (or 1A). You can't register for BIOL-7 unless you've taken AND PASSED the prerequisites. If you think this might affect you, please plan ahead.
- Before you can register for BIOL-2 (Microbiology), you must be taking, OR HAVE TAKEN, CHEM-2 or CHEM-1A.
- To register for CHEM-2, there are no math prerequisites. To register for CHEM-1A, you need at least MATH-120.
- While CHEM-2 is required for the previous courses, CHEM-1A will also meet the requirement. However, you must have taken either high school chemistry OR CHEM-100 if you want to register for CHEM-1A.

Academic dishonesty

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. In cases involving academic dishonesty, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course is left primarily to the discretion of the faculty member. In such cases, where the instructor determines that a student has demonstrated academic dishonesty, the student may receive a failing grade for the assignment and/or exam and may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the College Catalog and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Note: Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Therefore, **all written work you turn in must be in YOUR OWN WORDS**. If you choose to use someone else's exact words, you must credit the source and put the words in quotations. If you choose to plagiarize any work for this class, you will receive a zero on the assignment, even if you have permission to work on an assignment with other students from the class. This is particularly important for labs and exams.

Disruptive behavior

Student behavior or speech that disrupts the instructional setting will not be tolerated. Disruptive conduct may include, but is not limited to: unwarranted interruptions; failure to adhere to instructor's directions; vulgar or obscene language; slurs or other forms of intimidation; and physically or verbally abusive behavior. In such cases where the instructor determines that a student has disrupted the educational process, a disruptive student may be temporarily removed from class. In addition, the student may be reported to the Chief Student Services Officer or designee. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is available on the College of the Redwoods website. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the College Catalog and on the [College of the Redwoods website](#).

Inclusive Language in the Classroom

College of the Redwoods aspires to create a learning environment in which all people feel comfortable in contributing their perspectives to classroom discussions. It therefore encourages instructors and students to use language that is inclusive and respectful.

Setting Your Preferred Name in Canvas

Students can have an alternate first name and pronouns appear in Canvas. Contact [Admissions & Records](#) to request a change to your preferred first name and pronoun. Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas. It does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form](#).

Canvas Information

If using Canvas, include navigation instructions, tech support information, what Canvas is used for, and your expectation for how regularly students should check Canvas for your class.

Log into Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com>

Password is your 8 digit birth date

For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160

Canvas Help for students: <https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help-Student>

Canvas online orientation workshop: <https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Home/Student-Resources/Canvas-Resources>

Community College Student Health and Wellness

- Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges [Health & Wellness website](#).
- [Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.
- Students seeking to request a counseling appointment for academic advising or general counseling can email counseling@redwoods.edu.

Student Support Services

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- [CR-Online](#) (Comprehensive information for online students)
- [Library Articles & Databases](#)
- [Canvas help and tutorials](#)
- [Online Student Handbook](#)

[Counseling](#) offers assistance to students in need of professional counseling services such as crisis counseling.

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Academic Support Center](#) for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams. Includes the Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center
- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- [Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides financial assistance, support and encouragement for eligible income disadvantaged students at all CR locations.
- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#)
- The [Veteran's Resource Center](#) supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821

AI Use Class Policy

Recent advancements in generative artificial intelligence (AI) have made large language models such as ChatGPT and Google's Bard widely available. Sometimes, using these tools appropriately can help us overcome barriers and allow us to focus on deeper learning. However, overuse of these tools can undermine the development of our critical and creative thinking skills. In addition, AI outputs are often unreliable and frequently subject to bias. For these reasons, it is sometimes appropriate and sometimes inappropriate to use generative AI in the completion of assignments or in discussion posts. For this class, please see the specific assignment instructions for guidance on how and when generative AI tools may be used appropriately as we're working on and learning from a particular assignment. Also, please keep in mind that you are responsible for anything you submit; please carefully review all AI-generated outputs, screening them for accuracy, bias, appropriateness, and fidelity to your perspective.

Schedule

I recommend printing this page and keep it somewhere you will see it regularly!

General Biology, Fall 2025 Schedule:

This schedule is tentative and subject to change at any time

Week	Lecture Topics	Lab Assignment	Reading (Concepts of Biology)	Canvas Quiz	Discussion Post
1	Life The Process of Science	Lab 1: Measurements, Data, Graphing, Analysis	Chapter 1	Q1	D1
2	Chemistry Biomolecules	Lab 2: Chemistry of Life	Intro + 2.1- 2.2 2.3	Q2	D2
3	Cells Membranes	Lab 3: Microscopes and Cells	Intro + 3.1- 3.3 3.4-3.6	Q3	D3
4	Diffusion and Osmosis Energy	Lab 4: Diffusion and Osmosis	4.1	Q4	D4
5	Cellular Respiration Photosynthesis	Lab 5: Cellular Respiration	4.2-4.5	Q5	D5
6	DNA Structure and Replication Transcription and Translation	Lab 6: DNA Structure and Function	Chapter 5	Q6	D6
7	Mitosis Meiosis	Lab 7: Mitosis and Meiosis	Chapter 6 Chapter 7	Q7	D7
8	Genetics Inheritance	Lab 8: Mendelian Genetics	Chapter 9	Q8	D8
9	Evolution Genetic Engineering	Lab 9: Natural Selection	Intro + 8.1 8.2-8.3	Q9	D9
10	Exam 2	Lab 10: Human Inheritance	Chapter 10 Chapter 11	Q10	D10
11	Origins & Speciation Biodiversity & Extinction	Lab 11: Systematics	Chapter 12	Q11	D11
12	Viruses and Bacteria Single-Celled Eukaryotes	Lab 12: Microbes and Epidemiology	Chapter 21	Q12	D12
13	Fungi Plants	Lab 13: Eukaryotic Diversity	Intro + 13.1- 13.3	Q13	D13
14	Animals Ecology	Lab 14: Animal Body Plans	13.4 Chapter 14	Q14	D14
15	Movie Night!	Lab 15: TBD	Chapter 15 Chapter 19	Q15	D15
Finals Week	Final Exam (Comprehensive!)				