

# Biol 1 – General Biology

## Course Information

- Semester and Year: Fall 2025
- Course ID and Section number: Biol 1 E9318
- Instructor's name: Michel Best
- Day and time of required meetings: Lecture: Tue/Th 1:15-2:40pm Lab: Tue: 2:50-6pm
- Location: Lecture: HU 112 Lab: Sci 108
- Course units: 3 Lecture + 1 Lab = 4

## Instructor Contact Information

- Office Online: Michael Best Zoom Room (Meeting ID: 536 438 6623; Password: 6Zqm73)
- <https://redwoods-edu.zoom.us/my/michaelbest?pwd=YmtJRU8zOE1JUExNM2g4dm1jU3RuQT09>
- Office hours: By Appointment
- Phone number: 315 657 3830
- Email address: Michael-Best@Redwoods.edu
- Other method (Canvas In-box): Michel Best
- Other method (Personal Email): Best.Michael.707@Gmail.com

## Required Materials:

- Textbook: Free online: OpenStax.Org: Concepts of Biology
- Bio 1- General Biology Lab Manual: \$25 in campus bookstore

## 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.

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

- 1. Apply the process of science to critically evaluate observable phenomenon.
- 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.

## Evaluation and Grading Policy

Assignment	Value
Exam # 1	150 points
Exam # 2	150 Points
Exam # 3	150 Points
Exam # 4	150 Points
Final Exam	200 Points
Lab Handouts (14, lowest grade dropped)	130 Points (10 Points each)
Quizzes (13, lowest grade dropped)	120 Points (10 Points each)
Lecture Participation	50 Points
Lab Participation	50 Points
Lowest Exam Grade Dropped	-150 Points
<b>Total Possible Point Accumulation</b>	<b>1000 Points</b>

Final Grade will equal score (points) divided by 1000; for example: 920 points ÷ 1000 = 92%;  
90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D; <60% = F; CR requires C for passing.

## Prerequisites/corequisites/ recommended preparation

Recommended Prep: English 150

## Educational Accessibility and Support

College of the Redwoods is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students who could benefit from additional educational support and services. You may qualify if you have a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual condition which causes you to struggle academically, including but not limited to:

- Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, or bipolar disorder
- Common ailments such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, and diseases
- Temporary impairments such as a broken bone, recovery from significant surgery, or a pregnancy-related disability
- Neurodevelopmental disorders such as a learning disability, intellectual disability, autism, acquired brain injury, or ADHD
- Vision, hearing, or mobility conditions

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, academic assistance and tutoring through the [LIGHT Center](#), counseling and advising, alternate formats of course materials (e.g., audio books, braille, E-texts), assistive technology, learning disability assessments, approval for personal attendants, interpreters, priority registration, on-campus transportation, adaptive physical education and living skills courses, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support Services \(SASS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact Student Accessibility Support Services (SASS) for a consultation: [sass@redwoods.edu](mailto:sass@redwoods.edu).

## SASS office locations and phone numbers

### Eureka campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280
- Location: Learning Resource Center (Library)

### Del Norte campus

- Phone: 707-465-2353
- Location: main building, near the Library

### Klamath-Trinity campus

- Phone: 707-476-4280



Instructor: Michael L. Best

Phone: 315 657 3830

E-mail: [Best.Michael.707@Gmail.com](mailto:Best.Michael.707@Gmail.com)

Open Door Policy

I am available for student success office hour before class: Tue/TH 1PM

I am also available by appointment: Ask me how you are doing or what you can do to improve your grade, I am here to Help!

## Rights and Responsibilities

Lecture and Lab are intimately related so any missed class days will likely result in a deficit in the required knowledge necessary to continue achieving satisfactory grades. Excessive lateness or absence may result in being dropped from the class. Please ask for permission rather than forgiveness; I am much more forgiving and willing to modify requirements when I am made aware of extenuating circumstances or missed assignments before they occur. Please be communicative with me regarding any aspect of your performance in this course: grades, assignments, expectations, requirements, illnesses, extenuating circumstances, questions, concerns, research interests, or anything else that may be important! I am more than happy to help and guide the learning process in any way that I can but I will need to put aside time to do so and may not be able to help after the fact or with very short notice. Please take advantage of my willingness to help! I am available to chat after class

## Assignments

Midterm Exams will not be cumulative and will only include new material. There will be one cumulative final during finals week which will be comprehensive of the entire course. Attendance is a critical requirement of achieving a satisfactory grade. You must not miss lab or exam days, in the event of extenuating circumstances arrangements for make-up assignments must be confirmed with me previous to the occurrence of the missed assignment. Quizzes will be assigned at the beginning of most Lab days and will include some material from the assignment for that day so it is imperative that lab assignments are read entirely before coming to lab for that day. Participation and extra credits will only be provided for students who are proactive and already meeting all course requirements.

## Expectations

You are expected to show up to class on time and ready to learn Biology. It is imperative that all reading assignments are completed for the class or lab meeting on that topic to ensure your preparedness in engaging meaningfully in the topic. Please do not disrupt class as it is rude to other students and teacher, takes time away from assignments and impacts everybody's ability to learn. If you or your device(s) create a problem impacting the learning process you and/or the device(s) will be asked to leave class and it will be your responsibility to make up any missed assignments or course components; note: labs, quizzes, or exams will not be allowed to be made up under these circumstances.

Please keep up on reading! Reading the text, lab handouts, completing homework assignments, and engaging meaningfully in lab will ensure your preparedness in performing well on exams. It is often very difficult to catch up on curriculum when the going gets tough. It is much wiser to stay ahead of the work load and be able to rest assured you will be prepared for lecture topics, critical thinking questions, and not only achieve your highest potential grade but also gain the most personal growth.

## 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 [2024-2025 College Catalog](#) and [CR Board and Administrative Policies](#).

## 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. However, overuse of these tools in this class can undermine your learning and curtail the development of your critical and creative thinking skills. In addition, AI outputs are often unreliable and frequently subject to bias. For these reasons, the policy of this class is that AI cannot be used at any point in the completion of class assignments, including discussion posts. Any or all of your assignment submissions and discussion posts may be screened by AI detection software, but the real penalty for AI misuse is that you will miss out on an opportunity to learn.

## 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. Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the [2024-2025 College Catalog](#) and [CR Board and Administrative Policies](#).

## 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.

## Canvas Information

Log into Canvas at [My CR Portal](#)

For help logging in to Canvas and general tech help, visit [Canvas Support Home](#)

Once you're logged in to Canvas, you click on the Help icon on the left menu

Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course](#)

### Setting Your Preferred Name and Pronouns in Canvas

Students have the ability to display personal pronouns and an alternate first name in Canvas. Students may change their pronouns on their own in Canvas (Account :: Settings :: Edit Settings). To request a change to your preferred list name, contact [Admissions and Records](#). Your Preferred Name will only be listed in Canvas; this does not change your legal name in our records. See the [Student Information Update form-2022.pdf](#).

## Important Dates

<b>Date</b>	<b>To Remember</b>
August 22	Last day to register for classes (day before the first class meeting)
August 23	Classes begin
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day to add a class
September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Labor Day (All Campuses Closed)
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day to Drop & Receive a Refund
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day to Drop w/out a "W"
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Census Date (20% of class)
October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Last Day for Student/Faculty Withdrawal
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	Veterans Day (All Campuses Closed)
Nov 24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Break (All Campuses Closed)
December 13 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	Final Examinations
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day to File P/NP Option
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Semester Ends
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Grades Due