

Syllabus for General Biology - BIOL1 - S2025

Course Information

Semester & Year: **Spring 2025**
Course ID: **BIOL 1 E8299 & E8313**
Lecture: **T/Th 2:50-4:15pm, HUM 112**
Lab: **F 8:20-11:30am OR F 11:40-2:50pm, SCI 108**
Course units: **4.0**

Instructor Contact Information

Instructors: **Jaclyn Patmore (lectures), Dr. Karen Reiss (AM lab), Michael Best (PM lab)**
Office: **Dr. Reiss' SCI 216B, Patmore and Best determined by appt.**
Office hours: **Flexible, by appointment – email us to meet.**
Email address: **jaclyn-patmore@redwoods.edu; karen-reiss@redwoods.edu; michael-best@redwoods.edu**

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.

IMPORTANT:

- This course is **NOT FOR LIFE SCIENCE MAJORS** (e.g., biology, zoology, botany, wildlife, fisheries, etc.).
- This course is one of several GE options for **NON-SCIENCE MAJORS** which also include **BIOL 20** – Natural History, **BIOL 15** – Marine Biology and **ENVSC 10** – Intro to Environmental Science.
- This course is a prerequisite for all the **PRE-R.N. (REGISTERED-NURSING)** courses.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

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

OpenStax Concepts of Biology
<https://openstax.org/details/books/concepts-biology>
free for download
can get hardcopy at low cost
Lab Handouts #1-15
must be downloaded from Canvas and printed

Evaluation, Grading, and Classroom Policies

Lab Assignments	<i>due the following Tues. In lecture</i>	15 x 20 (-1 lowest score)	280
Online Quizzes	<i>due Mondays @ 11 :59pm</i>	15 x 10 (-1 lowest scores)	140
Occasional HW or Pop Quizzes	<i>if needed at instructor discretion</i>		50
Participation/Attendance	<i>be there, be aware, and care</i>	10/week x 15 weeks	150
Midterm Exams	<i>not explicitly cumulative</i>	3 X 100	300
Final Exam	<i>comprehensive</i>	100	100

Approximately 1000 total points possible

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

Attendance: You are expected to attend **all** lectures and labs (yes, every single one) and will lose ~ 3 points for each missed lecture or lab. Of course, life happens. Cars don't start, you get sick, etc., so communicate these events with your instructors ASAP to make a plan regarding missed work. If you do so promptly and earnestly (letting us know you're going to miss before class is best) you may be able to still get the attendance points for that day. However, sometimes there is no way to make up lab experiments, so you just won't be able to earn some of the points back for the lab handout.

Due Dates: Your completed labs are due in lecture the following Tuesday. Your online quiz of the preceding week's material is due Monday night at 11:59. **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED** unless you have made **prior arrangements with your instructor**. Labs and quizzes combined are worth as much as your exams so timely attention to reviewing material and conscientiously completing your work will really pay off.

General Late work: Try not to have any! I'll give you 5 bonus points at the end of the semester if you have no late work! However, if you must turn in something late, the policies are: **Labs** – only accepted late with a good excuse and clearance from your lab instructor (you should never expect to hand in something late without the instructor's approval). All late labs will automatically come with a **5 pt penalty** and they will not be accepted at all after Friday of the week they are due. **Quizzes** – will be open until Thursday @ 11:59pm of the week they are due but will come with a **2 pt penalty** if completed after Monday @ 11:59pm.

***Frequently asked question:** Jackie, this seems harsh, and a lot of my other classes don't care when I turn things in so long as I get it in before the end of the semester. Why are you being so strict with due dates and not very accepting of late work?

Many other classes have clear separate objectives and as long as you get things done by semester end you have met the course objectives. However, in biology, and sciences classes in general, every lecture and lab builds on the previous lecture and lab. In other words, you need to know last week's material to even have a chance at understanding this week's material. When students fall behind in this class it usually results in an F, late term withdrawal, or instructor drop. This happens because once you are behind it is incredibly difficult to catch up. The same is true for attendance. Every day there is class there is important information and without it you will be lost on the subsequent lecture/lab. So, make it your goal to make a study/homework schedule that allows you to attend every lecture and lab and turn in all labs and quizzes when they are due. Even if you think you're not a great student and this class isn't for you, getting in the routine of showing up and staying caught up on all your work will result in a far better grade than if you didn't – it's often the difference between passing and failing.

Exam Make-Ups:

- **You MUST have a serious and verifiable excuse to miss a lecture exam.** Ideally, you will contact me before the exam begins.
 - **Contact me** by leaving a message on email or phone voicemail.
 - **Serious excuses include** emergency room visits, quarantine due to contagious infectious disease, and deaths in the family.
 - **Verifiable means** you have a doctor's note, a police report, or some other form of evidence.

Academic Dishonesty *Truth matters! Cheating sucks!*

In the academic community, the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty of any kind (including AI use - see AI policy below) will result in an instant F on the quiz/exam/assignment and an *academic dishonesty referral* that will result in an accountability meeting with the Chief Student Services Officer or designee and record of the incident will be kept on file. The Student Code of Conduct ([AP 5500](#)) is worth reading.

A couple of common pitfalls:

- Many students don't realize that complicity...allowing or encouraging cheating...is as bad as being the one doing the cheating.
- Many students don't understand that using a Wikipedia-type answer...even if cited...is plagiarism, and copy pasting directly from ChatGPT or other AI source is not in any way their own work is 100% academically dishonest.
- Many students don't realize that professors KNOW that companies like Chegg will allow you to pay for access to answers to questions in popular textbooks like your lab manual. Not only is this cheating, but their answers are typically subpar or wrong entirely!

It's far better to earn an F with integrity than pass the class through cheating

AI Use Class Policy

Recent advancements in generative artificial intelligence (AI) have made large language models such as ChatGPT and Google's Bard etc. 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 this class. Any or all of your assignments 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.

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.

Please, do not laugh, scoff, snicker or otherwise do anything that could make a fellow student feel embarrassed, ashamed, or awkward. Everybody has the right to ask questions, to make statements, and to be excited. Embracing vulnerability and openness is often necessary for learning, both for yourself and for fostering an environment where others feel comfortable being vulnerable too. Be patient, be kind, and be mindful of what you say and how you say it.

If you cannot be appropriate and respectful I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom for the day. Multiple violations may result in further absences and your name being submitted to the administration for violation of the student code of conduct ([AP 5500](#)).

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](#).

Canvas Information

Canvas is the Learning Management System used to support classes at CR. Even face-to-face classes use Canvas to organize course materials, make resources available, and communicate with students,. It is imperative that you can access and comfortably navigate Canvas.

- Log into Canvas at [My CR Portal](#)
- For help logging in to Canvas, visit [My CR Portal](#).
- For help with Canvas once you're logged in, click on the Help icon on the left menu.
- For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160
- Canvas online orientation workshop: [Canvas Student Orientation Course \(instructure.com\)](#)

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](#).

Emergency Procedures / Everbridge

College of the Redwoods has implemented an emergency alert system called Everbridge. In the event of an emergency on campus you will receive an alert through your personal email and/or phones. Registration is not necessary in order to receive emergency alerts. Check to make sure your contact information is up-to-date by logging into [WebAdvisor](#) and selecting 'Students' then 'Academic Profile' then 'Current Information Update.'

Please contact Public Safety at 707-476-4112 or security@redwoods.edu if you have any questions. For more information see the [Redwoods Public Safety](#).

In an emergency that requires an evacuation of the building anywhere in the District:

- Be aware of all marked exits from your area and building
- Once outside, move to the nearest evacuation point outside your building
- Keep streets and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and personnel

Do not leave campus, unless it has been deemed safe by the campus authorities.

To learn more about campus-specific Emergency Procedures, click on a title bar below, or click the down arrow to expand them all.

Educational Accessibility & 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, bipolar disorder, and ADHD
- 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
- A learning disability (e.g., dyslexia, reading comprehension), intellectual disability, autism, or acquired brain injury
- Vision, hearing, or mobility challenges

Available services include extended test time, quiet testing environments, tutoring, counseling and advising, alternate formats of materials (e.g., audio books, E-texts), assistive technology, on-campus transportation, and more. If you believe you might benefit from disability- or health-related services and accommodations, please contact [Disability Services and Programs for Students \(DSPS\)](#). If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact DSPS for a consultation: dsps@redwoods.edu, Eureka: 707-476-4280, Student Services Building, 1st floor

Student Support Services

Good information and clear communication about your needs will help you be successful. Please let your instructor know about any specific challenges or technology limitations that might affect your participation in class. College of the Redwoods wants every student to be successful.

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](#)
- [Online Tutoring Resources](#)

Community College Student Health and Wellness

If you are in distress or are with someone at risk right now, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or TEXT 741-741

Timely Care

When you're feeling under the weather physically or distressed mentally, you can find the help you're looking for in just a few quick taps. Students can schedule an appointment anytime via phone, video, and chat. [Visit TimelyCARE here](#)

Mental Health Counseling

Students should text, email, or fax Shawna Bell directly for scheduling and/or services.

Contact info

Text: 707-496-2856

Email: shawnabmft@gmail.com

Fax: 707-237-2318 (voicemail can be left via fax)

Wellness Central

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 [Wellness Central](#).

Counseling

[Counseling & Advising](#) can assist students in need of academic advising and professional counseling services. Visit the Welcome Center in the lower level of the student services building Monday –Friday 9am – 4pm (during the semester, summer hours may vary).

Basic Needs Center

[The Basic Needs Center](#) provides for the health and safety of students by providing access to healthy food, financial resources, and referrals to safe and secure housing. Students can submit a request for services and information [here](#).

Contact info

Phone: 707-476-4153

Email: the-grove@redwoods.edu

Learning Resource Center

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- [Library Services](#) to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- [Multicultural & Diversity Center](#)
- [Academic Support Center](#) – offers tutoring and test proctoring for CR students.
- [Student Tech Help](#) – provides students with assistance around a variety of tech problems.

EOPS

[Extended Opportunity Programs & Services \(EOPS\)](#) provides services to eligible income disadvantaged students including: textbook awards, grants, career academic and personal counseling, transportation assistance, tutoring, laptop, calculator and textbook loans, priority registration, graduation cap and gown, workshops, and more!

TRiO Student Success Program

The TRiO Student Support Services Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including academic advising, career assessments, assistance with transfer, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in [Eureka](#) or in [Del Norte](#).

Veterans Resource Center

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.

CalWORKS

CalWORKs – California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs). Provides supportive services to student parents with children under the age of 18, who are receiving cash assistance (TANF **benefits**), to become self-sufficient. Services include: transportation assistance, basic student supplies, tutoring, priority registration, laptop and calculator loans, career, academic, and personal counseling, and more!