

BSC1005 - General Biology

Course Description: 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.

This course consists of four units of contemporary biology topics, taught by biology professors/researchers who specialize in the subject matter. Topics vary each semester and may include genetics and human inheritance, vertebrate biology, plant biology, human reproduction, marine biology, dinosaur paleobiology, viruses and viral disease, and ecology. The course emphasizes the development of science proficiency by teaching students to understand, use, and interpret scientific explanations of the natural world and apply this knowledge to social, environmental, political or wellness issues.

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.

This course has been approved to meet FSU's Liberal Studies Natural Sciences requirements and is designed to help you become an effective interpreter of scientific results and a critical analyst of claims about the natural world.

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Pose questions or hypotheses based on scientific principles. Students will learn about the scientific method and get opportunities to form their own questions and hypotheses about the natural world, as well as learn about questions and hypotheses in different fields of biology.
- Use appropriate scientific methods to evaluate claims or theoretical arguments about the natural world. Students will evaluate claims and arguments in class and through assignments, and use the knowledge they learn in class to develop scientific explanations. Students will also assess claims by biologists in many disciplines and relate them to the course content.
- Analyze and interpret research results using appropriate methods. Student will explore data from published scientific studies and draw conclusions about biology from these findings.

Grading Assignments: (Assignments typically associated with the course. Not every section is expected to have all the assignments on this list; but the list should include all possible assignments.)

Unit Exams (4 total, 20% each)

Unit Assignments (4 total, 4% each)

Nature of Science Assignment (4%)

University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family, and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid written excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of student's academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to ". . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>)

Academic Success

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

Americans With Disabilities Act

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with the academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet the integral requirements of the course. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and
- (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
- (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in an alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Office of Accessibility Services, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice), (850) 644-8504 (TDD), oas@fsu.edu, <https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

Confidential Campus Resources:

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A, Room 4100
(850) 644-7161
Available 24/7/365
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Florida State University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) primary mission is to address psychological needs and personal concerns, which may interfere with students' academic progress, social development, and emotional well-being. The following in-person and virtual (tele-mental health) services are available to all enrolled students residing in the state of Florida:

1. Individual therapy
2. Group therapy
3. Crisis Intervention
4. Psychoeducational and outreach programming
5. After hours crisis-hotline
6. Access to community providers for specialized treatment

Call 850-644-TALK (8255) for more information on how to initiate services. Counseling & Psychological Services
250 Askew Student Life Building
942 Learning Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32306
Phone: 850-644-TALK (8255)
Walk-in and Appointment Hours:
M-F 8 am – 4 pm

Services at UHS are available to all enrolled students residing in Florida:

The mission of University Health Services (UHS) is to promote and improve the overall health and well-being of FSU students. UHS provides a coordinated continuum of care through prevention, intervention, and treatment. Services include general medical care, priority care, gynecological services, physicals, allergy injection clinic, immunizations, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, and a medical response unit. The Center for Health Advocacy and Wellness (CHAW) assists students in their academic success through individual, group, and population-based health and wellness initiatives. Topics include wellness, alcohol and other drugs, hazing prevention, nutrition and body image, sexual health, and power based personal violence prevention. For more information, go to uhs.fsu.edu.

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
960 Learning Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32306
Hours: M-F, 8 am – 4 pm
Phone: 850-644-6230