

Biology 1225 Course Outline: Fall-Winter 2011-2012

The scope of the course.

Biology 1225 is an online course offered to students who have no previous background in biology, it assumes no exposure to chemistry and math, and no math is involved in the course examinations other than the basic ratios in the Mendelian genetics section of the course.

The course is given through WebCT and students must have a working familiarity with WebCT. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her computer is fully compatible with the WebCT software. Your instructor is not a computer specialist and cannot assist you in this regard, if you do have a computer problem you should contact ITS.

Instructor: Dr. M. J. Butler.

Contact Details.

My UWO email is mjbutler@uwo.ca, and my office is in room 107 of the Collip Building.

Contacting me by email is the quickest way to get feedback BUT be sure to understand that I will NOT respond to or read any email sent to me from a Biology 1225 student concerning any matter in Biology 1225 unless it is sent from that student's UWO email address. This is First year Biology department policy and it conforms to the requirements of the federal law (FIPPA) that mandates privacy of personal information. You also have the option to use the internal mail feature of the Biology 1225 WebCT site, though I personally prefer that you use UWO email since I generally reply faster. I do not log on to the Biology 1225 WebCT site or check emails on weekends.

The textbook for this course is new, it is a special Custom edition of the previous book used in the course, which was **Biology: today and tomorrow** (with physiology). The custom text can be obtained at the UWO bookstore, and the ISBN is **0176327967**

The course Topics are;

Basic chemistry

Cells and cell function

Metabolism and photosynthesis

DNA structure and function, protein synthesis

Cell reproduction, Mendelian genetics

Evolution

Diversity of life, history of life on earth

Basic descriptive features of taxa of plants and animals, protists, bacteria etc

Plant anatomy, function and reproduction

Animal physiology, anatomy and behaviour

Ecology – population dynamics, competition, geochemical and other aspects influenced by humans such as global warming, ozone etc

Evaluation. There will be four online tests, an exam in the Christmas exam period, and a final exam. Each online test is “open book” and is worth 7.5% of your final course mark, the Christmas exam is not online, is closed book, covers the material from the first half of the textbook, and is worth 30% of your final mark. The Final Exam is not online, is “closed book”, and is worth 40% of your final course mark.

The final exam is not cumulative; it encompasses only material from the second half of the textbook (the final exam coverage will be defined precisely after all of the online tests have been done). The online tests are all multiple-choice questions; the Christmas and the final exams consist of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and some fill in the blanks, and true/false questions.

Reminders about the chapter coverage for each test will be given on the Discussion board and in the Calendar. The Date and Time for each test or exam will be given on the course Calendar and on the Discussion Board.

The Discussion and Chat boards will be removed the day before each test and will be reinstated once the test day is over. The Discussion and Chat boards will be permanently removed the day before the final exam date.

Tests are listed below with the chapters covered in that text placed in brackets (look in the Calendar and the Tests folder to get the dates of tests):

Test 1 (1-6 inclusive)

Test 3 (15-20 inclusive)

Test 2 (7-14, there is no chapter 11 in the Custom text, it is excluded)

Test 4 (22-27 inclusive)

More about the Tests: The Four online tests are NOT optional. They must be completed on the designated day and within the time limit allotted. Any request for alternate times to write a test will only be considered, as with other courses, on the basis of a compelling documented reason, such as illness or other emergency. Each test lasts one hour, is “open book”, and will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions.

You must not consult with other students while doing the test, and you are hereby warned that WebCT assessments contain features that can scramble the order of questions, provide alternate versions of the same question, and randomize the order of answers.

Note that there is a practice test available in the Tests folder that you should use to familiarize yourself with the process before you do the "real thing".

No marks are registered for the practice test to be used in your final grade, I pay no attention to the practice test, and you should not concern yourself about actually getting the questions correct, play with the process of doing the test (you can try it more than once if necessary), get used to its features.

Once you have completed a test you will be able to view your test mark, it should appear in the Assessments link and in the My Grades link, But ONLY the overall mark for your test will be available while the test period is underway. Once everybody has done the test, usually by the end of the next day, I will change the test settings so that you can view the full evaluation for each of the questions in your test. BE SURE to read all the information that is contained in the folder entitled “Tests” that you will find on the homepage, you are responsible for agreeing to and abiding by the requirements written in that folder.

Answers to a couple of frequently asked questions:

- 1) NO, the final exam is NOT cumulative, it only covers material from the second half of the text (nominally this would be chapters 16-32, but with stated exceptions to be provided later).
- 2) NO, you do NOT have to pass the final exam in order to get your credit for Biology 1225.

A new Senate regulation requires me to post the following messages into the course outline:

- 1) “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholloff.pdf>”
- 2) “Computer-marked multiple choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may include cheating”

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.