

Biology 1225 Course Outline: Summer 2018.

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.

Instructor: Dr. M. J. Butler.

Contact Details.

My UWO email is mjbutler@uwo.ca.

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 students university 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.

The textbook for this course is entitled *Biology: today and tomorrow, Fifth Edition, authors Starr, Evers and Starr. The text can be obtained at the UWO bookstore, and the ISBN is 978-1-305-11735-8. This textbook is essential, you cannot do Biology 1225 without it, other editions of this text, or other textbooks, should not be used, and I cannot undertake to provide cross references if you happen to use an earlier text than the 5th edition.*

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, and a final exam. Each online test is "open book" and is worth 15% of your final course mark. The final exam is not cumulative; it is not online and is closed book, 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), and is worth 40% of your final course mark. There is no mid term exam.

The online tests are all multiple-choice questions; the final exam consist of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and some fill in the blanks, and true/false questions.

Reminders about the chapter coverage and date for each test will be given on the Announcements link.

Tests are listed below with the chapters covered in that test placed in brackets, followed by the date:

Test 1 (chapters 1-6 inclusive)	May 24th
Test 2 (chapters 7-14 inclusive) excluded from Biology 1225	June 14th * Chapter 10 is
Test 3 (chapters 15, 16, 17, 19, 21) excluded from Biology 1225	June 28th * Chapters 18 and 20 are
Test 4 (chapters 22-26 inclusive)	July 12th 8th

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 can begin the test at any time within the 24 hours of the test day, and once you begin a test you have one hour to complete and submit it.

You must not consult with other students while doing the test. Owl 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 that you can use to familiarize yourself with the process before you do the "real thing". No marks are registered for the practice test, I pay no attention to the practice test, and you should not concern yourself about actually getting the questions correct. The practice test is just there to allow you to play with the process of doing the test (you can try it more than once if necessary).

Once you have completed a test you will be able to view the overall mark 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.

Note carefully that if you go over the allotted time for the test, even by a second, the Sakai system may automatically force submission of your test, and whatever score you obtain when Sakai forces submission, you will be stuck with it, no changes can be made.

While Sakai may permit a student to begin and take a test after the defined 24 hour period allotted to the test, the submitted test is flagged as "late". This will result in my overriding of the score recorded by the Sakai system, and the test being recorded as having a zero score. Accommodation will then only be given after provision of suitable documentation. Note also that for each minute or part minute that a student exceeds the one hour time period allowed for an online test, 2.% of the mark for the test will be deducted, this will be done at the end of the course when course grades are calculated.

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 16-28, 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.

3). No, I cannot help you with providing details about location of off-campus exam centres. I would be happy to do that, but instructors dont have that information and we dont deal with it. You should address such questions to Distance Studies directly (distexam@uwo.ca). In general, all evaluations (online tests and the final exam) are done off-campus at the same date and time as for students on campus, and Distance Studies will contact you with locations of exam centres if you are writing exams off-campus.

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

A) "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> "

B) "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"

C) 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.

D) Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help."