

# Introductory Biology

BIO 110.I51

Spring 2021



**Number of Credits:** 4 credits

**Days Class Meets:** Monday-Thursday

**Meeting Times:** 9-11am

**Online Office Hours:** 9-11:30am Fridays

**Instructor:** Dr. Curt Blankespoor

**Contact Email:** blankescurtis@jccmi.edu

**Contact Phone:** 616.401.1848

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## Course Description

Students will investigate the nature of science and critically analyze scientific data and current biological issues. Basic biological concepts including cell structure and function, context of current issues. This course is designed for non-science majors. This course includes a laboratory component.

## Prerequisite(s)

ENG 085 or 090, and MAT 031

## Course Focus

The main focus of this course is to improve scientific literacy. Many students fail to see the relevance of science in their lives. To address this, this course will approach science from current topics that you should be able to relate to in your life. We will then need to learn some biology to understand these topics.

## Course Objectives

Students successfully completing this course should be able to:

1. Describe the nature of science and how it is a self-correcting process
2. Understand the factors affecting global warming and other human impacts on the environment
3. Identify cell structures and describe their functions
4. Explain the origin of cancer cells and factors affecting their growth
5. Understand the basic structure and function of DNA
6. Understand the mechanisms of evolutionary change and how evolution differs from non-scientific explanations

## General Education Outcomes

The course goals and objectives incorporate specific General Education Outcomes (GEOs) established by the JC Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty. These goals are in concert with four-year colleges and universities and reflect input from the professional communities we serve. GEOs guarantee students achieve goals necessary for graduation credit, transferability, and professional skills needed in many certification programs. The GEOs and course objectives addressed in this class include the following:

**GEO 4—Demonstrate Scientific Reasoning** (addressed through course objectives 1-6)

## Textbook

**Biology: The Core.** 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Eric J. Simon (ISBN: 978-013-4189151-4)

*Text Book Zero! This text is available for purchase in both electronic and printed formats.*

**Follett Access! Please review the cost of your required materials at the following link to determine the best option for you to purchase your materials:** <https://www.bkstr.com/jacksonstore>

For more information on the Follett ACCESS Program, you can view the frequently asked questions here: <https://www.jccmi.edu/bookstore/student-services-follett-access/>.

If after reviewing the costs, you choose to opt out, you may do so here: [www.jccmi.edu/optout](http://www.jccmi.edu/optout). Please note your opt out selection is for your entire semester schedule. You cannot opt out and opt in to individual courses. And you must opt out by the due date for your first class.

If you have questions about materials, please contact the Jackson College Follett bookstore at [jackson@bkstr.com](mailto:jackson@bkstr.com). For account billing questions, please contact the Jackson College Cashier at [jccashier@jccmi.edu](mailto:jccashier@jccmi.edu).

## Grading Procedure

The course is structured around 6 content modules. Each module contains 6 assignments (a video worksheet, a lab report, a movie worksheet, a deep dive assignment, a position paper, and a summary quiz). Additionally, you must complete 5 outdoor habitat exploration reports. All assignments, with the exception of the module quizzes, are graded on a S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) scale, and can be resubmitted an unlimited number of times prior to its deadline.

**Late work:** Unless special arrangements are made in advance, no credit will be given for late work. In fairness to students who complete their work on time, this policy will be strictly enforced.

**Extra Credit:** No extra credit be given/accepted under any circumstance. Rather time should be taken to learn the assigned material.

## Grading Scale

The requirements for a 2.0 grade are found in the table below.

Assessment Category	Number	Requirement
Outdoor Labs (i.e., Habitat Explorations)	5	Must earn an "S" grade on each lab report
Video Worksheets	6	Must earn an "S" grade on each worksheet
Online Labs	6	Must earn an "S" grade on each lab report
Movie Worksheets	6	Must earn an "S" grade on each worksheet
Module Quizzes	6	Must score 70% or higher on each quiz

Important note: All S/U assignments for Modules 1-3 and Habitat Explorations 1-2 must be completed by Friday, July 2. All S/U assignments for Modules 4-6 Habitat Explorations 3-5 must be completed by Wednesday, July 21. Failure to meet either deadline will result in you being immediately dropped from the course.

Grade enhancer requirements are found in the table below.

Assessment Category	Requirement	Grade Enhancer
Deep Dives	Must earn an "S" grade on 5 of 6 assignments	+0.5 GPA unit
Position Papers	Must earn an "S" grade on 5 of 6 assignments	+0.5 GPA unit
Module Quizzes	Must have an average score between 80-90% (all 6 quizzes)	+0.5 GPA unit
	Must have average score between 90% or higher (all 6 quizzes)	+1.0 GPA unit

Important note: You may qualify for more than one grade enhancer.

## Course Management

**Incompletes:** In accordance with JC's Incomplete Grade policy, a student may request the grade of Incomplete if they are unable to complete the course work for some documentable unforeseen circumstance. The Incomplete will be granted if at least 50% of the assigned work in the course (including both assignments and exams) has been performed with sufficient quality (with an average grade of 2.0) and the student provides documentation of the circumstance. The student will be required to provide a detailed written schedule with due dates for making up the missing work during the following semester.

## Academic Honesty Policy

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- Submitting other's work as your own
- Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation
- Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism)

Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying
- Falsifying data
- Altering graded work
- Plagiarizing in any form
- Allowing your work to be submitted by others
- Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical
- Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization
- Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others

**Any violations of the Academic Honesty Policy may result in immediate dismissal from the course with a 0.0 grade.**

## Help

If you have special needs that I should be aware of in order to help you to best learn course material, please let me know as soon as possible. Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively. Students requiring special assistance (including those affected by the Americans With Disabilities Act) should contact the Center for Student Success in Bert Walker Hall Room 138 (517-796-8414) or visit the following website:

<https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities/>

**Tutoring services:** Tutoring services are free at JC if at any point in the course you feel that you would benefit from a tutor, contact the Center.

**Accommodations:** If you need any specific accommodations, it is your responsibility to make me aware of those needs as soon as possible so suitable arrangements may be made. In order to receive special accommodations, I will also need the necessary paperwork from Student Services.

## Attendance Policy

Just as in a traditional classroom course, regular class participation and keeping up on the reading and assignments is strongly correlated with survival in college. It is my recommendation that you plan to do your assignments and take your exams BEFORE the last day they are due. If problems occur, there is time to fix them before the deadline.

In compliance with Federal Title IV funding requirements, as well as college initiatives, I will be monitoring student participation on a regular basis and officially reporting student activity throughout the term to assure compliance with college policy and federal regulations. It is imperative that you log in to the course and actively participate **within the first couple of days of the term** to validate your enrollment in the course. After that, not actively participating in class may result in you being withdrawn from the course. Being withdrawn from a course can have an impact on financial aid, billing, athletic eligibility, and housing status. As a college student you are responsible for how your participation impacts your academic progress; the accountability lies with you.

## Failure

The college is required to drop students from classes if they are not participating. Examples of non-participation include:

- Failure to attend the first or second day of class without contacting the instructor
- Failure to attend more than three (3) synchronous meetings
- Failure to complete three (2) Position Papers or three (2) Laboratory Reports
- Failure to take two (2) Learning Celebrations

Any of these examples of non-participation may result in your immediate dismissal from the course. If you fail to participate after the final reporting period (1 week after mid-term) you will not be automatically dropped from the course, but will receive a grade of 0.0 for failing to participate in the course.

Students own the responsibility of the effect of being dropped. Being dropped from the class may affect financial aid or housing status. If you are dropped, the drop status will NOT be changed due to the impact on financial aid, housing status, etc.

## Caveat

The policies included in this document are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Some minor revisions may be necessary during the semester due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., weather-related school closings, instructor illness, etc.).

## Expectations & Guidelines for Success

- Attend all classes and arrive on time
- When you have an unavoidable absence, contact the instructor for missed assignments
- Read the assigned chapters, either before or after lecture. This will help reinforce the topics covered.
- Study class materials for at least 2 hours outside of class for each hour in class.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Participate in group study sessions, this can be the most effective form of learning for many students
- Do not hesitate to contact the instructor about concerns you may have with the class.
- Make use of the instructor's office hours.
- Review study practices at <https://www.jccmi.edu/science/how-to-study-science/>

## Other Course Policies

**Assistance:** If you need assistance in this course, I encourage schedule a time to meet with me during office hours to discuss your study strategies. You may also benefit from discussion strategies with your classmates or setting up group study sessions. If you feel that you would benefit from a tutor, be aware that tutors are available free of charge. Additional information on special services may be found by contacting the front office or through the JC's Center for Student Success (796-8415).

**JetNet Resources:** Many course materials can be accessed through the JetNet course management system. This is the way you will be able to view your grades, announcements, screencasts, animations, etc. You are expected to use JetNet to help you track assignments and due dates.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated in this class. Disruptive behaviors include (but are not limited to) having side discussions, being distracting to class when arriving late, cell phone constantly ringing, and being disrespectful of others. These behaviors will result in point deductions of up to 15 points and being asked to leave the class. If there are situations that I may not be aware of, please let me know so the situation may be addressed.

**Grievances:** If you have a concern about any aspect of the course it is your responsibility to bring it to the instructor's attention. This is the first step of handling any academic concern.

## BIO 110 Calendar Spring 2021 (subject to revision if necessary)

WEEK	DATES	TEXTBOOK Chapter (section)	MONDAY-THURSDAY
1	June 7	Course Introduction	
	June 8-13	1(4-10)	Module 1: Nature of Science
2	June 14-20	7(1-7), 8(8), 10(11)	Module 2: Evolution, Natural Selection
3	June 21-27	Core Issue 10	Module 3: Climate Change
	July 2	All assignments for Modules 1-3 are due at 5pm	
4	June 28-July 4	Core Issue 1, 2(7-12), 11(4-7)	Module 4: Nutrition, Activity, Wellness
5	July 5-11	5(11-18)	Module 5: Genetics
6	July 12-18	3(5), 6(1-7, 10, 17)	Module 6: DNA, Genetic Engineering
7	July 19-23	Course Review	
	July 21	All assignments for Modules 4-6 are due at 5pm	

## BIO 110 Laboratory Schedule Spring 2021

WEEK	DATES	OUTDOOR LAB	ONLINE LAB
1	June 7-13	Habitat Exploration 1	The Nature of Science Lab
2	June 14-20	Habitat Exploration 2	EvoDots Simulation
3	June 21-27	Habitat Exploration 3	What's your Ecological Footprint?
4	June 28-July 4	Habitat Exploration 4	Nutrition, Activity, and Wellness Lab
5	July 5-11	Habitat Exploration 5	Genetics Lab
6	July 12-18		DNA/Genetic Engineering Lab

"No one cares how much you know...once they know how much you care."