



BIOLOGY 171: Introduction to Biology I
Fall 2021 - CRNs: 60013 and 60109 - 3 Credits

GENERAL INFORMATION

[Biology 171 class site \(in Laulima\)](#)

Instructor: Megan Onuma

Virtual Office Hours: email me for an appointment or come to the Power Hour sessions

E-mail: monuma@hawaii.edu

Virtual Office: <https://hawaii.zoom.us/j/5826331360>

Please let me know in advance if you need to meet with me in my virtual office.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY:

Information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Updates to the syllabus will be communicated via email and Laulima Announcements.

Catalog Description

First semester of introductory biology for all life science majors. Topics include: Overview of the science of biology; Cell structure, chemistry, growth, and reproduction; Classical, chromosomal and molecular genetics; Evolution, phylogeny and systematics; and Biology and diversity of viruses and bacteria. (3 hours lecture)

Recommended Preparation: High school chemistry or college chemistry. Registration in BIOL 171L.

Course Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop and evaluate a scientific hypothesis.
2. Describe cell structure and function.
3. Describe how genetic characteristics are passed from generation to generation and how they are manifested into the characteristics of the whole organism.
4. Explain how the process of biological evolution influenced the history of life on our planet.
5. Classify living things into a hierarchical system of groups based upon morphology, genetics, and phylogeny.
6. Describe the characteristics, systematics, and biology of viruses and bacteria.

Course Format

This course will be taught as an asynchronous online class, meaning that lectures and all other materials may be read and viewed according to the student's schedule. Each week on Saturday, new content will be available. Most homework assignments will be due on Thursday evening, unless otherwise noted.

The study of biology is complex and vocabulary-heavy. This course will require between 4-8 hours per week, depending partly on the student's background. Students with a background in chemistry and/or mathematics may have an easier time understanding some of the concepts introduced in this course; however, all efforts will be made to assist students regardless of their starting level of knowledge.

Required Materials

Textbook: Openstax Biology 2e (second edition, 2018). Senior Contributing Authors: Mary Ann Clark, Jung Choi, Matthew Douglas. Available for free online at: <https://openstax.org>

Computer and internet access: You will need access to a computer (not a phone) with high-speed internet connection in order to view videos and other resources in this course. Be aware that an iPad or a tablet may not always be compatible with the programs that we use.

Software:

- You will need to routinely access our Lualaba course site. Please plan on visiting this site at least two to three times per week. The best internet browser for Lualaba compatibility is Mozilla Firefox and the worst internet browser is Internet Explorer.
- This course will use several programs (eg. Zoom) that can be accessed through an internet browser but are also available as apps for your convenience.
- There may be other (free) apps or simulations required for this class, but the instructor will give you advanced notice and instructions on how to access them. No paid apps, subscriptions, or simulations will be required.

Course Policies

Communication

Participating in our Learning Community

This course requires regular interaction with the Lualaba website, videos, interactive simulations, the instructor, and classmates. Especially in this online format, students must take responsibility for their own learning, which includes checking the Lualaba website regularly (at least twice per week) in order to be successful in this course.

Students will be respectful in all forms of communication with their classmates and the instructor (discussion forums, emails, peer-interaction activities, etc). Bullying, harassment, and any similar behaviors that disrupt the learning environment for others will result in warnings, grade deductions, and reports to applicable administrators/authorities, depending on the nature and severity of the situation and the pattern of behavior.

All work submitted by the student must be the student's own work. Submitting the words, answers, or work done by another person and claiming credit is academic dishonesty. In this class, academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, copy/pasting from websites) will have the following consequences: students will receive a failing grade for the plagiarized assignment and will be subjected to stricter rules regarding future assignments (eg: completing homework under supervision, etc.). All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

Contacting the Instructor

Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns (monuma@hawaii.edu). I generally respond within 1-2 hours during weekday working hours. On nights or weekends, I usually respond by the next day.

Alternative Contact

If you are unable to contact the instructor or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office: Phone: 808-235-7422, Email: wcaa@hawaii.edu

Tasks & Grading

Final Grade

Student learning will be formally assessed in the following ways. These will make up the final course grade.

Tasks and how they are weighted

Homework = 40%

Discussion Posts and Comments = 20%

Perusall Readings = 15%

Peer Interactions = 5%

Formal Exams/Assessments = 20%

You will receive a letter grade based on the following scale:

Letter Grades and Percentage Ranges

A = 90-100%; B = 80-89.99%; C = 70-79.99%; D = 60-69.99%; F = 0-59.99%

Homework

Most weeks, a 20-point homework assignment will be posted on Lulima on Saturday. Students will have 5-7 days to complete each homework assignment (typically due Thurs). Homework consisting of multiple choice problems can be submitted twice before the due date: after the first submission, Lulima will automatically check your answers and you'll be given a summary of which questions were answered incorrectly. Students are encouraged to review and revise incorrect answers before re-submitting the assignment before the due date.

Homework questions that cannot be automatically graded (short-answer questions) will only be reviewed and graded by the instructor after the due date has passed, and therefore cannot be re-submitted.

Some weeks, students will be asked to complete online simulations, games, and other activities. Homework during those weeks will typically include a written response or some other evidence of completion for that activity.

Discussion Posts and Comments

Some weeks, a 10-point short-answer question will be posted on the Discussion Board in Lulima. Students will be required to write a 1 paragraph response to the question.

Occasionally, students will be asked to read over the responses of their peers and give feedback, ask questions, or write comments on the previous discussion post. Students will be graded on whether or not they completed all parts of the assignment (answered all parts of the question). Typically, a rubric will be provided as a guide for students.

Perusall Readings:

Perusall is a social annotation tool that allows students to read texts collaboratively. Students will read 2-4 textbook passages, online documents, and/or scientific articles assigned by the instructor. Perusall records the time spent reading the article, allows students to type comments directly onto the text, reply to comments made by their classmates, and automatically assigns a grade to students based on a combination of these factors.

Peer Interactions:

Students will complete 2-4 small assignments designed to increase engagement with their classmates and the instructor. For example at the beginning of the semester, students will post a picture and write a short self-introduction using the Padlet online tool.

Formal Assessments/Exams

Due to the uncertainty created by Covid-19, this course will have 2 formal assessments at the halfway point and end of the semester (with some flexibility as to the nature of these assessments). These formal assessments may take the form of exams, depending on the capacity of the Windward Community College testing center to virtually proctor these exams. Alternatively, these formal assessments may take the form of short-answer essays, similar to a discussion post. These formal assessments will rely heavily on the assessing of major concepts of the course, as outlined by the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

Emergencies and Late Work

The due date on assignments will typically be Thursdays at 5pm. (This gives the instructor time to review student work and address any misunderstandings before releasing new material each Saturday.) However, homework will typically be accepted until Friday at 5pm, without penalty.

Emergency situations are an exception to the late work policy. If emergency circumstances (accident, illness, personal emergency, death in the family, etc.) come up during the semester, please email the instructor as soon as possible so that arrangements can be worked out on a case-by-case basis.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be periodically available to students throughout the semester. These will be announced over Lulima Announcements.

[Course Schedule: Available here](#)

The course schedule is flexible and subject to change. The Google Sheets link above gives the most up-to-date course schedule information.

Windward Community College Policies for Students

The following list shows Windward Community College Policies that affect and protect students. Please review the following institutional policies:

Student Responsibilities

- Effort and Time
- Proctored (or ID Verification) Activity
- Netiquette

- Online Safety
- Academic Honesty
- Student Conduct Code

College Policies

Students with Disabilities: [WCC Disability Services website](#)

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu.

Title IX Disclosure: [WCC Title IX Website](#)

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination; sexual harassment and gender-based harassment, including harassment based on actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; sexual assault; sexual exploitation; domestic violence; dating violence; and stalking.

Windward Community College is committed to the pursuit of equal education. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination or gender-based violence, Windward CC has resources to support you.

[Privacy and Confidentiality](#)

[Right to Resolve Academic Grievances](#)

How to Get Help

- Academic Support
 - [Tutoring](#)
 - [TRiO program](#)
- WCC Student Support Services
 - [TRIO Program](#)
 - [Academic Advising](#)
 - [Financial Aid](#)
 - [Mental Health Services](#)
- Technical Support Services