



**Course Syllabus: Introduction to Human Biology**  
**College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering**  
**BIOL 1013**  
**Fall 2025**

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Bob Brennan Office: Bolin Science Hall, Room 138 Office hours:  
Monday 9:00-12:00 and Friday 9:00-11:00, or by appointment Office Phone: (940)  
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**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to how the human body works for non-science majors. Basic biological principles, including scientific literacy, cell regulation and metabolism, nutrition, cancer, genetics, biotechnology and body systems. Concurrent laboratory participation in online lab required. This course meets the general education requirement for a science course in the core curriculum. It is not intended for Biology majors or minors. There are no pre-requisites for this course.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

All instructional materials for lecture are posted on D2L

**Student Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of Introduction to Human Biology, students should be able to:

- Differentiate between science and pseudoscience
- Make informed decisions on topics related to the biological sciences
- Describe the essential molecules of life and functional anatomy of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.
- Explain cellular reproduction, structure and function of DNA.
- Understand basic patterns of inheritance
- Understand evolution as it relates to microbial and animal life.
- Discuss the primary functions of the body's organ systems.
- Understand the basic components of our immune system
- Recognize the primary mechanisms of action for antibiotics

**Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

## Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

## Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

## Grading

Achievement in this course will be based on an absolute grading system, which will be determined by dividing the total number of points earned during the semester by the total number of points possible during the semester. Lecture counts for 60% of your grade, and lab counts for 40% of your grade.

Table 1: Points allocated to each lecture assignment

Assignments	Points
4 Lecture Exams (100 pts each)	400
10 Homework Assignments (10 pts each)	100
Total Points	500

Table 2: Final grade calculation.

Grade	Points
A	$\geq 90\%$
B	$\geq 80\% - < 90\%$
C	$\geq 70\% - < 80\%$
D	$\geq 60\% - < 70\%$
F	$< 60\%$

## Exams

Lecture exams may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answer. **Missing an Exam:** There will be no early exams or make-up exams given. Students are expected to take exams on the published administration dates. **If you miss an exam for any reason,** your score for the comprehensive final exam will be used to replace the zero earned on the missed

exam. This is a generous policy that allows students to recover from a missed exam for any unexpected personal or university sponsored absences.

### **Extra Credit**

There will be opportunities to earn up to 10 extra credit points during the semester. They will come in the form a question at the beginning of random class periods. These questions will relate to the concepts covered in the previous one to two class periods.

### **Late Work**

10 percentage points will be deducted for every day homework assignments are late.

### **Important Dates**

Last day for term schedule changes: Change of schedule and late registration August 28. Deadline to file for graduation: September 22 Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 24

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, chronic absenteeism has historically negatively impacted achievement in this course. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Prior notice will be given to the student if this situation should arise.

### **Instructor Class Policies**

Students are expected to participate actively in class activities. Students will show respect for the instructor and each other. The use of profanity and/or derogatory language will not be tolerated. Profane or derogatory language will result in the student being asked to leave the room. Cell phones must be turned off or set to vibrate during class.

### **Change of Schedule**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

### **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the **Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140**. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### **Weather Closures**

In the event that campus is closed due to weather on a date when an exam is scheduled or a homework assignment is due, the exam date or homework assignment due date will shift to the next class period when campus is back open for classes.

### **AI policy**

This policy specifically addresses the unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or technologies to gain an unfair advantage in academic activities. The unauthorized use of AI refers to employing AI tools and technologies without proper authorization with the intention to gain an unfair advantage in academic activities. This includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

- a) Using AI to generate or complete assignments, projects, or assessments without disclosing the use of AI or without instructor permission.
- b) Utilizing AI chatbots or virtual assistants to seek answers or assistance during exams, tests, quizzes, or other assignments where that has not been explicitly allowed.
- c) Manipulating AI systems or algorithms to bypass security measures, access unauthorized information, or compromise the integrity of academic assessments.
- d) Sharing or distributing AI-generated content as one's own work without proper acknowledgement or attribution.

### **College Policies**

*Campus Carry Rules/Policies*

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### *Smoking/Tobacco Policy*

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

### *Alcohol and Drug Policy*

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### *Campus Carry*

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### *Active Shooter*

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

### **Course Schedule:**

**\*Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 Aug. 25 & 27	Introduction to Biology	Assignment #1 due; Wednesday, Aug. 27
Week 2 Sept. 1 & 3	Chemistry and Molecules of Life; <b>No class Sept. 1 – Labor Day</b>	
Week 3 Sept. 8 & 10	Chemistry and Molecules of Life	Assignment #2 due; Wednesday, Sep. 10
Week 4 Sept. 15 & 17	Cellular Structure	<b>Exam #1, Monday, Sept. 15</b>
Week 5 Sept. 22 & 24	Cell Membranes	
Week 6 Sep. 29 & Oct. 1	Metabolic Pathways	Assignment #3 due; Wednesday, Oct. 1
Week 7 Oct. 6 & 8	Cell Division	Assignment #4 due; Wednesday, Oct. 8
Week 8 Oct. 13 & 15	DNA Structure and Replication	<b>Exam #2, Monday, Oct. 13</b>
Week 9 Oct. 20 & 22	DNA Transcription and Translation	Assignment #5 due; Wednesday, Oct. 22
Week 10 Oct. 27 & 29	Gene expression and Inheritance	Assignment #6 due; Wednesday, Oct. 29
Week 11 Nov. 3 & 5	Theory of Evolution	Assignment #7 due; Wednesday, Nov. 5
Week 12 Nov. 10 & 12	Human Body systems	<b>Exam #3, Monday, Nov. 10</b>
Week 13 Nov. 17 & 19	Human Body Systems	Assignment #8 due; Wednesday, Nov. 19
Week 14 Nov. 24 & 26	Immunology, Vaccines, and Microbial Control; <b>No class on Nov. 26</b>	Assignment #9 due; Monday, Nov. 24
Week 15 Dec. 1 & 3	Immunology, Vaccines, and Microbial Control	Assignment #10 due; Wednesday, Dec. 3
Week 16 Dec. 8		<b>Exam #4, Monday Dec. 8</b>