



Course Syllabus: Introduction to Human Biology

College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering

BIOL 1013

Fall 2026

Contact Information

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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Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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

Table 1: Points allocated to each 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	Less than 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.

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: August 27
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 23

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive 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.

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities

Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

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 or other disruptive behavior 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 application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of

Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500,
student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

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. Unauthorized use of AI for any of the above situations will result in a zero for the activity and the student would also be subject to university policies regarding academic misconduct.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

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

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

Midwestern State University seeks to provide a safe, healthy, pleasant environment for its faculty, staff, and students. To this end, the use of tobacco products, including smoke and smokeless tobacco, and the advertising, sale, free distribution, and discarding of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all indoor and outdoor facilities and in all university vehicles. The policy extends to faculty, staff, students, vendors, guests, and visitors.

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 prohibits 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 has 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 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

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. 24 & 26	Introduction to Biology	Worksheet #1 due; Wednesday, Aug. 26
Week 2 Aug. 31 & Sep.2	Chemistry and Molecules of Life;	
Week 3 Sept. 7 & 9	Chemistry and Molecules of Life No class Sept. 7 – Labor Day	Worksheet #2 due; Wednesday, Sep. 9
Week 4 Sept. 14 & 16	Cellular Structure	Exam #1, Monday, Sept. 14
Week 5 Sept. 21 & 23	Cell Membranes	
Week 6 Sep. 28 & 30	Metabolic Pathways	Worksheet #3 due; Wednesday, Sept. 30

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 7 Oct. 5 & 7	Cell Division	Worksheet #4 due; Wednesday, Oct. 7
Week 8 Oct. 12 & 13	DNA Structure and Replication	Exam #2, Monday, Oct. 12
Week 9 Oct. 19 & 21	DNA Transcription and Translation	Worksheet #5 due; Wednesday, Oct. 21
Week 10 Oct. 26 & 28	Gene expression and Inheritance	Worksheet #6 due; Wednesday, Oct. 28
Week 11 Nov. 2 & 4	Theory of Evolution	Worksheet #7 due; Wednesday, Nov. 4
Week 12 Nov. 9 & 11	Human Body systems	Exam #3, Monday, Nov. 9
Week 13 Nov. 16 & 18	Human Body Systems	Worksheet #8 due; Wednesday, Nov. 18
Week 14 Nov. 23 & 25	Immunology, Vaccines, and Microbial Control; No class on Nov. 25	Worksheet #9 due; Monday, Nov. 23
Week 15 Nov. 30 & Dec. 2	Immunology, Vaccines, and Microbial Control	Worksheet #10 due; Wednesday, Dec. 2
Week 16 Dec. 7		Exam #4, Monday Dec. 7