



Nanchang University
BIL101: Introduction to Biology
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

Credit: 6

Contact Hours

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

Course Description

This is an introductory course for students majoring in an area other than science. The course material is presented within the context of the human experience and covers cell biology, physiology, genetics, evolution, ecology and the interaction of humankind with the environment. The success of this course depends on both of us me, by providing the opportunity for your involvement, and you, by your active participation in the process.

Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Required Textbook

Textbook: *Biology Today: An Issues Approach*, by Minkoff and Baker

Grading

•Participation	10%
•Essay	20%
•Lab	15%
•Midterm	20%
•Final Exam	35%

Letter Grade	Grade Points
High Distinction	85-100
Distinction	75-84
Credit	65-74
Pass	50-64



Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1

Biology: Science and Ethics (Ch. 1)

Class 2

Genes, Chromosomes and DNA (Ch. 2)

Class 3

Human Genetics (Ch. 3)

Class 4

Review Discussion (Essay topic to be announced in the class)

Class 5

Stem Cells, Cell Division and Cancer (Ch. 12)

Class 6

Genetic Engineering and Genomics (Ch. 4)

Class 7

Evolution (Ch. 5)

Class 8

Evolution (Ch. 5) (Cont.)

Class 9

Review Discussion (Essay worksheet)

Class 10

Human Variation (Ch. 7)

Class 11

The Population Explosion (Ch. 9)

Class 12

The Population Explosion (Ch. 9) (Cont.)



Class 13

Midterm Review

Class 14

Midterm Exam

Class 15

Nutrition and Health (Ch. 10)

Class 16

Plants to Feed the World (Ch. 11)

Class 17

The Nervous System and Senses (Ch. 13)

Class 18

Drugs and Addiction (Ch. 14)

Class 19

Review Discussion

Class 20

Mind and Body / HIV and AIDS (Ch. 15, 16)

Class 21

Mind and Body / HIV and AIDS (Ch. 15, 16)(Cont)

Class 22

Protecting the Biosphere (Ch. 19)

Class 23

Conservation of Natural Resources and Why?

Class 24

Final Review (Essay due in the class)

Laboratory Schedule

Room: To be determined

Hour: 18:30 – 20:30

In order to do a good job in the experiments, it is essential that you come well prepared. Reading the experiment requirements for the first time in lab will put you and your partner at a disadvantage and make it very difficult to complete the experiment on time.



If you have any technical questions on the pre-lab, data section or post-lab assignments, you are encouraged to ask the professor.

Lab: Cell & Genes & Drugs

Practical Exercise No. 1: Genetic Variation and Nutrition and Health

Practical Exercise No. 2: Population Explosion and Natural Resources Conservation

Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on "Late Withdrawals"

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved **ONLY** in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the



course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.