

Biol 103: Human Biology Syllabus

Course Information:

Spring 2024

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30pm-1:45pm

Classroom for course is Newton 202



Instructor Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Sam Newberry

Office: ISC 139 B



Telephone: 585-245-6428

Campus Email: snewberry@geneseo.edu

Office hours: Wed. 11:30am – 1:30pm; Thur. 10:30am – 12:00pm

Other times by appointment

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Course Description and Objectives

Designed for non-majors. Principles of basic human functions are discussed and applied to prepare the student for making broad based value judgments. Practical questions of modern life are treated scientifically from a biological viewpoint. Counts for general education only if BIOL 104 is taken concurrently. Credits: 3(3-0)

At the end of their course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic chemistry of life
2. Understand the structure and function of cells and how they reproduce
3. Understand the relationship between evolution and human form and function.
4. List all the anatomical systems in the human body and their function(s).
5. List the components of each normal human system and explain their function(s).
6. Explain structural and functional abnormalities of each human.
7. Explain injuries to the human body.
8. Evaluate the unique status of each human.
9. Apply scientific information and critical thinking when making bioethical decisions.

Required Materials:

Materials for this course are accessible through Brightspace. It is a requirement of the course that you access Brightspace regularly. Additionally, the following text is recommended, but OPTIONAL:

1. Human Biology (loose-leaf) ISBN 9781305616660

Human Biology 11th ed by Cecie Starr & Beverly McMillan

Price: \$185.00 (Used 138.75)

Alternatively, there are also **rental** a options for the textbook and eText for the semester, these options are listed on the Start Here module in Brightspace.

Lecture notes

I will endeavor to post the lecture notes on Brightspace 1-day prior to class. You are welcome and even encouraged to download these and bring them to class. There will also be 1-page printouts for most topics; I will have these printed for you to pick up in class, but extra copies will also be available in Brightspace.

Assignments

Topics will be covered as listed in the course outline. Within each module on Brightspace there are links for the reading assignments, graded assignments, case

studies and some helpful videos that will be covered in the class. Please make sure to review these weekly. The reading assignments should be started BEFORE the topic is covered in lecture. Before coming to class, skim through the chapter and lecture notes to become familiar with the major themes and vocabulary. Careful examination of the figures will also make the lecture material more meaningful for you. After class, the chapter should be carefully re-read. Material from the lectures, readings and case studies will be tested on the exams.

Pre-learning Assessments and Post-learning Assessments

There are pre-learning and post-learning assessments for each chapter. These are linked within each chapter module. These learning assessments are designed to stack on each other, building up your understanding a step at a time. You will find the pre-learning assessments will often have questions that seem not directly related to the content; these are to get you thinking about the specific concepts that will be discussed in class.

- Pre-learning assessments will always be due on either a Tuesday or a Thursday, 2 hours before the scheduled lecture.
- Post-learning assessments will always be due on a Saturday at 11:59 pm.

Due dates are listed Brightspace with each assessment. Three (3) pre-learning and three (3) post-learning assessments are dropped; due to this policy, these assessments will NOT be re-opened for missed due dates, illness or other issues. Use these drops wisely! I recommend adding the due dates of the graded items (assessments, exams, and case studies) for this class to your calendar and/or setting yourself reminders. Contact me immediately if you have extenuating circumstances.

Grading (Important)

Exams

Exams make up 50% of the class grade (important)

Test 1 includes Chapters 1, 2, 3 and will take place on February 8, 2024

Test 2 includes Chapters 5, 6, 7 and will take place on March 7, 2024

Test 3 includes Chapters 8, 13, 9, 10 and will take place on April 11, 2024

Test 4 includes Chapters 12, 15, 16, 25 and will take place on May 10, 2024

The highest three (3) test grades will make up the exam grade for the class.

Case Studies

- Case studies make up 10% of the class grade
- There will be 1 or 2 case studies

Pre-learning Assessments

- Pre-learning assessments make up 20% of the grade

- Pre-learning assessments will be done online

Post-learning Assessments

- Post-learning assessments make up 20% of the grade
- Post-learning assessments will be done online

Additional Grading Information

- **No extra credit assignments are available. (important)**
- Tests are taken in class and on time. If you have a reason to miss an exam, **proper documentation must be provided to the instructor to make up the exam.**
- 3 pre-learning and 3 post-learning assessments are dropped.
- Letter grades will be assigned by ROUNDING UP your grade to the nearest whole point. For example, a 72.1% average rounds UP to a 73 and you receive a C, not a C-. The higher number in the scale is the CEILING of the range.
- Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Percentage Range	Quality Points	Final Grade
92.5 to 100	4.00	A
89.5 to 92.49	3.67	A-
86.5 to 89.49	3.33	B+
82.5 to 86.49	3.00	B
79.5 to 82.49	2.67	B-
76.5 to 79.49	2.33	C+
73.5 to 76.49	2.00	C
69.5 to 72.49	1.67	C-
66.5 to 69.49	1.33	D+
59.5 to 66.49	1.00	D
0 to 59.49	0.00	F

Grade Appeals on Exams

Requests for recalculation of exam scores or reevaluation of a question or your exam grade must be made in writing and accompanied by the exam item in question. Recalculation of a grade is simple – show me my math error and it will be corrected immediately. To request a re-evaluation of my scoring on a question, submit a typed explanation of how your original submission fully and cogently addresses the question asked. All grade appeals must be submitted to me in person no later than 1 week after the exam has been returned.

Academic Honesty

I take plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty seriously. At its most basic, that means you are responsible for doing your own work. You may not reuse work from other classes, use the work of another person, plagiarize, or use artificial intelligence to help with or generate assignments.

I enforce Geneseo's plagiarism policy. You can find more information about the policy here: [Geneseo's Academic Dishonesty Policy](#). [You might add additional resources about academic integrity in your discipline here, and/or Fraser Library guides on academic integrity and plagiarism.]

Unintentional plagiarism. While the first thing most people think of when they hear the word plagiarism is cheating, you can plagiarize without intending to. Some students plagiarize because they have trouble with paraphrasing or fail to give credit to their sources of information, especially when they search online instead of utilizing assigned material. I believe this class will help you develop and/ or strengthen the skills you need to avoid unintentional plagiarism. I am happy to help you if you have questions or are struggling with this. Come talk to me during office hours or by appointment if you have questions or want help. *Ultimately, you are responsible for avoiding plagiarism, but there are many resources and ways to get help.*

AI, like Chat-GPT. You must do your own work, which means that you should not utilize tools like Chat-GPT for any aspect of our course work. Such use is a form of academic dishonesty. Use of such tools is not only cheating, it will also cheat you of the opportunity to learn and develop your own skills. While AI will undoubtedly play important roles in our future society, you will be better able to utilize AI if you have developed your own critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills by doing your own work. If you have any questions about this, please ask.

Show your work. Upon request, I expect you to be able to show your work or process for completing assignments. This means, you should keep notes, brainstorming sheets, drafts, outlines, and any other work that you created in the process of writing a paper or completing an assignment.

(Adapted from a statement written by Dr. Emilye Crosby, Professor of History.)

Class Etiquette

We all face multiple demands our time and attention. During our 75 minutes, two days a week, I ask for you to be fully present during the time we spend together in class. Our class etiquette policy helps us ensure that everyone gets the most out of the time we are in the same room. Please be mindful and respectful to others to allow everyone an opportunity to learn. Specifics of our policy is listed below:

Computers

If you choose to bring your computer to class, ensure it is for the purpose of following along in class and/or taking notes. Avoid activities that may lead to the distraction of people around you. If you do have pressing matters you wish to attend to (checking email/playing games and/or surfing the web) during the time class is scheduled, please do not come to class. In respect of everyone's right to an environment with minimal

distraction, I reserve the right to dismiss individuals who use computers for unrelated class activities.

Cell Phones

It is understandable that some might be using cell phones during class to answer questions, however, PLEASE turn your ringers off during class. If there is a reason you need to have your phone's ringer on (such as awaiting an emergency call from parents or child) please let me know before class begins. Your cooperation with this policy is appreciated and makes a better learning environment for all in the class.

Questions

Questions during class time are encouraged. Please raise your hand to indicate you have a question. While I prefer to answer questions related to the content during class because it often helps with others' learning, I will be available before class or during my office hours. I am also available through email. Typically, during regular business hours, I will be able to answer the same day, but it may take me up to 48 hours to reply to email. Regular business hours are (9am–5pm M–F).

As per college policy, all academic communications *must* be done via your Geneseo email account OR the college learning management systems.

Accommodations

SUNY Geneseo is dedicated to providing an equitable and inclusive educational experience for all students. The Office of Accessibility will coordinate reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities to ensure equal access to academic programs, activities, and services at Geneseo. Requests for accommodation including letters or review of existing accommodations should be directed to Dr. Amy Fisk in the Office of Accessibility Services in Erwin Hall 22 or access@geneseo.edu or (585) 245-5112. Once the accommodation is processed by the Office of Accessibility, faculty members will receive notification of a student's accommodations. Students will also need to discuss their needs with their faculty member as soon as possible. Please contact the Office of Accessibility Services for questions related to access and the process for requesting academic accommodations:

- Student responsibility: Please submit your letter of accommodation to the Office of Accessibility at the beginning of the semester. Then, make an appointment with the faculty member to discuss arrangements.
- Faculty member responsibility: We are committed to working with you to figure out how to create a just learning environment while meeting the learning outcomes of the course. Unless you communicate otherwise, we will keep all accommodations confidential.

Safeguarding your mental health

Diminished mental health, including significant stress, mood changes, excessive worry, or problems with eating and/or sleeping can interfere with optimal academic performance. The source of symptoms might be strictly related to your course work; if so, please speak with us. However, problems with relationships, family worries, loss, or a personal struggle or crisis can also contribute to decreased academic performance.

SUNY Geneseo provides mental health services to support the academic success of students. Counseling Services, a part of the Lauderdale Center for Student Health & Counseling, offers free, confidential psychological services to help you manage personal challenges that may threaten your well-being.

In the event we suspect you need additional support, we will express our concerns and the reasons for them, and remind you of resources (e.g., Counseling Services, Career Services, Dean of Students, etc.) that might be helpful to you. It is not our intention to know the details of what might be bothering you, but simply to let you know we are concerned and that help, if needed, is available. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do, for yourself and for those who care about you.

Important Dates to Keep in Mind

Date	Event
January 23	First Day of BIOL103
January 28	Last day to withdraw from individual course with 100% refund
February 27	Diversity Summit (no classes)
March 9 to 16	Spring break (no classes)
May 7th	Last day of regularly scheduled Human Biology class
May 8th	Last day to elect Pass/Fail
May 10th	Final Exam: Norton 202 from 8:00am to 10:30am (important)

Please see the following Page for the full course outline.

Spring 2024 Course Outline – BIOL103 – Human Biology

Date	Topic
January 23	Introduction to the course and Chapter 1 – Learning about Human Biology
January 25	Chapter 1 – Learning about Human Biology continued. Chapter 2 – Chemistry of Life
January 30	Chapter 2 – Chemistry of Life continued
February 1	Chapter 3 – Cells and How They Work
February 6	Chapter 3 – Cells and How They Work
February 8	Test #1 – Chapters 1, 2, 3
February 13	Chapter 5 – The Skeletal System
February 15	Chapter 6 – The Muscular System
February 20	Chapter 6 – The Muscular System - continued
February 22	Chapter 7 – Circulation, the Heart and Blood Vessels
February 27	No Class - Diversity Summit
February 29	Chapter 7 – Circulation, the Heart and Blood Vessels – continued
March 5	Nonny Edda's Heart (case study)
March 7	Test #2 – Chapters 5, 6, 7
March 12	No Class – Spring Break
March 14	No Class – Spring Break
March 19	Chapter 8 – Blood
March 21	Chapter 8 – Blood – continued
March 26	Chapter 13 – The Nervous System
March 28	Chapter 13 – The Nervous System - continued
April 2	Chapter 9 – Immunity and Disease
April 4	Chapter 10 – Respiratory System
April 9	Chapter 10 – Respiratory System - continued
April 11	Test #3 – Chapters 8, 13, 9, 10
April 16	Chapter 12 – The Urinary System
April 18	Chapter 12 – The Urinary System – continued
April 23	Chapter 15 – The Endocrine System
April 25	Chapter 15 – The Endocrine System - continued
April 30	Chapter 16 – The Reproductive System
May 2	Chapter 16 – The Reproductive System - continued Chapter 25 – The Human Impact on the Biosphere
May 7	Chapter 25 – The Human Impact on the Biosphere - continued
May 9	No Class – Study Day

May 10	Test #4 – Chapters 12, 15, 16, 25 Norton 202 – 8:00am to 10:30am (important)
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