



# PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Introduction to Biology – Section Syllabus

BSC1005, Section P1127

Fall 2025, Session A

**Instructor:** Melissa Sears

**Office:** Pensacola Campus, Building 17, Room 1720-B

**Phone:** (850) 484-1162

**Email:** msears@pensacolastate.edu

**Office Hours:** TBD

**Department Head:** Dr. Vasanth Ramachandran

**Department Head Phone:** (850) 484-1106

**Department Head Email:** vramachandran@pensacolastate.edu

**Final Exam Date:** TBD

**Last Date of Drop/Add:** August 22, 2025

**Last Date for Student to Withdraw:** November 4, 2025

**Course Description:** This course applies the scientific method to critically examine and explain the natural world including but not limited to cells, organisms, genetics, evolution, ecology, and behavior.

**Class Meeting Time:** M W | 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

**Class Location:** Pensacola Campus, Building 17, Room 1710

**Semester Hours:** 3 credit hours

**Offered:** Fall, Spring, Summer

**Course Designations:** College Transfer. Meets AA General Education Core, Natural Sciences (Physical Sciences) requirement.

**General Education Core Course Standard:** Per Florida Statute 1007.25, "Natural science courses must afford students the ability to critically examine and evaluate the principles of the scientific method, model construction, and use the scientific method to explain natural experiences and phenomena."

**Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials:**

Biology the Core (mastering access w/etext) OR; Simon, Eric; 9780138276577; 3rd; Pearson; 2020

Biology the Core (mastering access etext @ 3 hole punch text); Simon, Eric; 9780135437186; 3rd; Pearson; 2020

**Methods of Evaluation:**

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grade calculation: Your final grade is based on 4 unit exams (100 pts. ea.), 13 homework's (15-28 pts. ea.), and several class assignments (5-25 pts. ea.). A comprehensive final exam may replace 1 missing or low unit exam score.

**Points break-down:**

Exams (4)	400 pts
Homework (13)	265 pts
<u>Class Assigns.</u>	<u>60 pts</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>725 pts</b>

**Grading Scale:**

100-90 = A	79-78 = C+	67-60 = D
89-88 = B+	77-70 = C	59-0 = F
87-80 = B	69-68 = D+	

\*There will be NO rounding to a higher grade

**Student Expectations:** Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. Clearly identified course objectives;
2. Productive class meetings;
3. A positive learning environment;
4. Opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. Effective instruction;
6. Positive and appropriate interactions;
7. Assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. Evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. Clear and well-organized instruction.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Become familiar with the principles of biology including the cell theory, cellular processes, theory of heredity and evolution, and the major groups of organisms.
2. Describe the levels of organization of life.
3. Identify characteristics of living organisms.
4. Describe the structure of an atom.
5. Explain the various types of chemical bonds and how they are formed.
6. Relate chemistry and chemical processes to living organisms.
7. Differentiate between organic and inorganic molecules that are important for the survival of living organisms.
8. Explain the cell theory.
9. Distinguish among various cell types including prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
10. Identify major cellular organelles and their functions.
11. Explain the function of the cell membrane including the various types of transport across the cell membrane.
12. Compare and contrast mitosis and meiosis.
13. Explain the basic concepts of heredity.
14. Describe the basic structure and function of DNA and RNA.
15. Explain the process of protein synthesis.
16. Discuss cellular respiration and photosynthesis.
17. Distinguish between anaerobic and aerobic respiration
18. Evaluate evolution and the role of random mutation and natural selection to the adaptation of organisms.

19. Describe species and speciation.
20. Relate the importance of other living organisms to the existence of humans.
21. Categorize living organisms according to domain, kingdom, and phyla.
22. Identify the major organs, functions, and homeostatic imbalances of the human body systems.
23. Compare human body systems to the systems of other living organisms.
24. Evaluate the effect of various human practices on the environment.

### **General Education Student Learning Outcomes:**

**Critical Thinking:** The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

**Scientific and Mathematical Literacy:** The student properly identifies and applies scientific or mathematical principles and methods.

**Information Literacy:** The student effectively locates, evaluates, and applies information from a variety of sources.

**Academic Dishonesty Statement:** Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the *College Catalog* for more details:

<https://catalog.pensacolastate.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=47#academic-honesty>

**Student Email Accounts:** Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. This institutional email account is the official method of communication, and students must use this account when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

**Flexibility:** It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

**ADA Statement:** Students with a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) must self-identify with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services (SRC/ADA). Disabilities covered by the ADAAA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact SRC/ADA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. SRC/ADA is located on the Pensacola campus in building 6, room 603, [ADA-services@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:ADA-services@pensacolastate.edu), 850-484-1637. Students may also complete the online intake form in the ADA Services app within the PSC apps dashboard.

**Equity Statement:** Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender/sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For

inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Dean of Students at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

**Security Statement:** Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

**Emergency Statement:** In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.