

Spring 2021 BIOL-1010-001 Syllabus

BIOL 1010 Biology and the Citizen



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Lecturer

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🏠 BNR 133

🕒 Wednesdays 11 am - 1 pm on Zoom (<https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/7226590425?pwd=UGtXSkwxaEFHSSStUYlhoK052MFM5Zz09>)

****Please contact me using the Canvas messaging system (Inbox).**

I respond to messages within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours over the weekend. All submitted work is graded within a week of the due date and final grades are posted within 48 hours after the course final closes.

Downloadable Syllabus (<https://usu.instructure.com/courses/646814/files/79709227/download?verifier=UBEXnVYlcgXouyA7C9O3TF3Y8pmg96JpenPnbnp5&wrap=1>)

Course Description

Biology and the Citizen is a breadth-life science course. We cover big ideas in biology. We discuss not only the what but the why and attempt to make connections that are applicable to any student. No prior knowledge of biology is assumed.

Course Objectives

Bio 1010 Course Objectives	IDEA Objectives (used to assess course)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain “big ideas” in biology• Demonstrate the nature of science as a process	Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
Interpret and discuss current readings about biology and its applications	Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)

Undergraduate Teaching Fellow:

Supplemental Instruction:

Course Fee

Course fee: \$28. A course fee is assessed as part of your registration in this class. Course fees cover partial or all expenses related to hiring Graduate Teaching Assistants, Undergraduate Teaching Assistants, and/or Lab and Media Assistants, assigned to your course. All of your course fees are used to enhance your learning opportunities in this course and are required for all registered students. Please contact your instructor if you need additional information related to how your course fees are spent.

Required Text

OpenStax Concepts of Biology (<http://openstax.org/details/concepts-biology>) is the required text. It is a free, downloadable pdf. You can also find purchasing information at the link if you would like a hard copy.

Canvas Information

Canvas is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- <http://canvas.usu.edu> (<http://canvas.usu.edu/>)
 - Your **username** is your **A#**, and your **password** is your global password (the same one you use for Banner or Aggiemail).
- For Canvas (<http://canvas.usu.edu/>), Passwords (<https://id.usu.edu/Password/Help/#password>), or any other computer-related technical support contact the IT Service Desk (<http://it.usu.edu/>).
 - 435 797-4357 (797-HELP)
 - 877 878-8325
 - <http://it.usu.edu> (<http://it.usu.edu/>)
 - servicedesk@usu.edu (<mailto:servicedesk@usu.edu>)

Course Requirements

Grades in this course will be based on the following items:

- ◦ **Lecture** – This is a large, lecture-based course, but I will try to engage and involve you in what we are learning as much as possible even via Zoom. Under the circumstances please be prepared with laptops or tablets to participate in class. Although this category is not explicitly graded this is where we learn and discuss material. This is where content is provided that will be tested. We will at times do activities that are worth points during class time ex. B&S Series Discussions.
- ◦ **In-Class Activity** – Assignments completed at least partially during class time. Attendance is important and required to earn points in this category.
- ◦ **Weekly Quizzes** – Weekly low-stakes quizzes will be taken via Canvas to review material and prepare for exams. Please consider these a learning opportunity – use your notes and review any missed questions later. Quizzes cannot be made up. Your two lowest weekly quiz scores are dropped.
- ◦ **Homework Assignments** – Homework assignments will be assigned and submitted throughout the semester via Canvas to supplement and review content covered in class. Assignments in this category are accepted late at a deduction of 5% per day.
- ◦ **Biology and Society Series**- This section has two components.
 - Required readings and pre-discussion Canvas quizzes - With each topic (four total) there is current, required reading material (not from the text) about biology and its applications assessed by a Canvas quiz. You must complete all four of the readings/quizzes. B&S quizzes close the morning before the in-class discussion. Your lowest B&S Series quiz is dropped.
 - Each topic (four total) will also include an in-class discussion of the reading material. Please see schedule for in-class discussion dates. Discussions cannot be made up. Your lowest discussion score is dropped.

- **Citizen Science Project** – This project is assigned and explained the first week of the semester. It can be completed and submitted at any time before the due date. Late submissions will receive a deduction of 5% per day.
- **Exams** – Content knowledge is assessed at midterm and during finals weeks via a traditional, virtually proctored exam consisting of mostly multiple-choice questions. The comprehensive final exam covers material from the second half of the course plus about 25% older content. We will use Proctorio as the platform to virtually proctor the midterm and final. It is your responsibility to take the Proctorio practice quiz to determine that your computer meets the requirements for Proctorio. I recommend doing this well in advance of the midterm, so that you are ready. Your failure to prepare and meet the technical requirements does not necessitate an exam extension. **Extensions and/or modifications to exam dates are only given under rare, extreme, documented circumstances so plan ahead now to take the exams while they are available.**
- **Extra Credit** - There are several content-specific, applicable extra credit assignments available throughout the semester. No additional extra credit is available. Extra credit is not accepted late.
- **Grading Summary:** Your grade is based on In-Class Activity (~13%), Weekly Quizzes (~20%), Homework (~15%), B&S Series (~15%), Citizen Science Project (~10%), Exams (~27%).

Grades will be calculated on a points earned out of points possible basis. Final grade percentages will not be rounded up. The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Grade	Range
A	100 % to 93.0%
A-	< 93.0 % to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 % to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 % to 83.0%
B-	< 83.0 % to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 % to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 % to 73.0%
C-	< 73.0 % to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0 % to 67.0%
D	< 67.0 % to 60.0%
F	< 60.0 % to 0.0%

University Policies & Procedures

COVID-19 Classroom Protocols

In order to continue to provide a high standard of instruction at USU, and to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, students are asked to follow certain classroom protocols. These protocols are in place not only for your safety but also the safety of the rest of the campus community. You will be asked to clean your desk area at the start of each class, sit in designated seats, wear face coverings, and follow dismissal instructions. There may be individual medical circumstances that prevent some students from using face coverings. These circumstances will be rare, but if they do exist, we ask that everyone be respectful. It is imperative that we each do our part so that on-campus instruction can continue.

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code Policy #403 (<http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf>) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
 - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
 - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
 - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
 - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
 - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
 - Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

- **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6>)

Sexual Harassment/Title IX

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 (<http://www.usu.edu/policies/339>) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU's Office of Equity (<https://equity.usu.edu/>) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305 (<http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/>)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Students with Disabilities

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<http://www.usu.edu/drc/>) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu (<mailto:drc@usu.edu>)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

Diversity Statement

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: <https://studentaffairs.usu.edu> (<https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/>), (435) 797-1712, studentservices@usu.edu (<mailto:studentservices@usu.edu>), TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: <https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services> (<https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services>), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/>), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu (<mailto:access@usu.edu>); TSC 315

- Multicultural Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture>), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa> (<http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/>), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: <https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity> (<https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity/>), (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:

The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State

University: <https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode> (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/>)

Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7>).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- Student Conduct (<http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct>)
- Student Code (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/>)
- Academic Integrity (<https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6>)
- USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures (<http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty-life/syllabus.cfm>)
- USU Academic Policies and Procedures (<http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=546>)
- Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy (<http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf>)

Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

Mental Health

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (<https://counseling.usu.edu>).

Students are also encouraged to download the "SafeUT App" (<https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/programs/safe-ut-smartphone-app>) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.