Foundations of Biology (BISC1010) Syllabus  
Summer 2020 Session I

Instructor: Justin R. Pool, M.S., Ph.D.

Email: JPool1@fordham.edu

Rose Hill Office: Larkin Hall, Room 370B

Office Hours: TBD based on schedule

Course Page: Fordham.blackboard.com

Class Schedule:
- Lecture:  Tuesday 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon  
  Wednesday 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon  
  Thursday 9:00AM to 12:00 Noon


Grading:
- Lecture Course:
  Midterm exams 2: 30%
  Final Exam: 25%
  Readings/Written assignments: 20%
  Laboratory: 25%
  TOTAL: 100%

For exams, partial credit may be given, but this is a privilege. Student are not permitted to ‘haggle’ for more points. There will be no make-up exams, except in the case of extenuating circumstances and then only with proper documentation and approval from the proper dean. The course grade is straightforward and not curved. The course grades are assigned as follows: A: 93-100; A-: 90-92; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72; D: 60-69; F: below 60. Effort and participation are considered in borderline cases.

I will also be utilizing the Mastering software for this course. It will be optional, but from past experience, it tends to help students achieve a better understanding of the course material. I will be discussing this more in class.

Course Philosophy: This is an introductory/non-majors’ biology course, which is intended to be academically rigorous and intellectually challenging. It is your responsibility to learn the subject and ask questions as needed. I am here to help you gain knowledge and appreciation for the field of biology. If you have any issues or questions at any time during the course then please come to my office hours and discuss anything with me. There are no ‘stupid’ questions. I am here to help you learn, and I want
everyone to succeed. However, to succeed you do have to put the time into the course. Likewise, every
time a class is taught, it is also a learning experience for me and I promise to help you succeed to the
best of my abilities.

**Instructions:** Please be an active learner and participate in class but make sure not to disrupt the
learning of others. Make sure all cell phones, computers, and tablets are in do not disturb mode or off.
During exams, all electronics are STRICTLY forbidden; this includes all wearables as well (i.e. NO APPLE
WATCHES OR OTHER WEARABLES DURING EXAMS). Please be sure to register with ODS if you have any
special needs*.

**Lecture exams** will cover topics discussed in class. You should utilize the relevant chapters of the text to
strengthen your understanding of what we cover in the lectures. You will be assigned reading for every
lecture and will be expected to read the relevant chapters before class. Since this is a very short course
and there is a lot of material to cover, you will find that reading the book chapters and following up with
questions and discussions in class will help you stay on top of the material. Exams will include multiple
choice, short answer, and essay questions which will **challenge you to integrate and apply what you
have learned in class**. The final exam may have cumulative components to it. **You are responsible for
being aware of the requirements. Please go over the syllabus thoroughly and make sure you are clear
about all expectations.**

**Laboratory:** Labs will take place on several days throughout the session; see below for specific dates.
Each lab takes place over several days. You will receive handouts for each lab and are responsible for all
the material that is covered during the lab periods. A written report will be assigned for each lab. **Labs
represent 25% of your grade** (even though the total points may not suggest that!!)

**Attendance and Conduct:**

I follow the FCRH policy
(https://www.fordham.edu/download/downloads/id/6569/undergraduate_bulletin.pdf) and
attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken written throughout the semester. If you accrue more
than 4 absences, whether excused or unexcused, Fordham policy is an automatic failure of the course. Also,
this is an early morning class, please make sure you arrive on time! If you arrive more than 5
minutes late 3 times, that will be counted as 1 unexcused absence! It is disruptive to arrive after we
have begun for the day. I value Fordham’s Code of Conduct as spelled out in the above student
handbook for the integrity it fosters. All exams and assignments in this course are to be completed in
accordance with said Code. THERE IS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM!

**Disability**

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973,
all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of
Fordham University. If you believe that you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your
ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be
entitled to accommodations. Please schedule an appointment to speak with someone at the Office of
Disability Services (Rose Hill - O’Hare Hall, Lower Level, x0655).

The Office of Disability Services (ODS), headed up by Carolyn Mooney (mooney@fordham.edu), works
with students, faculty, and staff to ensure appropriate services for students with disabilities. Fordham University will make reasonable accommodations, and provide auxiliary aides and services to assist otherwise qualified students who self-identify as having a disability in achieving equal access to its programs, services, and facilities.

It is essential that students who ask for accommodations have registered with the Office of Disability Services. Until a student self-identifies as having a disability and presents an academic accommodation letter written by ODS on ODS letterhead, faculty are not allowed to provide any academic accommodations to that student.

**Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lec #</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/26</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction: Science and Biology</td>
<td>Ch 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/27</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Chemistry of Life; Molecules of Life</td>
<td>Ch. 2 and 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/28</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Cells</td>
<td>Ch. 4 and 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/2</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Energy &amp; Life</td>
<td>Ch. 6 and 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/3</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>EXAM 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>STUDY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/4</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Genetics &amp; DNA</td>
<td>Ch. 9 and 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/9</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Gene Control &amp; DNA Technology</td>
<td>Ch. 11 and 12</td>
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<td>Evolution &amp; Natural Selection</td>
<td>Ch. 13 and 14 (Pp. 268-279)</td>
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<td>6/10</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Evolution of Eukaryotes</td>
<td>Ch. 8 and 15</td>
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<td>Evolution of Plants</td>
<td>Ch. 16 and 28 and 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/11</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>EXAM 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>STUDY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6/17</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Ecology &amp; the Environment Conservation Biology</td>
<td>Ch. 18 Ch. 19 and 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/18</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>18 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Animal Body &amp; Movement Circulation &amp; Respiration</td>
<td>Ch. 21 and 27 (Pp. 593-599) Ch. 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/23</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>20 &amp; 21</td>
<td>How the Body Defends Itself Digestion &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>Ch. 24 Ch. 22</td>
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<td>6/24</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Learning &amp; Behavior Review</td>
<td>Blackboard</td>
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<td>6/25</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>STUDY</strong></td>
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Lab Schedule - Overview

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Meeting Place & Time:
- Labs meet in Freeman 303/304 you must attend all 3 labs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Topics</th>
<th>In-Lab Date</th>
<th>Lab Report Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Method/Plant Lab*</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Behavior (Requires trip to the zoo)</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>Human Senses Lab</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
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* Will require additional meetings to collect data

NOTE: A detailed syllabus will be provided to you at the first lab meeting.