



BIOL 1408.008TR – Introduction to Biology I (Online)

Course Syllabus: Spring 2026

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

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Dates: course begins: 1/20/2026; ends: 5/14/2026

Camp	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Office	8:30-9:30am; 1:30-3:30pm	8:30-9:30am; 1:30-3:30pm	8:30-9:30am; 1:30-3:30pm	8:30-9:30am	None (off campus-research)-email me!
Hours					

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as necessary with full disclosure to the student. This syllabus and schedule is articulated as an expectation of class topics, learning activities, and expected student learning. However, the instructor reserves the right to make changes in this schedule at any time that, within his professional judgment, would result in enhanced or more effective learning on the part of the students. These modifications will not substantially change the intent or objectives of this course and will be done within the policies and procedures of NTCC. *This may include the test schedule or topics of discussion in either lecture or laboratory. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

Course Description:

4 credit hours: Lecture/Lab: Three hours of lecture and three hours of lab work each week. Provides a survey of biological principles with an emphasis on humans, including chemistry of life, cells, structure, function, and reproduction. Lab activities support these topics.
Note: Additional course fee(s) required.

Prerequisite(s): None

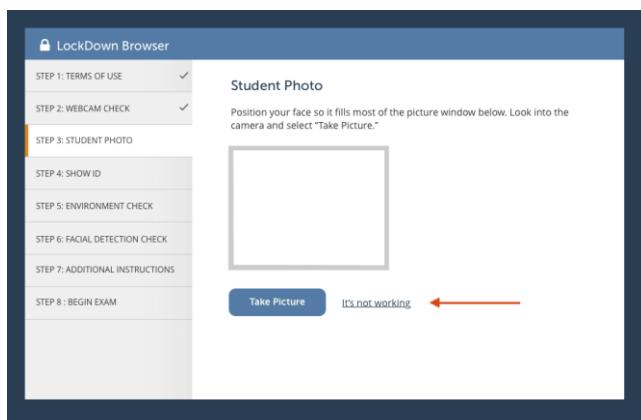
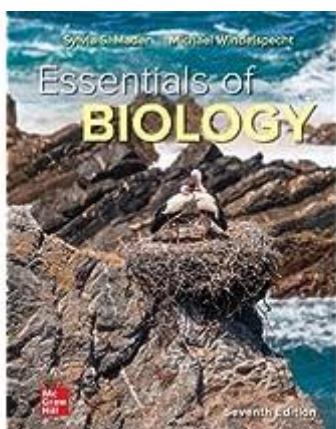
Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

1. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
2. Use critical thinking, scientific problem-solving, and teamwork to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
3. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.
4. Describe the characteristics of life.
5. Explain the methods of inquiry used by scientist.

6. Identify the basic properties of substances needed for life.
7. Compare and contrast viruses, prokaryotic cells, and eukaryotic cells.
8. Describe the structure of cell membranes and the movement of molecules across a membrane.
9. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in metabolism.
10. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
11. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins.
12. Describe the unity and diversity of life and the evidence for evolution through natural selection.

Required Instructional Materials: Textbook: Mader and Windelspecht, 2024, Essentials of Biology, 7e, McGraw-Hill; **Publisher: ISBN Number: 978-1-266-09331-9 (with CONNECT)**

Required Lab Instructional Materials: To receive your required Carolina Science online Lab Kit, you will need to contact the NTCC College Store to purchase your voucher code (see Bb post for detailed instructions). They will then send you that code in an email. You can come back to this link and be taken to the appropriate URL. After registering, you can enter that voucher code and your mailing address to get the kit shipped to you. www.ntccbookstore.com (903) 434-8150



LockDown

Browser

Optional Instructional Materials: none

Minimum Technology Requirements:

- Internet capable desktop, laptop, or chromebook (Tablets/ipads/Phones not recommended)
- Microsoft Office for Lab Workbook in Microsoft Word
- Video conferencing capability with webcam and microphone using TEAMS
- Access to printer if hard copies of assignments are desired

Required Computer Literacy Skills: Blackboard; Microsoft Office; TEAMS

- Web browsing skills for working with the online homework system
- Ability to use Blackboard for access to course information and assignments
- Functional use of Microsoft Office and ability to insert images into word docs
- Ability to use camera and microphone for video and sound in TEAMS
- Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor use
- Competent and professional emailing skills
 - Emails should have the following format in subject line: Last Name, First Name -Course ID
 - Example: McAllister, Chris - BIOL 1408.008TR

Student Expectations:

- Adhere to Classroom Etiquette including Zoom or TEAMS Virtual Classroom (see addendum in Blackboard)
- Adhere to Proctored Exam Etiquette or (see Blackboard)
- Proctored exams are monitored by McGraw Hill through Connect respondus lockdown browser/monitor
- Students will be recorded in the following ways during proctored exams
- Video, Audio, Screen, and Environment

Respondus Lockdown Browser & Monitor (for all exam taking) This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and Monitor for online exams. Watch this [short video](#) to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature.

Then download and install LockDown Browser from this link:

<https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=231117566>

- Testing Violations from all recordings will be reported by Respondus Lockdown Browser and those found in violation will receive a zero for that exam, one time. Do not risk a violation!
- **You must read the instructions on the Bb link for this browser BEFORE THE FIRST EXAM!**
- **Respondus Monitor:** [Respondus Monitor](#) is an automated online proctoring service that uses a student's webcam and computer to record and analyze exam sessions for signs of cheating, working in tandem with [Respondus LockDown Browser](#) to create a secure testing environment by locking down the device and preventing access to other applications, ensuring academic integrity for remote exams. Students go through a startup sequence including webcam checks, ID verification, and environmental scans before starting the test, with the recorded data sent to the instructor for review.
- **The first time you use Respondus Monitor, if you have not paid for the use of Monitor in another Class this year, it will ask you to pay a \$10 fee. You may be asked to use PayPal or credit card.**
- **If your computer does not have a camera, you will need to make arrangement to come to the campus computer lab or purchase an external camera for taking all Exams in this class.**
- To take an online test, close all programs connected the Internet, start Blackboard and navigate to the exam. For additional details on using LockDown Browser, review this [Student Quick Start Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- Finally, when taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:
 - Select a location where you won't be interrupted
 - Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
 - Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc. and don't have them within reach
 - Clear your area of all external materials — books, papers, other computers, or devices
 - Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test
 - LockDown Browser/Monitor will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Connect Online Assignments:

Each chapter has an assigned Smartbook activity, chapter assignment, and chapter quiz to check your understanding of chapter topics and reading assignments. These are completed online in Connect which is accessed through **blackboard**. You will need to login to blackboard on the 1st day of the

semester. **You will work at your own pace and can always work ahead but never get behind.**

Activities and Assignments are not timed. The chapter quizzes each consist of 20 questions with a 25 min. timer. **All Connect chapter assignments are due at the end of the semester by May 1. Check the deadlines.**

Tests/Exams:

The lecture exams may include both objective questions (multiple choice, matching, etc.) over text materials, and readings as well as the powerpoint for that chapter. Success on the exams is a function of anxiety regulation, test prep, study strategies, and studying for retention. Retention requires repetitions, which requires time! The 4 unit exams will be accessed through blackboard. They will be completed **online via Connect monitored by Respondus Lockdown Browser/Monitor (see above)**.

Each exam is 100 questions worth 100 points with a 80 minute timer. Exams will not be made up for any reason as multiple days exist for students to complete the exams. Missed exams, for any reason, will result in a zero. If you miss **only one exam**, you can take a comprehensive final exam to replace the zero, in other words, it will count twice. **All 4 Exams will open on Thursdays/Fridays at 8am and close on Saturdays/Sundays at 5:00pm. The Saturday/Sunday due dates are firm – no makeups for missed exams will be allowed.** *You have one of 3 days to take the exam, so do it before the deadline!*

Lab Portfolio:

Carolina Science Lab Kits are required for online lab portion of the course. These are purchased through the NTCC bookstore (**see post on Bb for ordering**). Each Lab Unit has a Lab Workbook to download and complete while conducting the experiments at home. All supplies needed are provided in the kits other than common household items. Students will work on lab at their own pace prior to due dates. NOTE: Some labs take multiple days to complete. **The weekly Lab Workbooks are always due at midterm (labs 1-8) and end of the semester (labs 9-15). These dates are firm – no makeups for missed labs will be allowed.**

Proctored Final Exam:

The regular final exam will be accessed through blackboard. It will be given **online via connect monitored by Respondus Lockdown Browser/Monitor**. The exam is 100 questions worth 100 points with a 90 min. timer. **The Final Exam will open at 8am on Monday, Dec. 11 and close on Wed., Dec. 13 at 5pm.** **The due date is firm – no makeups for missed exams will be allowed.**

Required Class Report:

You will provide a **REQUIRED** special written report in this class on topics provided by the professor. This a requirement, and counts 100 pts. You will email the report on or before the due date to me at: cmcally@ntcc.edu. **It is due on Monday, Dec. 1st by midnite.** The specs for the report will eventually be posted, please stay tuned.

Tutoring at NTCC: <https://www.ntcc.edu/academics/tutoring>

Late Work: I do not accept late work. Deadlines are meant to be met when they are set.

Communications: NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college. The instructor will try to respond to student emails within 24 hrs of receipt (except on weekends). **You should NOT expect an immediate response from your instructor in reply to your email.** While I will try to respond in a timely fashion, I do not always have my phone on my person, and I do not have notifications set on my phone to alert me the moment an email arrives in my inbox. (On the

weekends it may be up to 48 hrs after receipt of email). Feedback and grades on assignments and postings will be posted 48 to 72 hrs after due date/time of assignment. Email me at: cmcallister@ntcc.edu

Withdrawal Date: The last day to drop (withdraw from) the course with a grade of "W" is **April 14, 2026**. If circumstances require you to withdraw from this course, you must do so by that date. It is the **student's responsibility** to initiate the withdrawal with the Registrar's office. **Failure to officially withdraw will result in your receiving a grade of F.**

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects. Dr. Mac adds the following:

Acts violating the expected academic integrity include:

1. Cheating on examinations, quizzes, or other written work;
2. Giving assistance to or receiving assistance from another during an examination or quiz;
3. Plagiarism, defined as:
 - a) The use of another's published work wholly or in part without proper recognition or documentation
 - b) The use of another student's work as one's own
 - c) The purchase, use, or provision of an already prepared paper
4. Obtaining or attempting to obtain copies of un-circulated examinations or examination questions.
5. Falsifying any academic record.
6. Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to conduct any of the above referenced activities (see below for more).

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Absent a clear statement from a course instructor, use of or consultation with generative AI shall be treated analogously to assistance from another person (collusion). Generative AI is a subset of AI that utilizes machine learning models to create new, original content, such as images, text, or music, based on patterns and structures learned from existing data (Cornell, Center for Teaching Innovation). Unauthorized use of generative AI tools to complete an assignment or exam is not permitted. Students should acknowledge the use of generative AI and default to disclosing such assistance when in doubt. Individual course instructors may set their own policies regulating the use of generative AI tools in their courses, including allowing or disallowing some or all uses of such tools. Students who are unsure of policies regarding generative AI tools are encouraged to ask their instructors for clarification. **(Adapted from the Stanford University Office of Community Standards-- accessed August 31, 2023)**

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

LECTURE: (50%)

Connect Online (10%)

4 Lecture Exams + Final exam (40%)

***Letter Grade Assignment:**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = <59%

LABORATORY: (50%)

Carolina Science Lab Exercises (40%)

Required Class Report (10%)

***Final Grade will be rounded up if you took a major part in completing all assignments on time, took all exams on time, responded to emails, logged in each week, etc.**

Institutional/Course Policy:

Northeast Texas Community College is a “community of scholars.” Please remember that you and all of the students in this class are pursuing very important goals in your lives. All colleges and universities must remain diligent in their pursuit of assuring the academic integrity of their courses to maintain their accreditation status with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Your success can be maximized and your potential achieved by making the commitment to meet these expectations: Schedule and plan to complete all lecture and laboratory assignments and submit them when they are due. Be sure to print off the calendar to help you keep up with assignment due dates. Late work will not be accepted. Be sure to do all of your own work. Collusion and plagiarism are acts of academic dishonesty. Work that is copied and pasted directly from any website is not acceptable in any form on any assignment, lab or test. See the Student Handbook, p. 90 for definitions of collusion, plagiarism, and cheating. Infractions can result in severe grading penalties or failure.

Eagle ASSIST:

- At Northeast Texas Community College, we understand that students often need support that extends beyond the classroom. “Eagle Assist” is the place to start when looking for that type of assistance. Our support system is here to help you succeed in both your academic and personal growth. www.ntcc.edu/eagleassist Services provided: · Mental Health Counseling · Classroom Accommodations · NTCC Care Center Food & Hygiene Closet · Financial Literacy · Tutoring · Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, mental health, alcohol or other drugs, identities, finances, etc. At Northeast Texas Community College, we understand that students often need support that extends beyond the classroom. “**Eagle Assist**” is the place to start when looking for that type of assistance. Our support system is here to help you succeed in both your academic and personal growth. **Services provided at** <https://www.ntcc.edu/student-services/eagle-assist>

Mental Health Counseling Services are available on campus- in person and online - to all NTCC students at no cost. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do. You can contact us directly at counselingcenter@ntcc.edu or call 903-434-7825. Open Monday-Thursday, 8am-6pm, Friday, 8am-12pm.

Tentative Course Timeline for Bb lectures:* **Check Blackboard posting and I suggest printing out all class materials, including the syllabus.**

(Note:* *instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this timeline and/or topics at any point in the semester): You need to cover these each week on schedule!!*

***MLK Holiday, Mon. Jan. 19**

Unit 1 Chapters 1 – 3

Week 1 (Chapter 1) Biology: the Science of Life (Jan. 20-24)

Week 2 (Chapter 2) The Chemical Basis of Life (Jan. 25-31)

Week 3 (Chapter 3) Organic Molecules of Life (Feb. 1-7)

Unit 2 Chapters 4, 5 & 8

Week 4 (Chapter 4) Inside the Cell (Feb. 8-14)

Exam 1: (Feb. 12-14)-Chapters TBA

Week 5 (Chapter 5) The Dynamic Cell (Feb. 15-21)

Week 6 (Chapter 8) Cellular Reproduction (Feb. 22-28)

Exam 2: (Feb. 26-28)-Chapters TBA

Unit 3 Chapters 6, 7 & 9

Week 7 (Chap. 6) Energy for Life (Mar. 1-7)

Week 8 (Chapter 7) Energy for Cells (Mar. 8-14)

Exam 3: Mar. 12-14)-Chapters TBA

Week 9 (Chapter 9) Meiosis (Mar. 15-21)

Spring Break is Mar. 16-20

Unit 4 Chapters 10 – 12

Week 10 (Chapter 10) Patterns of Inheritance (Mar. 22-28)

Week 11 (Chapter 11) DNA & RNA (Mar. 29-Apr. 4)

Exam 4: Apr. 2-4-Chapters TBA

Week 12 (Chapter 12) Biotechnology & Genomics (Apr. 5-11)

Unit 5 Chapters 12 – 16 or TBA

Week 13 (Chapter 13) Mutations and Genetic Testing (Apr. 12-18)

Week 14 (Chapter 14) Darwin & Evolution (Apr. 19-25)

Week 15 (Chapter 15) -Evolution on a Small Scale (Apr. 26-May-2)

***Required Class Report Due Friday, May 1 @ midnite (worth 100 pts)**

****All Connect exercises due, Friday, May 1 @ midnite**

*****All Carolina Science labs exercises are due as follows: 1-8 (Mar. 14 by midnite) and 9-14 (May 2 by midnite)**

(Chapter 16)-Evolution on a Large Scale (May 3-9)

Week 16 *Final Open Book Exam, Monday, May 11, Tues. 12 or Wed. May 13 (by 5pm)-Chapters

TBA *For students who missed a single exam, a comprehensive final (*not open book*) on same dates as above

Carolina Labs

Week # Sun-Sat	Lab Online (Kit)-I suggest you work on each one every week instead of waiting!
Week 1 Jan. 20-24	Get your lab kit ASAP! You must do pre-labs FIRST! Lab 1: Gateway Introductory Materials (Safety and Graphing Labs)-3 labs!
Week 2 Jan. 25-31	Lab 2: Scientific Method Lab
Week 3 Feb. 1-7	Lab 3: Cell Structure & Function
Week 4 Feb. 8-14	Lab 4: Dichotomous Keys
Week 5 Feb. 15-21	Lab 5: Biological Macromolecules and Enzymes
Week 6 Feb. 22-28	Lab 6: Cell Cycle and Mitosis Virtual Lab
Week 7 Mar. 1-7	Lab 7: Mitosis and Meiosis

Week 8 Mar. 8-14	Lab 8: Mendelian Genetics with Corn
	Labs 1-8 due March 14! No late labs accepted!
Week 9 Mar. 15-21	Lab 9: Cellular Respiration in Germinating Peas
Week 10 Mar. 22-28	Lab 10: Blood Typing with Simulated Blood
Week 11 Mar. 29-Apr. 4	Lab 11: Introduction to Biotechnology Methods
Week 12 Apr. 5-11	Lab 12: Human Chromosome Analysis
Week 13 Apr. 12-18	Labs 13: Fingerprinting Virtual Lab
Week 14 Apr. 19-25	Lab 14: Cladistics
Week 15 Apr. 26-May2	Complete Labs! No late labs accepted!
Week 16 May 3-9	Labs should be completed!

DISCLAIMER NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as necessary with full disclosure & prior notice to the student. *Various module assignments on specific dates beyond exams will be given throughout the semester and posted online on Bb. **Major exam dates are tentative and subject to change, if necessary. ***Modifications of the above schedule may be made and the material covered on any exam, including dates for major examinations.

Appendix of Additional Information:

*What is McGraw-Hill Connect?

The McGraw-Hill Connect provides you with access to your ebook. Additionally, within each Connect Folder in Blackboard you will see a link to three different activities: 1) SmartBook, 2) Chapter Assignment, and 3) Quiz.

- 1) **SmartBook assignments are figured into your course grade;** This guided reading helps identify areas that you are having trouble understanding and provides you with some “tutoring” in those areas.
- 2) **Quizzes are required and figured into the course grade.** Please use these quizzes to determine whether you have a true understanding of the material.

Inclusive Access: We have negotiated with the Publisher to obtain a discounted price for your lecture course materials. Your ebook and Connect Access Code are included with your tuition and will be available through Blackboard on the first-class day (use the link found on the Bb course homepage). The materials are required for your class and essential in your success. If you also determine that you would like a print copy of your text in addition to your inclusive access loose- leaf copies will be available in the College Store at a discounted price. You may opt out of purchasing your materials from the College Store through the Census Date for the course. If you choose to opt-out you will be responsible for purchasing your Connect Access Code from another vendor. You will receive a refund for the Inclusive Access if you opt out

