



BIOL. 1408.001TR (General Biology I for Non-majors)-face to face

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

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

Instructor: Dr. Chris T. McAllister (Ph.D., Univ. North Texas; postdoctoral fellow in Internal Medicine, VA Medical Center-Dallas)

Office: UHS 163 (*off campus on Fridays*)

Phone: 903-434-8286

Email: cmcallister@ntcc.edu

Class meets: Lecture: T-Th 11am-12:20pm (Room M/S 132)

Lab meets: Thursdays, 1:30-4:20pm. (Room M/S 128)

Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	9-11am
Tuesday	9-11am; 1:30-2:30pm
Wednesday	9-11 am
Thursday	9-11am
Friday	OFF CAMPUS-Research Email me

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

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as necessary with full disclosure to the student. This syllabus and schedule are 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:

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 scientists.
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.

Evaluation/Grading Policy: The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
	Lecture (50%)
30%	4 exams + final (30%)
2.5%	Optional Class Report (2.5%)
15%	Connect Online (15%)
2.5%	Weekly Quizzes (2.5%)
	Lab (50%)
30%	2 Lab Exams (30%)
9%	Insect Collection (9%)
10%	Lab Journal (10%)
1%	Attendance
100%	Total

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Final Grade will be rounded up if you took a major part in completing all assignments on time, took all exams on time by each deadline, responded to emails, logged in each week, had good attendance and punctuality, collaborated in lab, etc.

Required Instructional Materials:

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

Additional Required Instructional Materials:

Biology I For Non-Majors Lab Manual; Author: Hearron (get it in NTCC bookstore)

A bound composition notebook (minimum of 50 sheets with 5 x 5 quads)-this will be your lab journal. Get it in bookstore or Wallyworld or elsewhere.

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:

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

Competent and professional emailing skills

Emails should have the following format in subject line: Last Name, First Name -Course ID

Example: McAllister, Chris - BIOL 1408.001TR

Course Structure and Overview:

The course will be delivered entirely face to face over a 16-wk period. It begins on Monday, Aug. 24 and ends on Dec. 10.

Four Unit Exams and Final Exam:

The 4 unit exams are to be recorded on a Scantron and 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! Each exam is 100 questions worth 100 points within an 80 min. timeline. Exams cannot be made up for any reason **unless prior notice** is made *within a reasonable time and with a valid excuse*. Otherwise, missed exams, for any reason, will result in a zero. If you miss **only one exam**, you must take a comprehensive final exam to replace the zero, in other words, it will count twice. **All 4** regular exams + the final are scheduled **IN CLASS** (unless NTCC testing center is needed for prior accommodation) on the date noted in this syllabus. A final exam will be given during the time set forth by the college Final Exam Schedule. The final exam will consist of 100 objective questions (multiple choice, matching, etc.) from chapters (TBA) chosen by your professor. A scantron is also required for the final exam. **These exam dates are firm – no makeups for missed exams will be allowed without prior notice.**

Four Weekly Exams and Bonus pts:

Weekly lecture quizzes will be given during the first 10 minutes of lecture to check your understanding of the previous week's (days) lecture material. Each quiz will be worth a total of 12 pts (2 pts on each is always bonus and fill in the blank, other 10 questions are multiple-choice). Every odd quiz (1, 3, 5, 7...) is totally bonus, every even quiz (2, 4, 6, 8...) counts 10 pts toward your grade. **You must be in your seat and ready to take each quiz at the beginning of lecture. Any student who comes in late after the quiz has begun will not be able to take the quiz.** So, punctuality is very important! Bring a #2 pencil and scantron for each.

Optional Class Report:

You have an opportunity to provide an "optional" special written report in this class on topics provided by the instructor. First come, first serve. It is worth 100 pts. Could help raise your grade if done well. This is not a requirement, entirely optional! *No late reports accepted.* You will email the report (word document, no PDFs!) on or before the due date to me at: cmcallister@ntcc.edu. **The report is due on Sunday, Nov. 29th by midnite.** The specs for the report will eventually be posted, please stay tuned. No late reports accepted.

Lab manual exercises:

The pre-lab and post-lab reports from the lab manual are to be completed before and/or **during lab**. I do not take up and grade these reports as these are designed to help you prepare for the Lab Practicals. I will be glad to take a look at your answers and provide feedback/discussion.

Lab Journal:

It is a requirement of this course to keep a Non-majors Biology Laboratory Notebook. The notebook will be graded by Dr. Mac at 2 different (announced) times during the semester. The notebook should be a **bound** composition notebook (minimum of 50 sheets with 5 x 5 quads), available at most bookstores or Wallyworld. It is worth a total of 150 pts. First time, 50 pts, final time, 100 pts. More later on this journal. *No late journals accepted.*

Lab exams:

Two lab practicals will be given during the semester. They are a live exam with stations that students will rotate through and answer open ended questions associated with visuals from previous lab exercises. Visuals may include images, specimens, photomicrographs, slide material, models, lab equipment, data tables, graphs, experimental results, etc.

Required Insect Collection:

You will be required to provide an insect collection (more details later in lab). It is worth a total of 100 pts and 10% of your overall grade. Please take this requirement seriously, and start collecting ASAP!

Late Work:

I do not accept late work and/or give extensions. Deadlines are meant to be met when they are set.

Connect Online Assignments:

Each chapter has an assigned Smartbook (Connect) 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 near the end of the semester by Sunday, Dec. 6th at midnite. I strongly suggest you work on them each week and not wait until the end!**

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes/labs and be on time to each. Attendance counts 1% of your grade. You must be present in both lecture and lab on Thursdays for complete attendance. Being absent in either lecture or lab for that day will count as absent. A sign in sheet will be passed around for your to sign each day.

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

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.

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.

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

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

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 Statements:

Cell Phones and Unapproved Electronic Devices: Absolutely NO cell phones, video cameras, tape recorders, beepers, laptops, MP3 players, i-pods, or other unapproved electronic devices are to be used during class/lab. You may turn your cell phone to a silent buzz (but not during any exam) and excuse yourself from the classroom/lab if you absolutely must answer the call (emergencies only!). Examples would include sick children and/or seniors or other family members who need your immediate help. It is wise to leave your phone in your car on test days!!

Students found using their cell phones or other devices during class will **lose 10 pts** from their total class score for each offense. **THIS INCLUDES TEXTING!!**

Please make it a habit to turn cell phones OFF or on vibrate before class begins each day. Phones are never to be on during any sort of examination. If your phone rings during any exam, you must immediately turn in your exam and receive the grade you earned on all questions whether or not you completed that exam (probably an "F"). No one to blame but yourself!

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation 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 accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. 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): Carolina Labs Schedule

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.

Withdrawal Date:

The last day to drop (withdraw from) the course with a grade of "W" is Tuesday, **Nov. 17th**. 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.

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. **Services provided at**

<https://www.ntcc.edu/student-services/eagle-assist>

Mental Health Counseling (visit www.thevirtualcaregroup.com/ntcc to activate your account)

Classroom Accommodations

NTCC Care Center Food Pantry

NTCC Care Center Hygiene Closet

NTCC Care Center Cook Nook

Financial Literacy

Child Care Assistance

Emergency Aid Send us a message at eagleassist@ntcc.edu *Dual credit students please email jstewart@ntcc.edu if interested

Tentative Course Schedule:

Check Blackboard posting and I suggest printing out all class materials, including the syllabus.

TEXTBOOK AND POWERPOINT LECTURES (Tuesdays & Thursdays @11am)

Week 1 CHAPTER 1: **Welcome & Syllabus**; First Lec: Biology: the Science of Life (Aug. 25, 27)

Week 2 CHAPTER 2: The Chemical Basis of Life (Sept. 1, 3)

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY-No Monday classes (Sept. 7)

Week 3 CHAPTER 3: Organic Molecules of Life (Sept. 8, 10)

Unit 1 Chapters 1 – 3 Exam Tues 9/15@11am

Week 4 CHAPTER 4: Inside the Cell (Sept. 17, 22)

Week 5 CHAPTER 5: The Dynamic Cell (Sept. 24, 29)

Week 6 CHAPTER 6: Energy for Life (Oct. 1)

Unit 2 Chapters 4 – 6 Exam Tues Oct. 6 @11am

Week 7 CHAPTER 7: Energy for Cells (Oct. 8, 13)

Week 8 CHAPTER 8: Cellular Reproduction (Oct. 15, 20)

Unit 3 Chapters 7-8 Exam Thurs 10/22@11am

Week 9 CHAPTERS 9-10: Meiosis/Patterns of Inheritance (Oct. 27, 29)

Week 10 CHAPTER 11: DNA & RNA (Nov. 3, 5)

Unit 4 Chapters 9 – 11 Exam Tues 11/10@11am

Week 11 CHAPTER 12: Biotechnology & Genomics (Nov. 12, 17)

Week 12 CHAPTER 13: Mutations & Genetic Testing (Nov. 19)

Week 13 CHAPTER 14: Darwin & Evolution (Nov. 24)

*******Thanksgiving Holiday (Nov. W25-F27, No Classes)*******

***Optional Class Report Due Sunday, Nov. 29th @ midnite (worth 100 pts)**

Week 14 CHAPTERS 15-16: Evolution on a Small & Large Scale (Dec. 1, 3)

****Insect Collection due Thurs, Dec. 3 @1:30pm**

*****All Connect exercises due, Sunday, Dec. 6th@midnite**

Week 15 Sumup and Review (Dec. 8, 10)

Week 16 Final Exam (schedule and topics TBA)

~Or~ Comprehensive Exam on same date.

Tentative Lab Schedule:

Week # Thursdays @1:30- 4:20pm	Lab Exercises
Week 1 Aug. 27	Lab topic 1: Intro, Insect Collection & Lab Journal & The Microscope (Lab ex. 1)
Week 2 Sept. 3	Lab 2: Cell Chemistry
Week 3 Sept. 10	Lab 3: The Cell
Week 4 Sept. 17	Lab 4: Diffusion & Osmosis
Week 5 Sept. 24	Lab 5: Enzymes
Week 6 Oct. 1	Lab 6: Photosynthesis
Week 7 Oct. 8	Lab 7: Aerobic & Anaerobic Respiration
Week 8 Oct. 15	LAB EXAM 1 @ 1:30pm First Journal Due
Week 9 Oct. 22	Lab 8: Cell Division (Mitosis)
Week 10 Oct. 29	Lab 9: Genetics I-Mendelian
Week 11 Nov. 5	Lab 10: Genetics II-Non-Mendelian

Week 12 Nov. 12	Lab 11: Molecular Genetics & DNA Fingerprinting
Week 13 Nov. 19	Labs 12-13: Bacterial Transformation & Chromosomal Genetics and Bioethics
Week 14 Nov. 26	NO LAB!-THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!
Week 15 Dec. 3	LAB EXAM 2 @ 1:30pm *Insect Collection Due **Final Journal Due
Week 16	Lab is OVER!

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus/schedule as necessary with full disclosure to the student. This could include topics/chapters covered or not covered, exam schedule, lecture and lab schedule.

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. **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. **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 to 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.