



BIOL 1409.088 TR – Introduction to Biology II (Online)

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

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

Instructor: Dr. Emad Tahtamouni

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Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	Online / by appointment
Tuesday	Online / by appointment
Wednesday	Online / by appointment
Thursday	Online / by appointment
Friday	Online / by appointment

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

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

4 credit hours. Lecture/Lab

This course will provide a survey of biological principles with an emphasis on humans, including evolution, ecology, plant and animal diversity, and physiology. Lab activities reinforce these topics.

Note: Additional course fee(s) required.

Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Outcomes:

Define modern evolutionary synthesis, natural selection, population genetics, micro and macroevolution, and speciation.

Describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.

Identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on plants and animals, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.

Describe basic animal physiology and homeostasis as maintained by organ systems.

Compare different sexual and asexual life cycles noting their adaptive advantages.

Illustrate the relationship between major geologic change, extinctions, and evolutionary trends.

Discuss the role of conservation biology and the human impact on the biosphere.

Understand the major anatomic parts of human organ systems and their physiological importance.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

%	Requirement
20%	Connect Assignments
30%	Exams
20%	Quizzes
10%	Final Exam
20%	Lab Assignments

Semester grades will be earned as follows:

Percentage	Letter Grade
90–100%	A
80–89%	B
70–79%	C
60–69%	D
0–59%	F

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, accessed through Blackboard. Students must log in to Blackboard on the first day of the semester. Students work at their own pace prior to due dates. Activities and assignments are not timed. Chapter quizzes consist of 20 questions with a 25-minute timer. Each assignment has a posted due date for completion.

Lecture Tests/Exams:

Lecture exams may include objective questions (multiple choice, matching, etc.) over text materials and readings, as well as descriptive questions requiring detailed explanations over broad themes. The five unit exams will be accessed through Blackboard and completed online via Connect

monitored by Proctorio. Each exam is 100 questions worth 100 points with a 90-minute timer. Exams open on designated dates at 12:30 a.m. and close at 11:59 p.m. Due dates are firm; no makeups for missed exams will be allowed because multiple days are provided to complete the exams.

Proctored Final Exam:

A comprehensive exam will be accessed through Blackboard and given online via Connect monitored by Proctorio. The exam is 200 questions worth 200 points with a 150-minute timer. The Final Exam will open during the final week.

Required Instructional Materials:

Lecture Part: Mader, S. S. (n.d.). *Essentials of Biology* (7th ed.). McGraw Hill. Accessed through McGraw Hill Connect Inclusive Access; ISBN available through the NTCC Bookstore.

Lab Part: Carolina Distance Learning. (n.d.). General Biology II online lab kit. Carolina Biological Supply Company. <https://www.carolina.com>

Optional Instructional Materials: None

Carolina Online Lab Information (Required):

This course uses Carolina Distance Learning online labs for all laboratory activities. These labs include a combination of virtual labs and dry labs that support the topics covered in BIOL 1409 (Biology II).

Contact the NTCC Bookstore to order the BIOL 1409 Online Lab Kit.

The lab kit includes the Carolina access code required to access the online lab platform. You will not be able to complete lab assignments without this access code.

All lab assignments, instructions, and materials are located within the course modules in Blackboard.

Labs are distributed across the modules to align with lecture topics. Due dates, submission instructions, and grading information are posted in Blackboard.

Lab assignments are required and count toward your course grade. Complete labs through the Carolina platform, but always follow the instructions and deadlines posted in Blackboard.

Order your lab kit and access code as early as possible to avoid falling behind. If you experience technical issues with Carolina access, contact Carolina Technical Support and notify the instructor if the issue continues.

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Internet-capable desktop, laptop, or Chromebook (tablets/iPads/phones are not recommended).

Microsoft Office for the Lab Workbook in Microsoft Word.

Video conferencing capability with webcam and microphone using Zoom.

Access to a printer if hard copies of assignments are desired.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

Blackboard, Microsoft Office, and Zoom.

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 documents.

Ability to use a camera and microphone for video and sound in Zoom.

Competent and professional emailing skills.

Email subject lines should use: Last Name, First Name – Course ID. Example: Tahtamouni, Emad – BIOL 1406.001.

Course Structure and Overview:

BIOL 1409.088 is an online lecture/lab course. All 4-credit college courses require approximately 9 hours of lecture work per week and 3 hours of lab course work per week. Online courses are no different except all 12 hours are completed independently instead of having 6 weekly hours of class time. Students may work ahead but should never work behind. Course materials, Connect activities, exams, Carolina labs, announcements, and due dates are accessed through Blackboard and the linked course platforms.

Student Expectations:

Adhere to Classroom Etiquette, including Zoom Virtual Classroom expectations (see addendum in Blackboard).

Adhere to Proctored Exam Etiquette (see addendum in Blackboard).

Proctored exams are monitored by McGraw Hill through Connect with Proctorio.

Students may be recorded by video, audio, screen, and environment during proctored exams.

Testing violations identified from recordings will be reported by Proctorio.

Communications:

Turnaround time for email responses is 24 hours during the workweek. NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college.

Institutional/Course Policy:

Withdraw Date: The last day to withdraw from the course is November 24, 2026. Discontinuing participation without officially dropping the course by this date will result in the grade earned, in most instances an "F." A stoppage in attendance does not equate to dropping the course.

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.

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):

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.

Tentative Course Schedule:

BIOL 1409 ONLINE COURSE SCHEDULE (FALL 2026)

All 4-credit college courses require 9 hours of lecture work per week and 3 hours of lab course work per week. Online courses are no different except all 12 hours are completed on your own instead of having 6 weekly hours of class time. You may always work ahead but never behind.

Instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this timeline at any point in the term.

Module / Assessment	Lecture Content	Assignments / Labs / Exam
Module 1	Ch. 14 Darwin and Evolution; Ch. 15 Evolution on a Small Scale; Ch. 16 Evolution on a Large Scale	Connect Assignments and Carolina Labs due 9/19/2026. Exam 1 over Ch. 14–16 available online 9/20–9/21.
Module 2	Ch. 17 Viruses, Bacteria, and Protists; Ch. 18 Plants and Fungi; Ch. 19 Animals	Connect Assignments and Carolina Labs due 10/10/2026. Exam 2 over Ch. 17–19 available online 10/11–10/12.
Module 3	Ch. 22 Being Organized; Ch. 23 Transport Systems; Ch. 24 Maintenance Systems; Ch. 25 Digestion & Nutrition	Connect Assignments and Carolina Labs due 10/31/2026. Exam 3 over Ch. 22–25 available online 11/1–11/2.
Module 4	Ch. 27 Control Systems; Ch. 28 Sensory Input & Motor Output; Ch. 29 Sexual Reproduction; Ch. 26 Defenses Against Disease	Connect Assignments and Carolina Labs due 11/21/2026. Exam 4 over Ch. 26–29 available online 11/22–11/23.
Module 5	Ch. 30 Ecology & Populations; Ch. 31 Communities & Ecosystems; Ch. 32 Human Impact	Connect Assignments and Carolina Labs due 12/3/2026. Exam 5 over Ch. 30–32 available online 12/3–12/4.
Final Exam	Comprehensive: Ch. 14–19 and 22–32	Available 12/7–12/10/2026. Note: Ch. 20 & 21 omitted; Ch. 26 is out of sequence.