**BSC104 Introduction to Biology**

Fall 2018

MWF 2-2:50 Room S376

Dr. Gary Schultz

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Office: 309 Science Hall. Phone: 304-696-7057

Office Hours:MW 10-12; T 10–12 AM

**Course Description:**

 **BSC 104 Introduction to Biology:** Fundamentals of biology with emphasis on the unity of life, energetics, genetics and the world of living things. It is a 4-credit course (**3hr-lecture, 2hr-lab**) and is intended for non-science majors.

 The lab will meet in S212.

**Required Textbooks:**

 Lecture: Biology Now, 2nd edition; Houtman, Scudellari, and Malone; Norton.

 Laboratory Guide, Susan Weinstein (available at Marshall Bookstore)

Course Student Learning Objectives:

The overall objective of this course is to introduce the principles and processes of biology through an emphasis on the natural world and on current topics in the field of biology. Laboratories will present simple experiments to further strengthen those concepts learned in lecture.

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| **Course Student Learning****Outcomes** | **How students will practice each outcome in this Course** | **How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this Course** |
| Students will understand the basic knowledge associated with modern biology and its sub-disciplines (cell biology, genetics, evolution, classification of living organisms). | Attending lectures, reading class material, completing online homework, and online challenges. | Exams and homework will evaluate understanding of basic biological knowledge. Laboratories will require notebooks that will be graded. |
| Students will be able to apply the basic knowledge to current health, political, and social issues. | Attending lectures, reading class material, joining in with class discussion. | Exams will have sections to evaluate knowledge as it relates to current issues. |
| Students will acquire critical-thinking skills in light of the rapidly growing body of knowledge in biological science theories and use that to evaluate information regarding concepts in biology from modern sources such as the internet and social media. | Attending lectures, reading class material, completing homework assignments, and joining in with class discussion. | Exams and homeworkwill have critical thinking questions. Laboratory notebooks will be evaluated with regard to ability to think critically and understand what labs are demonstrating. |

**University Policies**

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs) and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/> .

Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ Sexual Harassment

**Course Requirements**

Lecture Exams:

 There will be five exams. Lecture exams will consist primarily of multiple choice questions, but I reserve the right to use other types of questions if necessary. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

Homework:

 Homework will be given for every chapter. Homework assignments will be online (Dr. Schultz will explain in class). Each homework will be worth 5 points.

Extra Credit:

 InQuizitive will be used as an online tool to reward students with extra credit points. Each optional assignment will be due before each exam and will be worth a total of 8 points added to your exam score (IF COMPLETED – no partial credit given).

Laboratory Reports:

 This portion (a total of 120 points) will be explained and administrated by the laboratory TAs.

Course Grading:

 Students will be evaluated as follows:

 Five exams @ 100 points each = 500 points

 Homework @ 5 points each = up to 105 points

 Labs = 120 points

 Course Total = 625 points

Final grade: > 559 points = A; > 497 points = B; > 434 points = C; > 372 = D; < 372 points = F.

**Detailed policies**

**Questions regarding the syllabus.** I will not answer emailed questions that can be answered by reading the syllabus.

**Exams and absences. You may drop your lowest grade**, but you **cannot** drop the 5th exam. If you miss an exam you MUST have a university approved excuse to make it up. There will be a hard line taken with these excuses. An appointment with a Dr. is NOT sufficient. The Dr. must state that you are too ill or injured to attend class. Other excuses must meet university guidelines and will be evaluated by me. There must be written proof, with dates, and means to contact the supporting person or persons vouching for your excuse. If your excuse meets these parameters, you will be allowed to make up the missed exam *during Dead Week or at my discretion.*

***Special Note concerning students attending University sponsored events such as athletes and band members: if your schedule conflicts with an exam date, you may take the exam early by contacting me before the date of the exam for scheduling.***

**Grading and Extra Credit.** Extra credit will be given to the entire class using the InQuizitive digital resource provided by Norton for the Biology Now textbook. I will give you milestones to reach for each assignment. If you reach the assignment, you will receive 2 points on the next exam. Please do not ask for special consideration, particularly at the end of the semester. If you are concerned about your grade, come see me as early as possible when there may still be time to make a change.

**Attendance.** Attendance at all scheduled lectures and exams is encouraged (however, see below for behavior in class). Lectures are only given once. If you miss class, please obtain notes/information from a classmate – **NOT from me**. Anything we cover in class, including lectures, discussions, movies, or any exercise may be included on exams.

**Conduct in class:** Please behave respectfully during class. Behaviors such as excessive chatting with other students, texting, watching videos, etc., are disruptive to the instructor and to other students. Students habitually engaged in these activities may be asked to leave the class that day. If you need to text, e-mail, or otherwise stare at your screen during class, please **DO NOT COME** to class. Please turn off (silence) your cell phones, pagers, etc. No electronic devices will be needed, and none will be permitted, during exams. The use or access of an electronic device during an exam will be considered evidence of academic dishonesty.

**Office Hours –** Feel free to drop by at any time during **posted office hours**, however people who call or email ahead for an appointment will be given priority. ***An appointment is required outside of posted office hours.***

**Blackboard -** PowerPointlectures will be made available on Blackboard. These are provided by the instructor as a **courtesy** to the students. The instructor reserves the right to change, delete, update or otherwise modify these files at any time. These outlines are not intended to substitute for taking your own notes in class. They are not guaranteed to be comprehensive. There **WILL** be information given during lectures that is not in the PowerPoints. These outlines are not a substitute for regular class attendance.

***ANNOUNCEMENTS will be sent to Marshall Emails*. You are expected to check regularly so as not to miss any important course-related information.**

**Academic Dishonesty**

I will report any incident to the Chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences. You may be placed on academic probation, suspended, or dismissed from the University if found guilty of Academic Dishonesty. Please see the following web site for the official Marshall University statement; <http://muwww-new.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/forms-policies/>

**Social Justice**

NO one will be discriminated against on the bases of race, sex, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, social class, abilities or differing viewpoints. Each student will be viewed as a valuable and essential part of this class.

**Inclement weather**

If the University is closed for weather related reasons, this class will be cancelled and we will adjust our schedule.

**Approximate Schedule and Material to be Covered –** The following is an ***estimated*** class schedule of topics to be covered and accompanying textbook chapters. It is not my intention to cover every chapter in its entirety. Lectures will highlight specific sections of each chapter. Additional material not contained in the textbook may be given during lectures. Test questions will come from these materials as well – including any movies or videos shown during class. **The best strategy is to read the chapters indicated, attend lectures, do your homework, and take notes.**

 **Tentative Lecture Schedule**

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| **Mtg #** | **Date** | **Day** | **Topic** |  |
| 1 | 20-Aug | M | Chapters 1-6 |  |
| 2 | 22-Aug | W | Chapters 1-6 |  |
| 3 | 24-Aug | F | Chapters 1-6 |  |
| 4 | 27-Aug | M | Chapters 1-6 |  |
| 5 | 29-Aug | W | Chapters 1-6 |  |
| 6 | 31-Aug | F | Chapters 1-6 |  |
|  | 3-Sep | M | **No Class** | Labor Day |
| 7 | 5-Sep | W | Chapters 1-6 |  |
| 8 | 7-Sep | F | Chapters 1-6 |  |
| 9 | 10-Sep | M | **Exam 1** |  |
| 10 | 12-Sep | W | Chapters 7-10 |  |
| 11 | 14-Sep | F | Chapters 7-10 |  |
| 12 | 17-Sep | M | Chapters 7-10 |  |
| 13 | 19-Sep | W | Chapters 7-10 |  |
| 14 | 21-Sep | F | Chapters 7-10 |  |
| 15 | 24-Sep | M | Chapters 7-10 |  |
| 16 | 26-Sep | W | Chapters 7-10 |  |
| 17 | 28-Sep | F | Chapters 7-10 |  |
| 18 | 1-Oct | M | **Exam 2** |  |
| 19 | 3-Oct | W | Chapters 11-13 |  |
| 20 | 5-Oct | F | Chapters 11-13 |  |
| 21 | 8-Oct | M | Chapters 11-13 |  |
| 22 | 10-Oct | W | Chapters 11-13 |  |
| 23 | 12-Oct | F | Chapters 11-13 |  |
| 24 | 15-Oct | M | Chapters 11-13 |  |
| 25 | 17-Oct | W | Chapters 11-13 |  |
| 26 | 19-Oct | F | Chapters 11-13 |  |
| 27 | 22-Oct | M | **Exam 3** |  |
| 28 | 24-Oct | W | Chapters 14-17 |  |
| 29 | 26-Oct | F | Chapters 14-17 | Last day to drop |
| 30 | 29-Oct | M | Chapters 14-17 |  |
| 31 | 31-Oct | W | Chapters 14-17 |  |
| 32 | 2-Nov | F | Chapters 14-17 |  |
| 33 | 5-Nov | M | Chapters 14-17 |  |
| 34 | 7-Nov | W | Chapters 14-17 |  |
| 35 | 9-Nov | F | Chapters 14-17 |  |
| 36 | 12-Nov | M | **Exam 4** |  |
| 37 | 14-Nov | W | Chapters 18-21 |  |
| 38 | 16-Nov | F | Chapters 18-21 |  |
|  | 19-Nov | M | **No Class** | Fall Break |
|  | 21-Nov | W | **No Class** | Fall Break |
|  | 23-Nov | F | **No Class** | Fall Break |
| 39 | 26-Nov | M | Chapters 18-21 |  |
| 40 | 28-Nov | W | Chapters 18-21 |  |
| 41 | 30-Nov | F | Chapters 18-21 |  |
| 42 | 3-Dec | M | Chapters 18-21 | Dead Week |
| 43 | 5-Dec | W | Chapters 18-21 | Dead Week |
| 44 | 7-Dec | F | Chapters 18-21 | Dead Week |
|  | 10-Dec | M | **Exam 5** | 12:45 |