***BSC 121-231 – Principles of Biology – Syllabus***

***Spring 2017 – Department of Biological Sciences – Marshall University***

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| **Course Title/Number** | Principles of Biology / BSC 121 |
| **Semester/Year** | Spring 2017 |
| **Lecture Time/Room** | Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:00 – 10:50am in KANAC 211 |
| **Lab Time/Room** | Fridays 1:00 – 2:50pm in TPB740 3110 (requires swipecard access) |
| **Instructor** | Robert Cooper |
| **Office** | Technology Park Building 740, Room 3202 (requires swipecard access) |
| **Phone** | (304) 720-0043 |
| **E-Mail** | cooper239@live.marshall.edu |
| **Office Hours** | **M 11a-1p, T 1-3p, W 9-10a, Th 10-11a, or by appointment.**  \*I make every effort to keep scheduled office hours. However, conflicts may arise. |
| **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 [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/](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 Description:**

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| 4 credit hrs. A continuation of the study of basic biological principles common to all organisms. Diversity of life, phylogeny, structure, function, and ecology. (PR: BSC 120; Grade of C or better recommended). |

**The table below shows the following relationships: How each student learning outcome will be practiced and assessed in the course.**

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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 explain the scientific method and how it is applied to scientific investigation. | Discussion in lectures, online practice with LearnSmart on Connect, textbook readings, weekly laboratory activities. | Weekly online and in-lecture quizzes. Exam questions. Laboratory assignments. |
| Students will describe the evolution of species and how it can be affected by other species within an ecosystem. | Discussion in lectures, online practice with LearnSmart on Connect, textbook readings, weekly laboratory activities. | Weekly online and in-lecture quizzes. Exam questions. Laboratory assignments. |
| Students will explain how structure and function are linked at all levels, from molecules to organisms. | Discussion in lectures, online practice with LearnSmart on Connect, textbook readings, weekly laboratory activities. | Weekly online and in-lecture quizzes. Exam questions. Laboratory assignments. |
| Students will describe evolutionary relationships between species using multiple species concepts. | Discussion in lectures, online practice with LearnSmart on Connect, textbook readings, weekly laboratory activities. | Weekly online and in-lecture quizzes. Exam questions. Laboratory assignments. |
| Students will explain the flow of energy and molecules through an ecosystem and how different species contribute to this energy/matter flow. | Discussion in lectures, online practice with LearnSmart on Connect, textbook readings, weekly laboratory activities. | Weekly online and in-lecture quizzes. Exam questions. Laboratory assignments. |

**Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials**

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| ***Biology***, 4th Edition, 2016, Brooker et al. **With Connect Plus access** (highly recommended)  ***Principles of Biology Laboratory Manual BSC 121*,** Weinstein (required)  **A *Short Guide to Writing About Biology***, Pechenik (strongly recommended)  **Turning Technologies Response Card** NXT or better (required). You MUST bring your clicker to every lecture. **Penalties for not having clicker**: a score of zero on a quiz, 25% penalty on an exam.  **Computer Requirements:** Access to MUOnline is required. I use MUOnline to distribute slides from my lectures, supplementary material or exercises, study aids and additional material you may find interesting. I do not post pre-made lecture notes, nor can I guarantee study guides. I may send messages to your Marshall email account, you are expected to check it regularly. Any electronic course communication must be from your Marshall email account (not gmail, yahoo, MUOnline, etc). Do not email me inside MUOnline; always use the address above. In most cases, I will reply to messages within 2 business days. If you enter into an email conversation with me, I expect you to check for answers and reply promptly. |

**Course Requirements/Due Dates**

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| Written exams (dates in schedule below) and quizzes are a necessary means of evaluating how well students have met my expectations, especially in classes like BSC 120. Exam questions will be written so as to test your preparation at every level, from memorization of facts to application of conceptual knowledge. I expect that you will be prepared to answer questions in the lecture, and with this in mind short announced or unannounced quizzes will be given. Regular online quizzes will also be given throughout the semester through MUOnline. These quizzes should benefit your final scores as they help you to develop good study skills by keeping up with the material in the lecture and laboratory.  Reports written in the laboratory will give you the opportunity to apply knowledge in a more practical situation. They will cover similar material as the lectures, and will emphasize your ability to integrate and express facts, principles, and concepts. |

**Grading Policy**

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| Lecture Quizzes: 5%  Online Quizzes: 10%  Preliminary Exam 1: 15%  Preliminary Exam 2: 15%  Preliminary Exam 3: 15%  Lecture Final Exam: 20%  Laboratory: 20%  Total: 100%  Final grades are determined using this scale: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; <59 = F.  I will round up grades between X.5 and X.9 to X+1, **after** addition of any extra credit.   Grades will never be curved.  No extra credit is guaranteed. If any extra credit is given, it will be in such a format as the entire class is given equal opportunity to participate. Exams may contain 4 to 6 points of extra credit each. At the instructor’s discretion, extra credit quizzes may be given without notice. Extra credit will never be given for any activity outside of class, least of all any activity that does not relate to the subject material of this course.  Calculating grades uses basic algebra already required for this course and its prerequisites. Every score earned on quizzes and exams will be posted on MUOnline or Connect so that you can calculate your current grade at any time. I will not calculate grades for you throughout the semester. |

**Attendance Policy**

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| I do not take attendance in the lectures. However, you will quickly fall behind and can get lost if you do not attend. In addition, quizzes will frequently be given during lectures. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped when the final course grades are calculated.  Missed exams can be made up only in the case of an excused absence issued by myself, Student Affairs, or a University closure. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the University Class Attendance Policy, which can be found in the 2015-2016 Undergraduate Catalog (page 85) or at this web address: http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/. If you miss a preliminary exam without an excused absence from Student Affairs, you must apply to me for an excused absence as soon as possible.  In case of an excused absence for an exam, you must contact me as soon as possible to arrange for a make-up exam, and the exam must be taken on the first day that your approval expires. In case of absence for a sporting event or other pre-arranged activity, approval to make up the exam must be obtained before the day of the exam. Failure to follow either of these policies will result in you being considered absent without excuse for the exam. Any make-up exam may be, at my discretion, completely long answer or oral format.  **In case of University closure on an exam day, the exam will be automatically rescheduled to the next lecture session.**  If absences, excused or not, result in a significant proportion of total classwork missed, you will receive a recommendation for withdrawal from the course. More than four absences from lab will result in a lab grade of zero. |

**Academic Honesty**

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| I take honesty and integrity seriously, and will not tolerate any form of dishonest conduct. You are responsible for knowing the University's policies, which can be found in the student handbook or at this web address:  <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/>  During exams, I will expect you to NOT look at the work of those sitting around you, or have any form of course related material or electronic devices either on or in view. In the lab, most experiments will be done in groups, but I expect that all assignments will be written up independently. Exceptions to independent work will only be allowed in cases where you are expressly instructed to write up your assignment in groups. I also expect that all references used in your reports be properly cited. Any incidence of dishonest conduct will result in a grade of ZERO for that test, quiz, or assignment, and possible failure or dismissal from the course. Every case will also be referred to Academic Affairs for further action, as required by policy.  **An important note on plagiarism:** Plagiarism is any use, whether intentional or not, of another person's words in your assignments. This includes the use of quotes to indicate borrowed words - using quotes is not done in scientific writing and is not allowed in this class. I am interested in how you can express your thoughts, not that you can copy someone else's. Safeassign, a plagiarism detection tool, will be used in this class. Students taking this class must agree to submit their written work to Safeassign for review. |

**General Learning Concepts**

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| I use the textbook to organize my lectures, but I do bring in additional ideas and I will emphasize different topics. Occasionally I may argue points with the textbook. Everything presented in lectures and reading assignments is examinable.  During the lectures, you will have to fill in a lot of information that is not printed on the slides. Therefore, by preparing yourself in advance for the lectures, you will place yourself in a much better position to succeed. Furthermore, attendance is critical, as material in this course builds upon itself and it can be very easy to fall behind. The lecture slides posted at MUOnline alone are insufficient to achieve a passing grade in this class. |

**Study Habits**

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| This course will cover a great deal of material, and the exams will be comprehensive both in the scope of material covered and in the ways in which you will be asked to demonstrate how well you have learned the material. Cramming and memorizing from lecture handouts just before an exam tends not to result in good exam scores, so you will want to develop good study habits. Among these are coming to class prepared, and taking good notes. Study often; it is best to review material at least weekly, and to rewrite your notes. Ask questions in class. Use the textbook to help fill in gaps in your understanding. Self-test frequently and seek help from me early.  Find study habits that work for you. There are a few general rules (avoid distractions and stress, don't leave it to the last second), but aside from this different people respond very differently to different environments. Use this web page to read about different learning styles, and take the quiz to find out which ones might work best: <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/overview/>**.** There are also some good pointers at the following website: <http://www.cod.edu/people/faculty/fancher/STUDY.HTM> |

**Connect**

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| Access to McGraw-Hill's Connect website is required. Connect is designed to help students prepare themselves and guide their own learning - I will use this service to post exercises, quizzes and self tests. You must register for the class on Connect, during the first week of classes. If you bought the current version of the text new from the MU Bookstore, it should have come with a Connect Plus access code; if not you can purchase access to Connect Plus from McGraw Hill directly. You can find more information about Connect, including how to register, on the course page on MUOnline. |

**Personal Conduct**

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| I will expect everyone in the labs and lectures to act in a professional and courteous manner. Disruptive, abusive, or offensive behavior directed at anyone involved in the class will not be tolerated, and offenders may be asked to leave the classroom and forfeit any associated grades. Cell phones and other communication devices should be turned off or set to silent ring. If you absolutely must answer a phone call, quietly leave the class before doing so. Text messaging is not allowed. Use of computers or personal electronic devices is not allowed, unless their use is directly involved with class activities **and** has been approved by me during a meeting outside of class time. If you are late, enter quietly and avoid disturbing the class. Any disruptive behavior, including but not limited to talking, reading other material in class, texting, or cell phone use, will result in the offender being required to leave the class and forfeiture of any associated grades. Furthermore, I only respond to emails that are written with professionalism and courtesy. |

**Social Justice**

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| Absolutely NO student will be discriminated against based on race, ethnicity, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, social class, health condition, or religion. Every student is an integral and essential member of this class, and their opinions and discussion will be treated with value and respect. |

**Students with Disabilities**

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| Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117, phone 304 696-2271 to provide documentation of their disability.  Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student’s instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing and grading.  The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, please visit <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> or contact Disabled Student Services Office at Prichard Hall 117, phone 304-696-2271. |

**Tentative Lecture Schedule\***

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| Week | Week of | General Lecture Topics | Readings |
| 1 | 1/9 | Course overview; Taxonomy and Systematics **No lab this week**  Archea and Bacteria | Chapter 26  Chapter 27 |
| 2 | 1/16  **1/16** | Protists  Plants and Land Adaptation, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms  **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. No Class.** | Chapter 28  Chapter 29, 30 |
| 3 | 1/23 | Fungi  Animals | Chapter 31  Chapter 32 |
| 4 | 1/30 | Invertebrates  Vertebrates | Chapter 33  Chapter 34 |
| 5 | 2/6  **2/6** | **PRELIMINARY EXAM 1 (Monday)**  Flowering Plants (Wednesday and Friday) | Chapters 35-39 |
| 6 | 2/13 | Flowering Plants, wrap-up  Animals and Homeostasis | Chapters 35-39  Chapters 40, 46, 49 |
| 7 | 2/20 | Homeostasis | Chapters 40, 46, 49 |
| 8 | 2/27 | Neuroscience | Chapters 41-43 |
| 9 | 3/6  **3/8** | Review (Monday)  **PRELIMINARY EXAM 2** **(Wednesday)**  Endocrine System (Friday) | Chapter 50 |
| 10 | 3/13  **3/17** | Skeleton and Muscular Systems  Digestive System  **LAST DAY TO DROP AN INDIVIDUAL COURSE** | Chapter 44  Chapter 45 |
| 11 | **3/20** | **Spring Break. No Class.** |  |
| 12 | 3/27 | Circulatory System  Respiratory System | Chapter 47  Chapter 48 |
| 13 | 4/3  **4/7** | Immune System  Reproduction and Development  **PRELIMINARY EXAM 3 (Friday)** | Chapter 53  Chapters 51, 52 |
| 14 | 4/10 | Ecology  Species Interactions | Chapters 54-56  Chapter 57 |
| 15 | 4/17 | Communities  Ecosystems  Conservation Biology | Chapter 58  Chapter 59  Chapter 60 |
| 16 | 4/24 | Review |  |

Final Exam (Cumulative): Monday, 5/1 10:15am in KANAC 211

**\*Subject to change. Certain topics may be covered sooner or later than scheduled, depending on the progression of the term.**