INSTRUCTOR:
Name: CARLA B. CARR, PhD.
Office: Shoemaker 422
Email: cbcarr@olemiss.edu
Phone number: 662.915.2153
Office hours: Wed : 1:30 – 3:30 pm; Tues 11-noon
or by appointment  (request a time by email–
I’m available much of the week outside of MWF mornings)
Meeting time: MWF 8am – section 7 or MWF 9am -section 10 (Lamar room 130)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A survey course intended for non-science majors, emphasizing the relationship of humans to the
environment, including origins and diversification of life, behavior, ecology, role of plants, and environmental concerns. Applies to
the science requirement of the core curriculum. Students will not receive credit hours for both BISC 104 and BISC 162. BISC 104 is
NOT the introductory biology course required by Medical, Dental, etc. schools. See the Health Professions Advising Office for specific
questions regarding those requirements (http://healthprofessions.olemiss.edu/).

PREREQUISITE: BISC 102.    ASSOCIATED LABORATORY: BISC 105.

GOALS OF COURSE: To enhance existing curiosity and concern about the natural world. To help students understand and appreciate
the similarities and differences among various organisms, including humans. To understand the basics of evolution and why this
knowledge is important to humans today. To give students a basis for objectively evaluating current issues. To encourage caring and
action on behalf of our natural world.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: At the end of this course, students should better understand the basic principles of evolution and
ecology and have a familiarity with the diversity of life on earth.

Upon successful completion of Bisc 104, students will be able to:
• explain the basis for and origin of the diversity of life on earth;
• describe the variety of evidence that supports the scientific theory of evolution;
• convey the history of life on earth and the chronology of evolution of different groups of life;
• identify and relate physical commonalities among various organisms, including humans;
• assess the complexities and consequences of population growth; and
• critically evaluate the role of humans in environmental issues.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:
• Required Books: Biology The Essentials (2nd Edition) by Marielle Hoefnagels (may be paper or electronic format)
• “Connect” access with Learnsmart. This comes bundled with your new textbook, or you may purchase online. This will be used for homework and as a study tool.
• Response Card QT or QT2 by Turning Technologies (TT). (aka “clicker”). Bring to lecture to participate in ‘clicker questions’ to earn Bonus Points towards final point total.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE INFORMATION:

Class attendance—Please notify me in advance if you have a University-sanctioned event that you are required to attend. In
the case of serious illness or injury, please contact me as soon as possible. I expect that students arrive on time and stay the
entire lecture. Class time is 50 minutes, do not start packing your things until class is dismissed. Students are expected to PARTICIPATE
in any group activities, be attentive to the lecture, and respectful of the instructor and other, other students and University property
at all times. Students are responsible for all material and announcements made in class.
**Exams**: Exam dates are listed on this syllabus; exact dates will also be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. There will be 3 regular exams worth 100 points each. Only the Final Exam is cumulative, and will be given on the day assigned by University of Mississippi.

- There are very few valid reasons for missing an exam. No make-up tests will be given except in cases of verified emergencies or University-sanctioned events. You must provide formal documentation of the reason for missing, and notify me ideally before you miss, but no later than 24 hrs after. You must contact me to discuss a make-up exam date and time.

**GRADING**: grades will be updated regularly in BB so that you can have a good sense of your grade at any point in the semester. It will be presented in a column titled “running weighted total” – you should check it weekly so that you know how you’re doing

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>POINT VALUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100 (16.6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100 (16.6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>100 (16.6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Comprehensive)</td>
<td>150 (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online homework (Connect and LearnSmart assignments)</td>
<td>150 (25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAXIMUM POINTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>600 (100%)</strong></td>
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**Bonus**: In-class activities + clicker questions: Up to 40 points

**Description of Assessment**:

- **Online Homework Assignments**: (25% overall grade) For most chapters, I will assign 2 online exercises from the publisher (called LearnSmart or “Connect”). Each assignment varies in points, there will be a blackboard column that shows the accumulated homework points. A maximum of 150 homework points will count toward your grade for the semester. Extra points are built into the maximum homework total (i.e. the max total will be more than 150), but they are not extra credit – they represent more ‘opportunities’ to earn points towards this grade which is capped at 150. You will be notified of the availability of an assignment and its due date through announcements (via BB or class), as a general rule Connect assignments will be due each Friday at 5pm, while LearnSmart modules are due Tues at noon.
  - Late Connect assignments are deducted 10% per day, LS modules may not be completed late. (If there is an extenuating circumstance you can request an extension 24 hrs BEFORE the due date; I do not consider computer difficulties a problem since there are computer labs on campus and the LS and Connect work on mobile devices).
  - You will have 2 attempts to do each Connect assignment; the second attempt consists of re-doing the questions that you missed on the first attempt. You may use the textbook and your notes while completing these assignments, but I would ask for you to work alone to get the most benefit from them.

- **Exams**: Exams are based on lecture material (which is derived from the textbook) and Exams will consist of mainly multiple choice, along with some matching and short answer formats. Typically there will be around 45 questions per regular exam, for a total of 100 points. The comprehensive final exam will take the same form as regular term exams, but will cover all topics from the semester. No smart watches are allowed during exams, and cell phones must be silenced and placed in your bag. Hats, hoods, and/or sunglasses may not be worn during exams (hats may be turned backwards).

- **In-class activities + clicker questions**: Bonus points may be earned throughout the semester by answering clicker questions asked during lecture and fully participating in small group activities that we do on a particular day. You must have your registered clicker with you to submit responses – answers written on paper cannot be turned in.
**ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE:** Students are expected to adhere to the University of Mississippi Creed and the Standards of Honesty as described in Policy Code ACA.AR.600.001 and written in the M Book. If you violate the Standards of Honesty, you will be reported and subject to the appropriate sanction which may include expulsion from the University. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated, which includes but is not limited to: copying another student’s work, turning in work that is not your own, and cheating on quizzes or exams.

**STUDENT BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS OR CONDUCT POLICY:** Disruptive, disrespectful, inappropriate, or unsafe behavior will not be tolerated at any time. Students are expected to respect other students in the classroom. Students carrying on social conversations, answering the phone, or sending text messages are disruptive to a positive classroom atmosphere.

- **CELL PHONE POLICY:** Cell phones are NOT allowed during the class period. You should store your phone in a book bag, purse or pocket. It should not be visible or audible during class time (whether you are using it or not). If a cell phone is needed for extenuating circumstances, the student will have to get approval from the instructor prior to the start of the specific class.

- **PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY:** Taking photographs in class is not allowed. Do not take pictures of class content with any machine (i.e. phone, tablet, camera, etc). Taking photographs of exam questions is NOT allowed – this also applies when we go over exam questions in class after the exam has been graded. Doing so constitutes academic misconduct.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Use of cell phones, ear buds, and headphones are not allowed in the classroom. Tablets and laptops are not allowed without permission; meet with Dr. Carr to discuss in-class use of these. **So please keep cell phones and laptops put away** during your class period. Hand writing notes has been proven to be more effective for retention of material, and alleviates the distraction and temptation of being on social media or other websites during class time, which is also a distraction to those around you.

**DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT:** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable classroom accommodations to students who have verified disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

**Contacting Dr. Carr:** I welcome you to talk with me, before or after class if it is something brief. I would rather that you come see me during office hours (see page 1) to discuss issues or the material at length. If you cannot come during office hours, send an email to make an appointment.

**Email:** I routinely communicate with the class by email. Sometimes I will need to get a hold of YOU specifically, and if so, I will use email, and it will be important that you get the note. I will use the email address that the University provides to me, and then it will be your responsibility to get my note, so you should regularly check your email. When sending an email, please be courteous and professional by 1) **identify yourself and your section** in your note or the subject line (not doing so means I might not respond to your note), 2) **clearly state** your problem, issue or question. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours – if I do not, you may resend the email or talk to me after class. I rarely check email after work hours, so expect emails to be answered during the work day between 8am and 4pm.

Please do not email me after every absence, everyone misses a day or two and unless the absence occurred during an exam, or is a university-excused absence, I don’t need to know the specific reason you’re not in class. Many of you will be sick at least a couple days during the semester, it is not something I have to know about via email. – if you miss a class and are concerned about what you missed, come by office hours once you are better and I will fill you in on the subject material missed.
**TENTATIVE AGENDA:** Exact timing of topics may change somewhat, but will always be announced in class.
*The required readings are the chapters from the text book, I will also occasionally share short articles to read in order to discuss current events and see connections to your everyday world. These will be provided to you either digitally or as a hard copy.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Required Readings:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Week of 1-22</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 3: EVOLUTION AND DIVERSITY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Introduction and Review (basic bio &amp; genetics)&lt;br&gt;Forces of Evolutionary Change (Ch. 12)</td>
<td>CHAPTER 12</td>
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<td>2. Week of 1-29</td>
<td>Ch. 12 (continued) and Evidence of Evolution (Ch 13)</td>
<td>CHAPTER 13</td>
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<td>3. Week of 2-5</td>
<td>Speciation and Extinction (Ch 14)</td>
<td>CHAPTER 14</td>
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<td>4. Week of 2-12</td>
<td>Evolution and Diversity of Microbial Life (Ch 15);&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>EXAM 1: (friday) FEB 16TH</strong> (chapters 12-14)</td>
<td>CHAPTER 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Week of 2-19</td>
<td>Ch 15 continued;&lt;br&gt;begin PLANTS: Portions of Ch. 5 Photosynthesis / Ch. 21 Plant Form and Function / Ch. 22 Repro &amp; Develop of Flowering Plants</td>
<td>CHAPTER 5.1 – 5.4, 21.1 – 21.2 &amp; 22.1 – 22.2</td>
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<td>6. Week of 2-26</td>
<td><strong>Plants continued</strong>&lt;br&gt;Evolution and Diversity of Plants&lt;br&gt;[March 2 Friday Deadline for course withdrawals]**</td>
<td>CHAPTER 16</td>
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<td>7. Week of 3-5</td>
<td>Catch up / start Evolution and Diversity of Animals&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>EXAM 2: (wed) MARCH 7TH</strong> (chapters 15 &amp; 16 + additional plant info)</td>
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<td>8. Week of 3-12</td>
<td><strong>March 10-18 Sat-Sun SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>9. Week of 3-19</td>
<td>Evolution and Diversity of Animals</td>
<td>CHAPTER 17</td>
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<td>10. Week of 3-26</td>
<td>Ch. 17 (continued) –&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Good Friday holiday, 3/30-no class meetings</strong></td>
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<td>11. Week of 4-2</td>
<td><strong>UNIT 4: ECOLOGY</strong>&lt;br&gt;Communities and Ecosystems</td>
<td>CHAPTER 19</td>
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<td>12. Week of 4-9</td>
<td>Communities &amp; Ecosystems (continued)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>EXAM 3: (friday) APRIL 13TH</strong> (chapters 17 &amp; 19)</td>
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<td>13. Week of 4-16</td>
<td>Population Ecology</td>
<td>CHAPTER 18</td>
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<td>14. Week of 4-23</td>
<td>Preserving Biodiversity</td>
<td>CHAPTER 20</td>
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<td>15. Week of 4-30</td>
<td>Biodiversity (continued)</td>
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<td>16. Week of 5-7</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM (Ch 19 &amp; 20 + comprehensive)</strong></td>
<td>Sec 7: May 7th @ 8 am&lt;br&gt;Sec 10: May 9th @ 8 am</td>
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March 2 Friday Deadline for course withdrawals (no refund; refund period ended February 2).
March 5 Monday -- Midterm grades due. / March 30 GOOD FRIDAY / May 4 Classes end; May 7-11 Final Examinations

All LEARNSMART HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (= 10) are due each week, on **Tuesday at noon**.
All CONNECT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS (=6) are due each week, on **Friday at 5pm**.