

Bisc 104 - Inquiry Into Life – The Environment Course Syllabus – Fall 2020 Section 01

Professor: Evelyn F. Jackson, M.S.; Lecturer in Biology

Office: 228 Shoemaker Hall

E-mail: ejackson@olemiss.edu **Tel:** 915-1580

<Type BISC 104-1 in e-mail subject line>

Office Hours Via Zoom: Wednesday Noon-1 PM; Thursday 10-10:30 AM and by appointment

******(or e-mail me with questions)******

Nature of Course Content: BISC 104 is a survey course intended for non-biology majors emphasizing the relationships of humans to the environment, including origin and diversification of life, behavior, ecology, role of plants and environmental concerns. Credit for this course applies to the science requirement of the core curricula.

Critical Thinking Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Conceptualize complex issues or problems
- 2) Interpret data and appraise evidence
- 3) Distinguish, compare, or contrast diverse points of view and/or alternative conclusions

Course Learning Objectives:

- 1) To understand the diversity of life including animals, plants, protists, fungi, bacteria and other microorganisms.
- 2) To learn about the mechanisms of evolution and speciation, and outline the historical context of the development of evolutionary thought.
- 3) To learn about ecological principles and how human activity impacts the environment.

Required Materials for Course:

1) Biology: The Essentials. 2018. Hoefnagels. McGraw Hill 3rd Edition. (ISBN 9781260806977) .It is required that any textbook package you purchase for this course must include the Connect Plus Access Code (this includes ebook—2 year access for the required third edition of the text). This online access (Connect Plus) to textbook content will be used for online assignments which are required as part of your grade in the course.

Technology:

INTERNET ACCESS

You must have access to the Internet, preferably high speed Internet, for the duration of this course.

○ *SOFTWARE*

You must have access to a computer with the following software installed:

- Microsoft Office - You must have consistent access to a professional word processor and a presentation program. Alternatives to MS Office are WPS Office Free, SoftMaker FreeOffice, OpenOffice, and LibreOffice.

○ *BROWSERS, PLUG-INS, PLAYERS AND VIEWERS*

In order to take full advantage of all the features in this course, be sure you have the right technology at your fingertips. This includes:

- A Blackboard-supported browser – **Firefox** is preferred on all computers
- Acrobat Reader

Run [Blackboard Browser Checker](#) to verify browser and installed technologies on your computer.

- HARDWARE
 - Computer Speakers or headsets

Tech support:

The [IT Helpdesk](#), centrally located in Weir Hall, is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The helpdesk offers assistance to Ole Miss students and employees with technology-related issues involving software, hardware and networking. It provides support for email, Wi-Fi, Microsoft Office and other campus-wide applications. Come by Weir Hall or call at 662-915-5222. Email helpdesk@olemiss.edu or visit their website for more information.

Grading: *The plus minus grading scale will be used in this course.

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 100 points

LearnSmart Assignments: 60 points

Connect Quizzes: 100 points

Class Participation Activities: 100 points

Final Exam (cumulative): 120 points

Total Points Possible: 580 points

Final Grade: A 90-100%; A- 88-89.9%; B+ 85-87.9%; B 80-84.9%; B- 78-79.9%; C+ 75-77.9%; C 70-74.9%; C- 68-69.9%; D 60-67.9%; F Below 60%

Example of how final grade is calculated:

Exam 1 (85 points), Exam 2 (80 points), LearnSmart Assignments (50 points), Connect Quizzes (85 points) , Class Participation Activities (90 points), Final Exam (110 points).

Total points earned: 500 out of 580 possible

This equals 86.2 % that corresponds to a B+ as the final course letter grade

Exams:

Exams will be primarily based on online lecture module content, material from LearnSmart Assignments, quizzes, participation activities, supplemental readings and other reference material from the textbook.

Missed Exam Accommodations:

Students missing one exam for extreme circumstances (such as serious illness or death of a close family member) can request a make-up exam by contacting me by e-mail as soon as possible around exam availability. The date and time of the make-up exam will be determined by the instructor. Students missing more than one regular exam will result in the second missed exam as a score of zero (so, no make ups are given in this situation).

** Exceptions to the missed exam policy are students missing exams for university business (e.g., athletics, attending a meeting as part of a university group, etc.) or legal or governmental obligation (e.g., jury duty; military service). In these cases, students must provide documentation of the absence prior to the exam. Also, students must contact the instructor by e-mail prior to the exam date to officially arrange the make up, the date and time of which is determined by the instructor.

For final exams, it is a policy of the College of Liberal Arts that final exams must be taken at the scheduled time, so there are no make ups given for final exams.

Connect Plus Access Code Registration:

To participate in the LearnSmart Assignments and Connect Quizzes required as part of your grade in the course, registration of your Connect Plus Access code for the third edition of the text must be done through the McGraw Hill portal in the “Tools” site of the course Blackboard site. Once you register your code, then you will have access to both the LearnSmart Assignments and Connect Quizzes. Registering once will give you access to the online assignment platform.

LearnSmart Assignments:

There will be approximately eleven LearnSmart Assignments given during the semester (the tentative due dates for these is listed in the schedule of lecture topics at the end of this syllabus). These assignments require that you have a Connect Plus Access Code that is issued by the publisher of the textbook listed above under the required course materials. Additionally, you must register through the McGraw Hill Portal within the “Tools” section of your course Blackboard site before you can participate in and receive credit for these assignments. I will review the instructions for registration during the first week of class. The first assignment will be due during the second week of class, so it is advised that you register with your access code prior to the first assignment availability. This part of your course grade is worth a total of 60 points. It is required that you complete ten assignments to be eligible for the full 60 points. The remaining extra assignment given is in place for students who miss one LearnSmart Assignment for any reason. The extra assignment beyond the required ten is not in place to serve as bonus points. The maximum points any student can receive for the LearnSmart assignments are 60 total. If there are some extreme circumstances that a student is experiencing (such as serious illness) the student may contact the instructor to request a possible deadline extension on a missed assignment. Usually, to qualify for credit for all of these assignments, these must be completed by the due date and time window listed in the syllabus or Blackboard announcements.

Connect Quizzes:

There will be approximately eleven Connect Quizzes given during the semester (the tentative due dates for these is listed in the schedule of lecture topics at the end of this syllabus). These quizzes require that you have a Connect Plus Access Code that is issued by the publisher of the textbook listed above under the required course materials. Additionally, you must register through the McGraw Hill Portal within the “Tools” section of your course Blackboard site before you can participate in and receive credit for these quizzes. I will review the instructions for registration during the first week of class. Generally, the Connect Quizzes will cover material that has been covered in previous lectures or lecture material currently covered during the week when the Connect Quiz is available. The first assignment will be due during the second week of class, so it is advised that you register with your access code prior to the first assignment availability. This part of your course grade is worth a total of 100 points. It is required that you complete ten

assignments to be eligible for the full 100 points. The remaining one extra quiz is in place for students who miss one Connect Quiz for any reason. The one extra assignment beyond the required ten is not in place to serve as bonus points. The maximum points any student can receive for the Connect Quizzes is 100 total. These are typically graded based on giving correct answers. If there are some extreme circumstances that a student is experiencing (such as serious illness) the student may contact the instructor to request a possible deadline extension on a missed assignment. Usually, to qualify for credit for all of these assignments, these must be completed by the due date and time window listed in the syllabus or Blackboard announcements.

Class Participation:

There will be approximately eleven participation exercises given during the semester. This part of your course grade is worth a total of 100 points. Ten of these assignments are required to be eligible for the total 100 points. Approximately one extra participation activity will be given during the semester that accommodates students missing an assignment for any reason. The one extra assignment beyond the required ten is not in place to serve as bonus points. The maximum points any student can receive for the participation activities are 100 total. If there are some extreme circumstances that a student is experiencing (such as serious illness) the student may contact the instructor to request a possible deadline extension on a missed assignment. These activities may be graded for completion and/or based on giving correct answers. These activities will be posted and completed through Blackboard. Usually, these activities must be completed by the announced due date to receive credit. There may be other class exercises given which are not for graded credit.

Syllabus Quiz:

There will be a syllabus quiz on Blackboard on that date which will be due Tuesday 9/1. This quiz is worth up to 10 bonus points onto your total points in the class and will be graded primarily for correctness.

Course Lecture and Assignment Management:

There will be weekly modules posted on Blackboard that will contain lectures and links to assignments. These modules should be completed in the order they are presented from week to week.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required but not factored in as part of your grade in the course.

Students are expected to sign into the course Blackboard site daily. Attendance verification for the first two weeks of classes is based that you regularly log on to our course Blackboard site daily and complete a required class participation assignment.

*Please note the attendance verification policy of The University of Mississippi:

The university requires instructors to verify the attendance/participation of students in **ALL** courses within the first two weeks of the semester. This requirement is to bring the institution into compliance with US Department of Education requirements. *The verification of student attendance in this course will be determined by completion of a class participation activity on Blackboard as described above.*

Disability Access and Inclusion:

The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation, or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content, and the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. If you are registered with SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at <https://sds.olemiss.edu/rebel-access-portal> to request approved accommodations. If you are NOT registered with SDS, you must complete the process to become registered. To begin that process, please visit our website at <https://sds.olemiss.edu/apply-for-services>. SDS will:

1. Complete a comprehensive review to determine your eligibility for accommodations,
2. If approved, disseminate to your instructors a Faculty Notification Letter,
3. Facilitate the removal of barriers, and
4. Ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students.

If you have questions, contact SDS at 662-915-7128 or sds@olemiss.edu.

Academic Integrity:

The University of Mississippi is dedicated to supporting and sustaining a safe and scholarly community of learning dedicated to nurturing excellence inside and outside of the classroom. Each student has a duty to become familiar with University values and standards reflected in University policies, and each student has a duty to honor University values and standards reflected in University policies. These policies are outlined in the [M Book](#). For a complete listing of policies, please visit the University Policy Directory.

Copyright Notice:

Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection under Title 17 of the United States Code. Under certain Fair Use circumstances specified by law, copies may be made for private study, scholarship, or research. Electronic copies should not be shared with unauthorized users. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

IT Appropriate Use Policy:

This policy sets forth the privileges of and restrictions on students, faculty, staff, and other users with respect to the computing and telecommunications systems offered by the University of Mississippi (UM). This policy is designed to protect the University community from illegal or damaging actions by individuals, either knowingly or unknowingly. Inappropriate use exposes the University to risks, including virus attacks, compromise of network systems and services, and legal issues. This policy directly addresses copyright issues related to illegal downloads and peer-to-peer file sharing. For Appropriate Use Policy questions, send an email to aup@olemiss.edu.

E-mail Communication and Professionalism/Course Blackboard Site:

E-mail is one of the ways for contacting me with questions about course lecture material and guidance for studying. Please write BISC 104-1 in the e-mail subject line. E-mail greetings should be appropriate/professional and should read “**Professor or/Mrs. or Ms. Jackson**”. E-mails with greetings of only “hey, hi”, only my first name or completely lacking of a greeting will not receive a reply. Neither will e-mails that do not have your first and last name in the signature. Due to the large number of students I teach and volume of e-mails received, students should expect that it may take at least up to 24 hrs. to receive a reply to valid e-mails if I am at that time receiving a large volume of e-mails. The Blackboard site for this course will contain course information such as the syllabus, announcements, lecture modules, access to LearnSmart Assignments, Connect Quizzes, class participation activities, a McGraw-Hill tools portal to register with your Connect Plus access code associated with the textbook, study materials and grades. You should check this site daily for important updates, including current grades and announcements.

Tips for succeeding in the course:

- Read your syllabus thoroughly and keep it close at hand for a reference. Being familiar with class policies, grading and tentative exam/assignment dates is an essential part of class preparation.
- Review any handouts, outlines or other materials associated with online activities.
- Regularly review module lectures and reference chapters from the textbook. This will help you prepare for exams, class participation, LearnSmart assignments and Connect Quizzes.
- Complete **LearnSmart Assignments, Connect Quizzes and Participation Activities (by the due date)** as these are part of your grade in the course, and will also improve your comprehension of lecture material that will be covered on your exams.
- Send professional e-mails to me (as outlined above in this syllabus) with inquiries to clarify course material.
- Zoom conference during my office hours (posted at the top of this syllabus). Prepare questions for office hour sessions, and have any class materials on hand that will help you maximize office hours participation. One on one Zoom meetings can be set up for individual students as needed if help with course material is needed.

COVID-19 Emergency Information:

Students with COVID-19 should seek medical attention at the Student Health Center and contact their instructor to let them know that they are sick, quarantined, or have some other health-related absence.

The University of Mississippi has adopted a tiered disciplinary protocol for nonadherence to COVID-19 health Office of Conflict Resolution and Student for nonadherence to COVID-19 health requirements. This disciplinary protocol is maintained by the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct (<https://conflictresolution.olemiss.edu/>).

Outline of Module Lecture Topics, Module Lecture Sequences, Associated Assignments and Reference Text Chapters

8/24-8/28

Forces of Evolutionary Change (Chapter 12)

Learning Objectives: To review the concepts of evolution and the mechanism of evolution (natural selection). Also, to comprehend different scales of evolution, illustrations of evolution, and results of evolution.

***Complete Syllabus Quiz on Blackboard*(Due Tuesday 9/1)**

8/31-9/4

Forces of Evolutionary Change (Chapter 12)

Learning Objectives: A continuation of those from the previous week.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 9/4 at Noon)

9/7-9/11

Evidence for Evolution (Chapter 13)

Learning Objectives: To review and explain concrete evidence for evolution, both from modern and traditional approaches.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 9/11 at Noon)

9/14-9/18

Speciation and Extinction (Chapter 14)

Learning Objectives: To review the concept of a species, the mechanisms which drive speciation, and how species are categorized based on relatedness.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 9/18 at Noon)

9/21-9/25

Microbial Evolution and Diversity (Chapter 15)

Learning Objectives: To explain the concepts of the origin of life, the concepts of the three domains of life, and review the diversity and functions of microorganisms on within our world.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 9/25 at Noon)

9/28-10/2

EXAM 1: (Monday 9/28)

Plant Evolution and Diversity (Chapter 16)

Learning Objectives: To examine the sequence of events in plant evolution in the context of the geological time scale, and examine characteristics of each major group of plants.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 10/2 at Noon)

10/5-10/9

Evolution and Diversity of Animals (Chapter 17)

Learning Objectives: To survey characteristics which unify all animals, the major events in animal evolution. Also, to explore characteristics of each animal group as a result of major evolutionary adaptations, and to examine various aspects of diversity which defines each animal group.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 10/9 at Noon)

10/12-10/16

Evolution and Diversity of Animals (Chapter 17)

Learning Objectives: The same of those in the previous week.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 10/16 at Noon)

10/19-10/23

Reproduction/Development of Flowering Plants (Chapter 22)

Learning Objectives: To examine the concept of a plant life cycle and concepts related to plant growth and physiology.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 10/23 at Noon)

10/26-10/30

EXAM 2: (Tuesday 10/27)

Population Ecology (Chapter 18)

Learning Objectives: To explore the concept of a population within the structural hierarchy of life, reproductive strategies of members of a population, and factors which influence population growth and total numbers of individuals in a population. And finally, outline factors which characterize and influence human population growth.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 10/30 at Noon)

11/2-11/6

Communities and Ecosystems (Chapter 19)

Learning Objectives: To examine the components of communities and ecosystems and the ways in which these components interact. Also, to explore major types of ecosystems and the way communities and ecosystems may change over time in response to different pressures.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 11/6 at Noon)

11/9-11/13

Preserving Biodiversity (Chapter 20)

Learning Objectives: To explain the concept of biodiversity and examine what human activities impact biodiversity. Also, to explore how potential losses of biodiversity are observed and managed.

(LearnSmart Assignment, Class Participation Activity and Connect Quiz Due Friday 11/13 at Noon)

11/16-11/17

Preserving Biodiversity (Chapter 20)

Learning Objectives: The same as those which are listed in the previous week.

Complete Exit Survey by Tuesday 11/17 at noon.

Exam Dates:

EXAM 1: (Monday 9/28)

EXAM 2: (Tuesday 10/27)

Final Exam (Final Exam week—due date and availability to be announced)