

Bisc 104 - Inquiry Into Life – The Environment – Fall 2019 Section 1

Course meeting time and location: MWF 12-12:50 PM ; Lamar 131

Professor: Evelyn F. Jackson, M.S.

Office: 228 Shoemaker Hall

E-mail: ejackson@olemiss.edu

Office Hours: Mon. 2-3 PM; Tues. 1:30-3 PM

<Type BISC 104-01 in e-mail subject line>

Tel: 915-1580

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.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- 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.
- 4) To assimilate major concepts in this course within the unifying concept of biodiversity.

Required Materials for Course:

- 1) Biology: The Essentials. 2018. Hoefnagels. McGraw Hill. (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.
- 2) **Red scantron forms (red, half-page in width); I will likely post pictures of the form on Blackboard)** and a number 2 pencil for in class exam sessions. Scantron forms are available for purchase at the bookstore.
- 3) Ole Miss Student ID Card for in class exams and attendance scanning for every lecture period.

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

Exam 1: 50 points (in class)

Exam 2: 50 points (in class)

Final Exam (not cumulative): 50 points (in class)

LearnSmart Assignments : 60 points (out of class/ on-line)

Class Participation: 60 points (in class)

Connect Quizzes: 56 points (out of class/on-line)

Total: 326 points possible

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 (40 points), Exam 2 (45 points), Learnsmart Asssignments (55 points), Class Participation (52 points), Quizzes (50 points), Final Exam (47 points). Total points=289

290 points divided by a possible 326 points equals 88.6% which corresponds to an A- as the final course letter grade.

Exams:

Exams will be primarily based on material covered in class, material from LearnSmart Assignments, quizzes and other reference material from the textbook. Students are responsible for all covered material and announcements made in class , LearnSmart assignments, Connect Quizzes, as well as any supplemental readings assigned by the instructor. **Bring a Scantron form to each exam session (red, half-page in width; I will likely post pictures of the form on Blackboard), a number 2 pencil and Student ID to each in class exam.**

Missed Exam Accommodations:

Students missing one regular lecture exam for extreme circumstances (such as serious illness or death of a close family member) can qualify for a make-up exam. Students missing an exam for reasons given above must e-mail the instructor prior to the exam time to notify of the missed exam and state the reason for the absence, and also provide legitimate documentation as deemed acceptable by the instructor. Otherwise, the missed exam as described above will not be given. The date and time of the make-up exam will be determined by the instructor, and will typically be given during my office hours. Students missing more than one regular lecture exam will result in the second (and third) missed exam as a score of zero (so, no make ups are given in this situation). Family vacations, weddings, reunions, etc. and other trips out of town are not considered extreme circumstances that would justify the necessity for these exam accommodations.

** 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 (usually during my office hours).

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. It is not necessary to register two different times for each assignment. Registering once will give you access to the online assignment platform.

LearnSmart Assignments:

There will be approximately thirteen (ten required as part of your grade) LearnSmart Assignments given during the semester (the due dates for these will be announced in class and/or posted on Blackboard). This part of your course grade is worth a total of 60 points (approximately 18% of your final course average). It is required that you complete ten assignments to be eligible for the full 60 points. The remaining three assignments beyond the required ten are optional, but if you complete the extra three that makes you eligible for 18 extra bonus points added to your total overall points in the class. The content covered on these assignments cover the material that will be covered in lecture the following week. These are intended to help you prepare for future lecture material and gauge your understanding of the upcoming material in the course. 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 available during the first week of class, so it is advised that you register with your access code prior to the first assignment availability. Since there are three extra LearnSmart Assignments given during the semester, there are no make up, missed or late assignments accepted for any reason. To qualify for credit of all of these assignments, these must be completed by the due date and time window announced either in class or on Blackboard.

Connect Quizzes:

There are seven of these quizzes given during the semester which are required as part of your grade in the course (all together 56 points total. This makes up approximately 17% of your final grade in the course. 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 assignments will be available and due during the second week of class, so it is advised that you register with your access code prior to the first assignment availability. 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. Availability and due dates of the quizzes will be announced in class and/ or posted on Blackboard. To qualify for credit of all of these assignments, these must be completed by the due date and time window announced either in class or on Blackboard. Since these are online assignments available for more than one day, make ups are not given for these quizzes.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required but **is not factored in as part of your grade in the course**. Attendance will be taken using automatic attendance scanners in the lecture room. To submit your attendance for a lecture period, it must be done within the window of time announced in class by successfully scanning with your student ID. If you lose, do not bring, or have a faulty barcode on your ID, or scan outside the specified time period, you will not be counted present for that lecture period. ***Scanning your ID and leaving the classroom will not count as being present from class, and records will be kept for students who are abusing this attendance policy.*** *Manual/written attendance will not be taken by the instructor, as a student ID is a required material for every class session.* **Absences for any reason are not distinguished from being excused or unexcused, and the attendance record assessed by the scanner is typically final.**

*Please note the new attendance policy outlined by the university implemented in previous semesters:

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 records obtained by the automatic attendance scanners as outlined above.*

Class Participation

There will be in class participation exercises which are worth a total of 60 points out of your total points in the course (approximately 18% of your final course average). These will typically be unannounced, so students are responsible for regular class attendance in the event that there is a participation activity. Ten of these assignments are required to be eligible for the total 60 points. Approximately one extra participation activity will be given during the semester, which if completed will make you eligible for six bonus points. Due to the extra activity given during the semester that is optional, there are no make up, late or alternate assignments given for missed class participation activities for any reason.

Students with Disabilities:

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 approved through SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at <https://sds.olemiss.edu> to request approved accommodations. If you are NOT approved through SDS, you must contact Student Disability Services at 662-915-7128 so the office can: 1. determine your eligibility for accommodations, 2. 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.

Academic Dishonesty:

Evidence of academic dishonesty involving exams, assignments and class participation will be taken seriously and university procedures for academic dishonesty grievances will be followed if necessary. Any student involved in academic dishonesty may have their grade in the course reduced.

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 104-01 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. E-mails with questions that are already addressed in the syllabus will be at low priority for reply. 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 24-48 hrs. to receive a reply to valid e-mails. There is a Blackboard site for this course that will contain course information such as the syllabus, announcements, access to LearnSmart Assignments, quizzes, a McGraw-Hill tools portal to register with your Connect Plus access code associated with the textbook, supplemental study materials and grades. You should check this site regularly during the semester for any important updates, including current grades and announcements. Blackboard is used by the instructor to post grades for individual assignments/exams, but not to calculate final grades at the end of the semester.

Class Responsibilities:

- Students are expected to be courteous. Talking while the instructor is lecturing, excessive tardiness, and leaving early from lecture are some of the examples of behavior that is not permitted.
- The use of cell phones or other electronic devices for activities not related to class is not permitted. Cell phone ringers should be turned off and text messaging is not allowed. There is absolutely no photography allowed by the use of electronic devices (including cell phones) in lectures or exams. Students should speak with the instructor concerning any other questions about the use of cell phones or other electronic devices.
- If you miss lecture, you will miss material. Make sure you read the corresponding text chapters listed in the outline of lecture topics, and/or check other resources posted on Blackboard for assistance on material from missed lectures.

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.
- Exam reviews are typically posted on Blackboard close to exam dates. Although these are not comprehensive of the topics on the exam, reviewing these will guide you through studying lecture notes.
- Depending on learning style, some students find reading reference lecture chapters in the text prior to each lecture increases their comprehension of material during lecture.
- Come to class prepared with the required materials: student ID and note taking supplies, and any materials required for exams or class participation activities.
- Regularly attend class. As well as missing essential course content, you may miss class participation activities, material which will help you on out of class assignments, and other benefits of course attendance that may affect your grade and also mastery of material in the course.
- Review any handouts, outlines or other materials associated with exercises we do in class.
- Regularly review your lecture notes and reference chapters from the textbook. This will help you prepare for exams, and class participation, LearnSmart assignments and and Connect Quizzes.
- Complete **LearnSmart Assignments** and **Connect Quizzes (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.
- Visit me during my office hours (posted at the top of this syllabus). Prepare questions for office hour sessions, as well as bringing lecture notes with you.

Outline of Lecture Topics (Subject to change according to instructional needs)

Dates	Topics	Chapters
8/26-8/30	Microbial Evolution and Diversity	15
	LearnSmart Assignment	
9/2-9/6	Microbial Evolution and Diversity	15
	9/2: No Class---Labor Day	
	LearnSmart Assignment	
	Connect Quiz	
9/9-9/13	Plant Evolution and Diversity	16
	LearnSmart Assignment	
9/16-9/20	Evolution and Diversity of Animals	17
	Learnsmart Assignment	
	Connect Quiz	
9/23-9/27	Evolution and Diversity of Animals	17
	LearnSmart Assignment	
	EXAM 1: (Friday 9/27)	
9/30-10/4	Forces of Evolutionary Change	12
	LearnSmart Assignment	
	Connect Quiz	
10/7-10/11	Evidence for Evolution	13
	LearnSmart Assignment	
10/14-10/18	Speciation and Extinction	14
	LearnSmart Assignment	
	Connect Quiz	

10/21-10/25	Photosynthesis LearnSmart Assignment	5
10/28-11/1	Plant Form and Function Exam 2 (Friday 11/1) LearnSmart Assignment	21
11/4-11/8	Reproduction/Development of Flowering Plants LearnSmart Assignment Connect Quiz	22
11/11-11/15	Population Ecology LearnSmart Assignment	18
11/18-11/22	Communities and Ecosystems LearnSmart Assignment Connect Quiz	19
11/25-11/29	No Class---Thanksgiving Break	
12/2-12/6	Preserving Biodiversity Connect Quiz	20

In Class Exam Dates:

EXAM 1: Friday 9/27

EXAM 2: Friday 11/1

Final Exam (section 01): Friday December 13th Noon