

BISC 104: Inquiry Into Life The Environment

Course Overview:

This is a survey course intended for non-biology majors, emphasizing the relationships 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. The associated laboratory is BISC 105.

Goals of the Course:

The student should learn information necessary to evaluate news and discussions of development of evolutionary thought and the ramifications of human impact on the biosphere and environment.

Learning Objectives:

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

- Describe the processes driving evolution and diversity of life on Earth and evaluate scientifically supported evidence for evolution.
- Compare and contrast relationships among the diverse life forms of Earth, including microorganisms, animals, fungi and plants.
- Describe and compare the structure and function of plants, including the process of photosynthesis.
- Distinguish between population, community and ecosystem ecology and be able to describe processes involved in ecological relationships among organisms.

Instructor Contact Information:

Carol Cleveland, PhD

Adjunct Instructor of Biology

Email: bycmc@olemiss.edu

Telephone: **(662) 612-0499** – this is a number that you can use to text me or call and leave a message.

Google Hangouts: bycmc@go.olemiss.edu

Office Hours (virtual or in person): by appointment after 3:30pm – email to set up

Communication Policy:

E-mail anytime (bycmc@olemiss.edu). I will try my best to return e-mails within 24 hours (except on weekends). Be sure to include the course name (BISC 104 Web) in the subject line and state your full name at the end of the email. I cannot respond to messages and emails from people that are not identified. I teach several online

classes and need to be able to identify the class that the student is in. Your University of Mississippi g-mail account is preferred for correspondence (@go.olemiss.edu).

Google Voice (phone number): Do not call or text after 8:00pm on any night. I will respond within 24 hours, as I do with emails.

Grading may take up to a week (7 days). Please do not email me grade related questions before 7 days have elapsed since the due date.

Required Materials:

Textbook

Hoefnagels, Marielle. 2019. Biology: The Essentials (third edition) Access Code 9781260806977 (includes etext and McGraw-Hill Connect access) – available at Ole Miss Bookstore

Alternate Textbook Option:

Purchase/Rent hard copy text

Hoefnagels, Marielle. 2019. Biology: The Essentials (third edition).
McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN: 978-1259824913

and

McGraw-Hill Connect access (*available through link in this course*)

A free trial access is available through the link in this course as well....it will get you started in the class until you purchase the access (2 weeks).

NOT BEING ABLE TO PURCHASE THE BOOK/CODE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS AN EXCUSE FOR NOT STARTING THE CLASS ON TIME AND MISSING THE FIRST ASSIGNMENTS.

Required Technology:

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:

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 Open Office and Star Office. (I use docx and pptx files)

Google Hangouts: free with your go.olemiss.edu account

Blackboard-supported browser - Firefox 31, Chrome 36, Safari 6, and Internet Explorer 11 are compatible with the current version of Blackboard. We prefer Firefox on all computers.

Download latest versions of these apps here:

[Acrobat Reader](#)

[Flash Player](#)

[QuickTime](#)

Hardware

Computer with consistent high-speed internet access

Headset with microphone, recommended

Computer Speakers, recommended

I recommend running the [Blackboard Browser Check](#) to verify installed plug-ins on your computer.

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 us at 662-915-5222. Email helpdesk@olemiss.edu or visit their website for more information.

UM Policy Information

Copyrighted Materials

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. As an Ole Miss student, you must comply with the [IT Appropriate Use Policy](#). For Appropriate Use Policy questions, send an email to aup@olemiss.edu.

The materials on this course website are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

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.

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.

Attendance Policy

Because of the nature of this online class, students are not required to physically attend classes on campus. The course is presented on a weekly schedule of modules with assigned readings, connect and learnsmart assignments, discussion boards and other material that must be addressed and completed. Students are required to “attend” class on a weekly basis by completing the material required within each module. Failure to do so will result in a zero for each incomplete assignment. Students may work at their own pace and complete assignments ahead of time, up to 2 weeks, however it will not be accepted late at all. All assignments will be available at least 2 weeks prior to the due date/time and students are encouraged to plan ahead so that last minute “technical difficulties” or emergencies do not hinder them from submitting work on time. I highly recommend starting assignments at minimum a day before the deadline.

Absences:

- Students will receive an absence for each module not attempted (as evidenced by at least one submitted assignment) prior to the due date.
- An absence will also be recorded if attempts at communication are not acknowledge in a timely fashion. In the event that the instructor has individually emailed a student with a request for communication, the student will have 4 days

(including weekends) in which to respond to the request. If no response is received an absence will be recorded.

- Excessive absences: A student with excessive absences (5 or greater) may be dismissed and removed from the class rolls following procedures set forth by the University.

Verification of Student Attendance Policy

The University must abide by federal guidelines to verify the participation of online students. For all course types, including thesis, internships, labs, online courses, etc., the instructor must verify your participation based on some type of participation. This may include submission of an online assignment or other course related contact with the instructor.

For this course, completing the syllabus quiz within the first week of class will be used for the attendance verification purposes. (Simply logging into Blackboard will not count as an academically related activity.) [Attendance Policy for Online Education](#)

Student Identity Policy

Federal regulations, our accrediting agency (SACS) and university policies require that safeguards are used to ensure that the student who receives the academic course credit is actually the person doing the work. You will need to present your student ID before taking proctored exams and your instructor may verify your identity through live or virtual meetings, or by using an identity verification program.

Student Privacy Policy

The University of Mississippi protects the privacy of all students, including online and distance learning students, through adherence to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) through compliance with other institutional policies and procedures governing the management and security of protected information of faculty, staff, and students, and by outlining the expectations of privacy for the university community as regards to electronic information. [Student Privacy Policy](#)

Standards of Honesty

The University of Mississippi upholds honor and academic integrity in all of its teaching, research, and service activities. All faculty, staff, and students are charged with the responsibility to behave with personal and professional integrity and to refrain from dishonorable conduct.

If an incident of academic misconduct occurs in this course, the student will receive a failing grade on the assignment/quiz/exam itself. Particularly egregious incidents may result in a grade of "F" for the semester.

Important Note: All homework assignments, quizzes, tests, and other exercises are to be considered individual assignments unless the instructor specifically identifies an assignment as a group assignment. The student should refer to the **"M" Book** for general definitions of academic dishonesty. Written assignments may be required to be submitted to TurnItIn.com to verify the originality of the work.

Students with Disabilities:

University policy provides for reasonable accommodations to be made for students with verified disabilities on an individualized and flexible basis as specified under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Students with disabilities who believe they may benefit from classroom or other accommodations should contact the Office of Student Disability Services for information: 234 Martindale, 662-915-7128 (Phone), 662-915-7907 (TTY Phone), sds@olemiss.edu

BISC 104 Teaching Method

The student is expected to have read assigned materials as listed on the course schedule each week. The assignments within each module emphasize the primary concepts from each chapter and must be completed before the published due date. Because of the nature of this class, it is essential that each student allocate adequate time to prepare for every module. Do not get behind!

Issues approach: Students should understand that this course will cover some controversial issues and the selected materials will present a scientifically relevant discussion of those topics. Students are welcome to share opinions on the topics but must be respectful of all participants, whether or not they agree with points being made in the class.

Course Requirements

This course is broken into 4 units, each of which is made up of 3-4 modules. Each unit will have a proctored summary test of the included modules that must be completed before moving to the next unit.

Each module will have a LearnSmart book reading of one chapter which is recommended, powerpoint/outline summaries of each chapter, a Connect assignment, a journal entry on a relevant topic, a second assignment on a relevant topic to enhance understanding of the content, and a 20-question module quiz. In

total there will be 4 grades within each module. All assignments will be listed in the module checklist.

Review and be sure to study all the information given in every module and complete all assignments. In a "traditional" class, you would spend 2.5 hours per week in a lecture setting. You would also be expected to spend several (5-7.5) hours per week outside the classroom reading and completing homework assignments. You should expect to spend a similar amount of time each week on this class. Most students discover that the online class often requires fewer hours per week due to the elimination of the "normal" lecture time. If you exercise some *self-discipline* in your approach to this class, you should have no difficulty completing all assignments and quizzes within the *total weekly time* associated with a "traditional" class. It is important that you do not fall behind in this class.

Modules will open up 2 weeks before their due dates. The module assignments will be due on **Monday evenings by 11:59 Central time** unless otherwise specified in the syllabus or a course announcement. ***It really is in your best interest to set your personal deadline for the assignments earlier (for example, Friday night) so that you are sure to complete them on time even if you have technical issues, plans on Mondays or emergencies.***

Exams (see below –for more information) – (65% of grade)

There will be four proctored exams, one for each of 3 units and a final that is from the final unit and comprehensive, in this course. The exams are taken "on-line" rather than in person with the instructor. They may be taken at one of the University's testing centers or through Proctor U (a paid proctoring service). These exams assess mastering of the content for the course and will comprise the majority of your final grade (15% each unit exam and the final exam 20%). They will cover mostly the information from the textbook chapter and will have factual questions as well as some questions that will require a more in-depth "understanding" of the content. Each exam also has essay questions that act as "bonus or extra credit" points.

There will be a practice exam available for each of the unit exams.

It is the student's responsibility to make all required arrangements for proctored assessments. For detailed instructions on how to take proctored exams go to the "Exams" section of the course in Blackboard.

Module/Homework Assignments

McGraw-Hill Connect and Learnsmart Content – purchased with the required course textbook code.

LearnSmart/Smartbook Chapters, Chapter Outlines and Powerpoint Chapter Summaries (**0%** of grade)

LearnSmart/Smartbook assignments will accompany each chapter covered and are accessed through a link in the module but are not an assignment to be graded. This technology is an adaptive learning system. As such, it is designed to work with a student to ensure that they are understanding the material assessed. This tool is a guided reading activity where the textbook is linked to practice study questions. The student is asked to first read portions of the chapter and as they make their way through they are directed to practice questions. The practice questions allow the student to say whether or not they are comfortable with the material before they submit the answer and those responses are used to guide further study. Also each question typically has a link to the relevant text passages. The activity will move between reading and questions until the student demonstrates adequate knowledge of the material.

In addition to the smart book, the instructor has provided a powerpoint slide summary of each chapter and an outline form summary for the student to use to guide their studying.

These tools will not be used in the grading of the course but should be thought of as taking the place of an instructor's lecture on the material.

Module Connect Assignments (10% of grade)

Connect assignments will be available on the McGraw-Hill Connect site accessed by a link in the module and will cover the course content. They are designed to summarize learning from the chapter and you will obtain maximum scores by preparing well before you attempt the assignment. Typically you should at least read the chapter and do the and look over the powerpoint before attempting these. A student will have 2 attempts at each assignment of 10 questions. Questions will include true/false, multiple choice, figure labeling, ordering of processes and matching. Questions may involve multiple parts or may be a single question. The assignments are set up so that the second attempt allows you to "correct" the first attempt, rather than doing the entire assignment

again. There are hints available to use if needed. Again, to reach your maximum score you should prepare for the quiz before you attempt it. After the first attempt, re-read material that you were unsure of and then take the second attempt and correct the mistakes.

Module Blackboard Assignments (Journals and Assignments) (10% of grade)

Journals

In each module a journal entry or discussion board will be required on a topic related to that module's content. Each of these assignments will be graded based on content posted and how well you articulate your answer or position. In the discussion boards you will be expected to take a position and/or explain a topic based on a prompt from the instructor. You will then be required to respond to 2 other student posts to earn the full score (75% for your post 15% for one response and 10% for the second response. In the second you will choose a topic from a provided list and research it. All journal entries must have supporting documentation (references – web site addresses, book citations, etc.). You will typically need to research to find documentation for your posts. As long as you support your argument, answer the prompt adequately, and include references to support your essay, you will get full credit. A lack of references will typically lead to a 10% deduction in points. Your posts should be adequate to address the topic fully and points will be deducted if your entry is substandard (that includes too brief). The rubrics for grading are available. Reminder: I do deduct credit for non-referenced posts, incorrect information and missing information.

Assignments

Each module will contain an additional assignment that varies module to module and will be graded. These will include a variety of activities, including web scavenger hunts, videos to watch, click and learn activities and others, along with some assessment, including writings, quizzes, etc. On several of these you are given choices as to which assignment to do or video to watch. Each assignment is a minimal part of your final grade but cumulative incomplete assignments should be avoided as they do negatively affect your grade. These activities are provided to encourage you to learn more about the topic than you will get just from the book.

Throughout the course, there may be questions from listed websites and videos that can be used to address essay questions on exams. Be sure to explore the sites and watch videos to the end.

Rules for Written Assignments

Every submitted assignment must follow English grammar rules. Proper language, punctuation and sentence structure are required. Colloquialisms, slang and text talk are not appropriate. Proper biological and scientific terminology, especially related to the topic of the module, is required. Submissions that contain grammatical errors, including lack of capitalization and punctuation will not be graded. Remember that this is a college course and not a conversation with your friends. “Text speak” is not allowed.

Module Quizzes (15% of grade)

A summary quiz over all of the material in a module will be taken before proceeding to the next module. These quizzes will cover learning objectives for the module and will consist of 20 multiple choice questions from the material in the chapter covered. These quizzes are done in Blackboard and will be similar in format to questions that will be on the unit exams. The average of all quizzes will make up 15% of the final grade.

Proctored Testing

This course has 4 proctored assessments. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule the appointment(s) for any proctored assessment(s). Please note that your instructor has limited the date and time that the assessment(s) is available. Please check the course schedule for specific information about the proctored assessment(s).

To schedule an appointment follow the link below:

<http://online.olemiss.edu/testschedule/index.html>

Scheduling appointments and making changes is MUCH easier if you make an account in the scheduling system rather than a guest account. The Oxford testing lab

(DETL) cannot assist you in making or rescheduling your testing appointments. You must use the link provided. All test appointments must be made two hours in advance.

If you do not show up for your exam or reschedule your appointment online at least two hours before the testing time, you will not be able to reschedule and I will be notified. Treat these appointments just as you would if you were testing with me.

If you have questions regarding proctored testing at a regional campus (Desoto, Grenada, Booneville, Tupelo) contact that campus directly:

Desoto: Twyla Loftiss (662) 393-1674 twyla@olemiss.edu

Tupelo: Carrie Cannon (662) 690-2017 ckcrouch@olemiss.edu

Booneville: Kim Gray (662) 720-7781 kstevens@olemiss.edu

Grenada: LaTonya Pittman (662) 227-2348 lpittma@olemiss.edu

It is important that you report to the testing center at least 10 MINUTES BEFORE your appointment. If you are late, you will not be allowed to test.

You must have a valid Ole Miss ID, state issued driver's license, or passport in order to take your exam. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!

If you are unable to take your proctored assessments at UM or a UM regional campus, your other option is to use ProctorU, an online proctoring service. Use the link above to access the Online at Ole Miss testing page to learn more about ProctorU and schedule an exam. There is a charge for ProctorU services.

Taking tests at a UM Testing center is free, but there is a \$20 late fee for scheduling or rescheduling midterms and finals after 5 pm the Friday prior to the test week.

Grading Policy

University Grading Policy

The University uses a grading scale that includes the grades A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, and F, in addition to W and I. A web site, <http://olemiss.edu/info/grading.html>, explains the new grading scale.

Inquiry Into Life Biology Course instructors use the +/- system that the University adopted. As such, the grade distribution will be as follows:

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

Breakdown of Grading for BISC 104 online

For this course, your grade is composed of the following components:

Module Blackboard Assignments	10% (drop lowest 2 scores)
Module Connect Assignments	10% (drop lowest assignment score)
Module Quizzes	15% (drop lowest quiz score)
Unit 1 Exam	15%
Unit 2 Exam	15%
Unit 3 Exam	15%
Final Exam (Unit 4 + Comprehensive)	20%

BISC 104 Web Course Schedule Spring 2020

Unit	Module	Material	Assignments	Assignment Available	Due Date
	Intro Module	Read syllabus Lesson summary Familiarize with Blackboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Syllabus Quiz ✓ Log in and register for McGraw-Hill Connect and LearnSmart ✓ Discussion – Introduce Yourself 	January 21	January 27
1	1	Forces of Evolutionary Change Readings: Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 12 ✓ Module 1 Connect Assignment ✓ Making of a Theory Quiz ✓ Journal - Examples of Adaptation by Natural Selection ✓ Module 1 Blackboard Quiz 	January 21	February 3
1	2	Evidence of Evolution Readings: Chapter 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 13 ✓ Module 2 Connect Assignment ✓ Module 2 Video Quiz ✓ Journal – How Strong is our Evidence? ✓ Module 2 Blackboard Quiz 	January 27	February 10

1	3	Speciation and Extinction Readings: Chapter 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 14 ✓ Module 3 Connect Assignment ✓ Defining a Species dropbox ✓ Journal – Speciation ✓ Module 3 Blackboard Quiz 	February 3	February 17
Unit 1 Exam		Covers Chapters 12-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Study attempts are allowed on LearnSmart ✓ Practice Exam is available 	February 24	February 26
2	4	Diversity of Microbial Life Readings: Chapter 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 15 ✓ Module 4 Connect Assignment ✓ Microbial Life Video Quiz ✓ Journal – Microbial Diseases ✓ Module 4 Blackboard Quiz 	February 17	March 2
2	5	Diversity of Plants Readings: Chapter 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 16 ✓ Module 5 Connect Assignment ✓ Plant Adaptation dropbox ✓ Journal – Plant Distribution ✓ Module 5 Blackboard Quiz 	February 24	March 9

2	6	Diversity of Animals Readings: Chapter 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 17 ✓ Module 6 Connect Assignment ✓ Invertebrate Diversity Video summary ✓ Journal Your Inner Video summary ✓ Module 6 Blackboard Quiz 	March 2	March 16
Unit 2 Exam		Covers Chapters 15-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Study attempts are allowed on LearnSmart ✓ Practice Exam is available 	March 18	March 20
3	7	Plant Anatomy Readings: Chapter 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 21 ✓ Module 7 Connect Assignment ✓ Plant Structure and Growth Quiz ✓ Journal – Products from Plants ✓ Module 7 Blackboard Quiz 	March 9	March 23
3	8	Plant Reproduction Readings: Chapter 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 22 ✓ Module 8 Connect Assignment ✓ Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind dropbox 	March 16	March 30

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Journal – Seed Dispersal ✓ Module 8 Blackboard Quiz 		
3	9	Capture of Solar Energy Readings: Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 5 ✓ Module 9 Connect Assignment ✓ Assignment Choice – complete one ✓ Journal – Plants and Air Quality ✓ Module 9 Blackboard Quiz 	March 23	April 6
Unit 3 Exam		Covers Chapters 21, 22, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Study attempts are allowed on LearnSmart ✓ Practice Exam is available 	April 7	April 9
4	10	Population Ecology Readings: Chapter 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 18 ✓ Module 10 Connect Assignment ✓ Loggerhead Turtle Activity/Quiz ✓ Journal – Hunting/Fishing ✓ Module 10 Blackboard Quiz 	March 30	April 13

4	11	Interactions between Species Readings: Chapter 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 19 ✓ Module 11 Connect Assignment ✓ Barnacle Community Simulation dropbox ✓ Journal – Aquatic Biomes ✓ Module 11 Blackboard Quiz 	April 6	April 20
4	12	What Can We Do? Readings: Chapter 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Read/Study Chapter 20 ✓ Module 12 Connect Assignment ✓ Invasive Species dropbox ✓ Journal – Human Impact on Global Climate ✓ Module 12 Blackboard Quiz 	April 13	April 27
4	13	Ecology and Evolution Wrap-Up Video: NOVA Mass Extinctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Journal – Ecology and Evolution Summary ✓ Extra credit Flip Grid 	April 20	May 4
Unit 4 and Final Exam	Final Exam	Chapters 18-20 plus Comprehensive	✓ Final Exam	May 4 (Actual start date may change due to testing center scheduling)	May 7