

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

COURSE TITLE: BIOL 120 The Nature of Life  
COURSE CODE: 82040  
COURSE CREDITS: 3.0  
CLASS SECTION: 02  
CLASS LOCATION: Room 241, Arts Bldg.  
CLASS TIME: 10:00 to 11:20 (T, R)  
LAB LOCATION: Rooms 202 and 218 Biology Bldg. LAB TIME: 8.30 to 11.20 am (R) or  
1.30 to 4.20 pm (M,T,W,R,F), 5.30 to 8.20 pm (M, T, W)

TERM: Winter 2017  
DELIVERY: Lecture & Practicum (Lab)  
START DATE: Jan 4, 2017

WEBSITE: Via Blackboard

This course is designed to introduce you to the vast and exciting field of biology, with a focus on events that are not normally visible to the naked eye. Covering topics in cell biology, genetics and evolution, Biology 120.3 is one of two foundation courses for biology majors and for students going into Natural Sciences (Program C). Biology 120.3 also counts towards the biology requirements of a number of programs in different colleges across campus. Biology 121.3 - The Diversity of Life - is the sister course to Biology 120.3, and focuses on biological diversity, evolution, adaptations of organisms to specific environments, and the factors influencing changes in biodiversity over time and space.

### **ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of BIOL 120.3 you should be able to describe, classify, and discuss aspects of cell theory, cell division, genetics, bioenergetics, and the molecular basis for variation and natural selection. The laboratory portion of the course will help link these topics together with hands-on exercises. After completing the lab section of the course, you should know how to use a microscope to visualize cells and tissues and how to solve basic genetics problems. Detailed learning objectives for each lecture topic will be posted in Blackboard Learn.

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Dr. Amr El Zawily**

Biology Building RM 144  
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**Gillian Murza**

Biology Building RM 216      966-4423  
Lab Coordinator  
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Lab Coordinator  
Biol 150      966-4493  
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**Office Hours: 8:45 – 9:15 AM (M, W, F). RM 144 Biology Bldg.**

## **INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES: TEXTBOOK AND LAB MANUAL**

The required textbook for Biology 120.3 is *Biology - Exploring the Diversity of Life (3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Edition)* by Russell *et al.*, Nelson Education Ltd. The textbook will be referred to regularly during lectures both in terms of content and for the use of visual aids. It is also helpful for reviewing the material. You will not need to bring your textbook to class. The textbook material we will be covering is outlined on the last page of this outline and will be the core testable material for the course. Copies of the textbook will be available from the reserve desk in the Science Library, for short term, in library use. The lectures are intended to highlight and reinforce key concepts. Please see the *Learning Objectives Summary*, which will be posted on Blackboard with this outline for a more detailed description of the topics you will be responsible for on the midterm and final exams. All sections of the course will sit common midterm and final exams.

The Lab Manual for Biology 120.3 (2016-17 Edition) is required for the course, and must be brought to each lab session. It is available for purchase from the U of S Bookstore.

## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

There are a number of online resources to help support your learning in Biol120. We highly recommend the use of these resources as a means to help increase your performance and success in this course.

Blackboard Learn (<https://bblearn.usask.ca>) is where you will be able to access lecture notes, learning objectives, and other resources from your instructor.

All students will have access to an online biology course in Open Learning Initiative (OLI). This online course will be accessed through Blackboard and provides additional readings, animations, and self-tests. **OLI is also where you will access your weekly online quizzes.**

Those students who purchase a copy of the textbook (including the electronic version) will have access to MindTap, which is an online platform that provides access to a digital copy of the textbook, animations, and self-tests. Using MindTap is not a requirement for this course.

## **STRUCTURED STUDY SESSIONS (University Learning Centre)**

Biol120 Structured Study Sessions are weekly \*peer-led study sessions that run throughout the term. These regularly scheduled study sessions give you the opportunity to review and complete exercises on the course material, revisit more difficult concepts, and practice your exam-writing skills through mock exam sessions for the midterm and final exams.

All Biol120 students are welcome to attend structured study sessions. Pre-registration is not required and attendance is free. All that you need to do is show up to the session at the scheduled time and location and be open to learning! Watch your course Blackboard site and [library.usask.ca/sss](http://library.usask.ca/sss) for the schedule of sessions.

\*Note: Structured Study Sessions are run by experienced students who've already completed Biol120, and achieved an excellent grade. Research has shown that students who attend Structured Study Sessions achieve higher grades than those who don't.

## **STUDENT ADVICE RECOMMENDER AGENT (SARA)**

Each week through Blackboard you will receive tailored, personalized advice from SARA. This advice will guide you to additional University and online resources, and provide reminders to help you succeed in this course.

## **STUDENT REVIEW AND COURSE PREPARATION (PURPLE PAGES)**

There is prerequisite material that will not be directly covered in lectures. This material is expected knowledge from high school courses. Students should review this information ahead of time because it is important for the understanding of many basic biological topics we will cover.

In the textbook you will find this section in the middle of the book denoted by the purple colouring (pgs. F2-F56). This section contains basic information about the chemical and physical foundations of Biology, as well as a review of the macromolecules that make up living things (proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates and lipids). [Knowledge of some of this information will be needed to understand course content and answer questions on the lab quizzes, midterm and final exams.](#)

## **EVALUATION**

**Lecture Examinations:** Students must bring their current University of Saskatchewan student card to all exams and be prepared to present it for verification purposes. It is forbidden for students to utilize any type of electronic device during an exam (e.g., cell phone, dictionary, translator, etc.) (See Academic Honesty section below).

There will be one Midterm Lecture Exam to be held outside of class time on the evening of Thursday February 9, 2017 – 5:30-6:20 pm at a location to be announced. In the event that you miss this exam due to a medical emergency or another exceptional circumstance, you must advise your instructor within THREE WORKING DAYS of the missed exam. If you do not advise your instructor within three working days, or do not have an acceptable excuse, a grade of zero will be assigned.

The Final Lecture Exam will be arranged by the Registrar's Office. The exam period starts on April 7, 2017. Accommodations will not be made for students making travel arrangements during this time frame. If a student is absent for a legitimate reason he/she may apply for a Deferred Final Exam within THREE WORKING DAYS of the missed exam to the Dean's Office of the College in which the student is registered.

**Weekly Online Quizzes:** There will be 10 weekly online quizzes that are accessed on OLI through the Blackboard Course Tools link in PAWS. Quizzes will be about 10 questions in length and will be available for you to complete between Tuesday and Monday of each week. You will be allowed to attempt each quiz up to two times. The highest of the two scores achieved will be recorded. These 10 quizzes will account for 10% of your final grade. Late quiz attempts cannot be accommodated due to software limitations.

**Laboratory Examinations:** There will be two Laboratory Exams. Lab Exam 1 will be in the week of January 30 February 3, 2017. Lab Exam 2 will be in the week of March 27-31, 2017. Consult the 2016-17 Lab Manual for the procedure to follow for a missed Lab or Lab Exam.

There are other regular assignments and quizzes required for successful completion of the laboratory component of the course, and these are outlined in the Lab Manual.

## GRADES

The final grade is calculated as follows:

Lecture Mid-term Exam	12.5%
Lecture Final Exam	37.5%
Weekly online quizzes (OLI)	10%
Lab Assignments and Quizzes	15%
Lab Final 1	10%
Lab Final 2	15%
TOTAL	100%

## IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES

Tuesday Jan 17 Deadline for Registration changes for winter Term 2 and multi-term classes with 100% tuition credit.

Tuesday Jan 24 Last day to withdraw from winter Term 2 with 75% tuition credit.

Wednesday Feb 15 -Last day from multi-term (September-April) classes.

Wednesday Mar 15<sup>th</sup>-Last day to withdraw from Winter Term 2 classes.

## LABORATORIES

Labs begin in the week of Jan 9, 2017. PAWS registration will give you a time and day of the week for your lab section. Room assignments are made by the Biol. 120 lab coordinator Gillian Murza. Lab room assignments will be posted on Blackboard Learn immediately before your first scheduled lab (check this list when you arrive for the lab to determine in which room you have been placed). Hard copies of the lists will be posted on the bulletin board outside Biology Rm. 202, on the second floor of the Biology Building. Students are expected to attend, and be prepared for, all scheduled labs, lab reviews and final lab exams. A general lab schedule is provided in this hand-out.

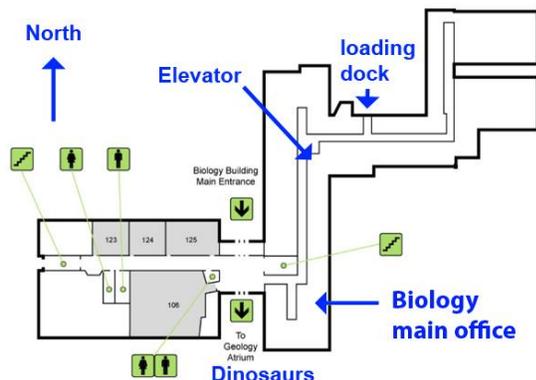
The 2016-2017 edition of the Lab Manual for Biology 120.3 is required for all labs. Please make sure that you have read the lab instructions and are prepared for the assigned exercises before going to each of your scheduled lab sessions. Any other questions regarding the lab should be directed to the laboratory instructional staff in Rm. 216 of the Biology Building.

## STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY

Students who have disabilities (learning, medical, physical, or mental health) are strongly encouraged to register with Disability Services for Students (DSS) if they have not already done so. Students who suspect they may have disabilities should contact DSS for advice and referrals. In order to access DSS programs and supports, students must follow DSS policy and procedures.

For more information, check <http://students.usask.ca/disability/>, or contact DSS at 966-7273 or [dss@usask.ca](mailto:dss@usask.ca). Students registered with DSS may request alternative arrangements for mid-term and final examinations. Students must arrange such accommodations through DSS by the stated deadlines. Instructors shall provide the examinations for students who are being accommodated by the deadlines established by DSS.

Students requiring an elevator for access to the second floor in the Biology Building (teaching labs and some faculty offices) may use the elevator in the Museum of Natural Sciences. Alternatively, or



if offices on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Biology Building need to be accessed, there is an elevator located at the north end of the research wing, opposite Room 130.

### **Integrity Defined (from the Office of the University Secretary)**

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. All students should be familiar with the Regulations on Academic Student Misconduct

<http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/StudentAcademicMisconduct.pdf> as well as the Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints and Appeals (<http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/StudentNon-AcademicMisconduct.pdf>).

For more information on what academic integrity means for students see the Student Conduct & Appeals section of the University Secretary Website at: <http://www.usask.ca/secretariat/student-conduct-appeals/academic-misconduct.php>

### **Chapters and sections in Russell et al: *Biology, exploring the diversity of life***

Please note: Materials in the following sections from Russell *et al.* constitute all of the testable material for the lecture exams. The lecture presentations are to highlight and synthesize essential concepts, and to provide opportunities for class discussion and interaction.

Chapter 2 – The Cell: an Overview – §2–2.5c

Chapter 8 – Cell Cycles § 8.1 – 8.4

Chapter 9 – Genetic Recombination – §9.3 a-c - Meiosis

Chapter 3 – Defining Life and its Origin – §3–3.4c

Chapter 4 – Energy and Enzymes – §4–4.5d

Chapter 5 – Cell Membranes and Transport – §5–5.6 b

Chapter 10 – Mendel, Genes, & Inheritance – §10–10.2

Chapter 11 – Genes, Chromosomes, & Human Genetics – §11–11.2

Chapter 12 – DNA Structure, Replication, & Organization – §12–12.3

Chapter 13 – Gene structure & expression – §13–13.4

Chapter 6 – Cellular respiration – §6–6.7 d

Chapter 7 – Photosynthesis – §7–7.4 c

*Final lecture exam – comprehensive – covers all of the lecture material in the course*

### **Lectures (T, R : 10:00 to 11:20 AM – Room 241, Arts Bldg) and lab schedule for Biol 120.3 Section 02 – Jan-Apr. 2017**

	<b>Lecture topic</b>	<b>Lab # &amp; Topic</b>
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 4-6	Introduction, Cell Biology	No lab
<b>Week 2</b> Jan 9-13	Cell Biology	1. Introduction, Microscopy and Cells
<b>Week 3</b>	Cell Cycle, Meiosis	2. Eukaryotic Cell Structure

Jan 16-20		and Function
<b>Week 4</b> Jan 23-27	Meiosis, Origin of life	3. Osmosis and Cell Division
<b>Week 5</b> Jan 30-Feb 3	Energy & Enzymes	Lab Exam 1
<b>Week 6</b> Feb 6-10	Membrane Structure	NO LAB
<b>Feb 9 - Midterm Lecture Exam</b> - Not in class time – 5:30-6:30 pm. Location will be announced		
<b>Week 7</b> Feb 13-15	Membrane Transport	4. Sexual Life Cycles and Meiosis
Feb 17	Mendelian Genetics	
<b>Week 8</b> Feb 20-24	University Break	
<b>Week 9</b> Feb 27, Mar 1 & 3	Genetics	5. Introduction to Genetics
<b>Week 10</b> Mar 6-10	Human genetics, DNA Structure and Replication	6. Human Genetics and Gene Linkage
<b>Week 11</b> Mar 13-17	Gene Expression	7. Biotechnology: Techniques & Applications
<b>Week 12</b> Mar 20-24	Cellular Respiration	Review Lab
<b>Week 13</b> Mar 27-31	Photosynthesis	Lab Exam 2
<b>Week 14</b> Apr 3-6	Photosynthesis and Review	No lab

FINAL EXAMS start on Apr 7<sup>th</sup>. Date and Locations will be announced by the Registrar's Office.