



# UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Department of Biology

## COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE TITLE: BIOL 120 The Nature of Life  
COURSE CODE: 82041 TERM: Fall 2016  
COURSE CREDITS: 3.0 DELIVERY: Lecture & Practicum (Lab)  
CLASS SECTION: 02 START DATE: Sept 6, 2016  
CLASS LOCATION: Room 1150 HLTH  
LAB LOCATION: Rooms 202 and 204 Biology Bldg.  
CLASS TIME: 1:00 to 2:20 (Tues/Thurs)  
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

#### Instructor

Dr. Ken Wilson  
Biology Building RM 151/152      966-4400  
[ken.wilson@usask.ca](mailto:ken.wilson@usask.ca)

Office Hours: by appointment or after lecture

#### Lab Coordinator

Gillian Murza  
Biology Building RM 216      966-4423  
[gillian.murza@usask.ca](mailto:gillian.murza@usask.ca)

## **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 UofS 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 **access to your weekly online quizzes** that will count towards your final grade in the course.

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 **Wednesday October 12, 2016** – 5:30-6:30 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 Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and does not end until Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 Oct 3-7, 2016. Lab Exam 2 will be in the week of Nov 28-Dec 2, 2016. **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

Mon Sept 19 - Deadline for Registration changes for Fall Term 1 and multi-term (September to April) classes with 100% tuition credit.

Monday Sept 26 - Last day to withdraw from Fall Term 1 classes with 75% tuition credit.

Tues Oct 18 - Last day to withdraw from Winter Term 1 classes with 50% tuition credit.

Tue Nov 15 - Last day to withdraw from Winter Term 1 classes.

## LABORATORIES

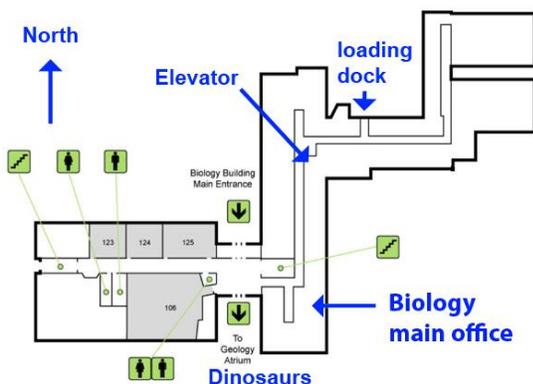
Labs begin in the week of Sept 12, 2016. PAWS registration will give you a time and day of the week for your lab section. Room assignments are made by the Biol. 120 lab coordinator Gillian Murza. Lab room assignments will be posted on Blackboard Learn immediately before your first scheduled lab (check 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 conduct. Students are expected to be familiar with 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. Breaches of the Academic Code of Conduct can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. Please see the following websites:

<http://policies.usask.ca/documents/GuidelinesForAcademicConduct.php>

[http://www.usask.ca/university\\_secretary/honesty/StudentNon-AcademicMisconduct2012.pdf](http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/honesty/StudentNon-AcademicMisconduct2012.pdf).

### **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 designed to highlight and synthesize essential concepts, and to provide opportunities for class discussion and interaction.

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Sections of the Textbook</b>
Chapter 2	The Cell: An Overview	2 - 2.5c
Chapter 8	The Cell Cycle and Mitosis	8.1 - 8.4
Chapter 9	Meiosis	9.3 a-c
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 - 6.7d
Chapter 7	Photosynthesis	7 - 7.4 c

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

**Lectures (M/W/F 12:30 to 1:30 pm – Rm 1150 HLTH) and lab schedule for Biol 120.3 Section 01 – Sept-Dec. 2016**

	<b>Lecture topic</b>	<b>Lab # &amp; Topic</b>
<b>Week 1</b> Sept 7-9	Introduction, Cell Biology	No lab
<b>Week 2</b> Sept 12-16	Cell Biology	1. Introduction, Microscopy and Cells
<b>Week 3</b> Sept 19-23	Cell Cycle, Meiosis	2. Eukaryotic Cell Structure and Function
<b>Week 4</b> Sept 26-30	Meiosis, Origin of life	3. Osmosis and Cell Division
<b>Week 5</b> Oct 3-7	Energy & Enzymes	Lab Exam 1
<b>Week 6</b> Oct 12-14	Membrane Structure	NO LAB
<b>Oct 12 - Midterm Lecture Exam</b> - Not in class time – 5:30-6:30 pm. Location will be announced		
<b>Week 7</b> Oct 17 -21	Membrane Transport Mendelian Genetics	4. Sexual Life Cycles and Meiosis
<b>Week 8</b> Oct 24-28	Genetics	5. Introduction to Genetics
<b>Week 9</b> Oct 31, Nov 2-4	Human genetics, DNA Structure and Replication	6. Human Genetics and Gene Linkage
<b>Week 10</b> Nov 7-11	University Fall Break Week	
<b>Week 11</b> Nov. 14-18	Gene Expression	7. Biotechnology: Techniques & Applications
<b>Week 12</b> Nov 21-25	Cellular Respiration	Review Lab
<b>Week 13</b> Nov 28-Dec 2	Photosynthesis	Lab Exam 2
<b>Week 14</b> Dec 5-7	Photosynthesis and Review	No lab

FINAL EXAMS start on Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Date and Locations will be announced by the Registrar's Office.