Rule 6A-14.092 Textbook and Course Material Affordability and Transparency

Semester Information

1. BSC 1005 General Biological Science, Online Course
2. 3 credit / hours
3. CRN 15338
4. Pre-requisite: Placement into college level reading is required
5. Co-requisite: Placement into college level English is recommended.
6. Spring 2025

Contact Information

1. Instructor: Ms. Carrie Fioramonti, Master of Science Biology
2. Telephone: 850-769-1551 x4010
3. Instructor email: cfioramon@gulfcoast.edu
4. Division Chair: Ms. Fledia Ellis, 850-872-3848
5. Admin Asst: Kathy Bleday 850-872-3851

Approved Course Materials and Resources

1. Textbook Information: Biology: The Core, 3rd Edition/2020, by Eric Simon, Publisher: Pearson
   a. Soft/Bound Edition - ISBN 10: 0-134-8915-11; ISBN 13: 978-0-134-89151-4
   b. Looseleaf Edition - ISBN 10: 0-135-27165-7; ISBN 13: 978-0-135-27165-0
   c. eBook - ISBN-13: 9780135832646
2. CANVAS learning management system account and Gulf Coast email address.

Curriculum

1. Course Description: This is a basic general education course designed to give the student an understanding of the (1) cellular basis of life, (2) genetics and inheritance, (3) evolution and diversity, and (4) ecology. Concepts that support these areas of study are integrated throughout the course.
2. Instructional Delivery: Instruction will be delivered as Units and Core Issues and will consist of a mixture of lectures/videos for note-taking and reading assignments from the textbook that accompany the lectures. Assessment will include exams, quizzes, and homework.
3. Goals of Course: This course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of how life exists at the cellular, organismal, and ecosystem levels. Biological theories, such as cell theory, DNA theory, the theory of evolution, the diversity of life will be explored. Applications for biology such as genetic engineering, preservation and conservation of biodiversity will be emphasized. Finally, a major goal of this course is to stimulate Scientific and Biological Literacy.
4. Approved Student Learning Outcomes:

   N-1: Nature of Science Outcomes

   1.1 critically examine, evaluate, and/or design scientific observation, hypothesis tests, and model construction.
   1.2 identify reputable/credible sources for biological information
   1.3 apply scientific and biological knowledge, concepts and principles to solve real-world problems.

   N-2: Biological Science Outcomes

2.1 define/discuss basic biological concepts and theories, such as Cell Theory, DNA Theory, and the Theory of Evolution
2.2 describe the organization and interconnectedness of biological organisms.
2.3 apply their knowledge of DNA Theory and cellular processes to investigate questions and problems in topics such as inheritance, evolution, and forensic science.
2.4 explain flow of energy and nutrients through ecosystems and the biosphere
discuss anthropogenic effects on ecosystems and the biosphere such as human population growth and sustainability

Student Expectations of the Instructor

1. Availability outside of class – office hours: Professor will be available outside of class for 10 hours per week to discuss course content or issues related to course outcomes and success.
2. Response time: Emails and voicemails will be answered at least once per weekday. Expect a reply within 24 hours of receipt with except of over weekend which will be 72 hours.
3. LMS: Canvas will house all materials for the course.

Expectations of the Student

1. Academic Integrity Policy: Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college's mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated. "Cheating" includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work. "Plagiarism" includes, but it not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.
2. Student Accessibility Statement: Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.
3. Lecture Recording Policy: In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the current Student Handbook on the Gulf Coast State College website.
4. Attendance: Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered. Attendance will be taken for each class as a perfunctory task.. A student must show academic activity for this course within first two weeks of the semester or they will be reported as a "No Show" and withdrawn from the course. Emails do not count as academic activity, nor does Canvas Activity. Participation by attendance or assignment submission will be required.
5. Withdrawal: Students wishing to withdraw from a course must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the

college calendar. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline (see Academic Calendar)will be recorded as a grade of "W". Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

6. Incomplete Grade Policy: To receive a grade of "I" (for "Incomplete") in a class, the student must submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last day of the course. The "Incomplete" option is only intended to help students who have an emergency arise in the last weeks of the class that prevents them from finishing all work. The "Incomplete" provides 30 days from the ending date of the course to make up any missing work. If work is not submitted during this time period, the grade will automatically change to an "F".
7. Laptop / Personal Technology Policy: All cell phones must be turned off (not on vibrate) and put away (in a pocket, a purse, or a back pack) by the time class starts and may not be visible until the instructor has left the room at the end of class except when used for class activity. Sending or receiving cell phone calls, pages or text messages is not allowed except for law enforcement officers, firefighters or other first responders. Other than these, any student who leaves the classroom to use a cell phone will not be permitted back in class and an absence may be assessed. Unauthorized use of a cell phone in class can be construed as a Disruptive Act as defined in the Student Code of Conduct in the GCSC Student Handbook and as a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy and may result in dismissal from the class. The student cannot be readmitted to the class without seeing the Chair of the Natural Sciences Division and obtaining clearance to attend class.

Method of Student Performance

1. Method of Assessment: Unit exams, a final exam, quizzes, and homework/projects.
2. GCSC Grading Scale:
    a. A 90 – 100%
    b. B 80 – 89%
    c. C 70 – 79%
    d. D 60 – 69%
    e. F < 60%