

Introduction to Biology Syllabus

BIO 1303

Course Description

The TEL Education Introduction to Biology course provides a comprehensive introduction to the major concepts of biological sciences and the characteristics of life. The course is designed to engage students in understanding the major processes of cells including cell structure, growth, and reproduction. The course provides the student with an in-depth understanding of genetics and heredity as well as the roles they play in the overall function and continued growth of a population. Other topics include ecology and biodiversity.

Course Outcomes

- Analyze and evaluate the structure and processes of living things at a micro (cellular) and macro level, including the acquisition and use of energy.
 - Analyze and evaluate the interactions and dynamics of the characteristics of ecosystems.
 - Evaluate and apply the characteristics and mechanisms of genetics as they relate to heredity and inherited traits.
 - Evaluate and apply the characteristics of genetics and adaptation as they apply to population, biodiversity, and ecosystems.
 - Evaluate a scenario and identify the best answer, and engage with others to explain your rationale.
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Course Materials

All readings and materials necessary to complete required exercises are provided within the course platform. Links to additional, optional resources on external websites are also provided for each lesson in the Lesson Toolbox.

You have also been enrolled in the TEL Orientation course. It is highly recommended that you complete the orientation course to familiarize yourself with how courses are structured, assignments are submitted, grades are recorded, and much more. This is located on your dashboard with your other courses.

Course Length

This is a self-paced course allowing students to learn according to their personal schedules. Overall, it is estimated that the course will take approximately 142 hours to complete.

We recommend that you work through the course at a comfortable pace that allows you to make regular, incremental (daily and/or weekly) progress. If you need assistance with scheduling your time in this course, please refer to the pacing guide provided to you in the course documents, located on your course page. Please note, there is no penalty for late assignments as this is a self-paced course. However, if you are enrolled in a TEL course through a school or institution, you are required to finish the course according to the academic calendar of your respective school or institution.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Minimum Passing Grade

To earn college credit for this course, students must earn a minimum average grade of 70% or higher. If you are a high school student and you receive less than 70% in this course, it is up to your school to grant high school credit for the completion of the course. A complete list of requirements is provided in the Course Requirements Document.

Grading Policies

Grade Weighting

Assignment Category	Number	Grade Percentage
Participation (CYKs and Discussion Reflective Evaluation Survey)	58 CYKs 1 Discussion Survey	10%
Module Quizzes	10	25%
Mastery Assignments	3	15%
Course Exam 1	1	25%
Course Exam 2	1	25%

Assignment Grading Descriptions

Assignment Category	Description
Participation (CYKs, and Discussions)	<p>Check Your Knowledge (CYK) - Multiple choice quizzes that are auto-graded. Students may take these as many times as desired to practice for module quizzes. Students receive full credit for attempting a CYK quiz but must complete it at least once to earn participation credit.</p> <p>Discussions - Twice in the course, students will be prompted with a case study in which they will have to select the best solution to the given problem. Students will be prompted to defend their selection using evidence from the materials learned in the course and will be asked to analyze and evaluate other solutions developed by their peers. At the end of the course, students will be asked to complete a Reflective Evaluation Survey to reflect on their experiences in the student interaction hub and evaluate their participation. This survey must be completed before receiving points towards discussion participation.</p>
Module Quizzes	Multiple choice quizzes that are auto-graded. Students may use notes and refer back to lessons using a separate browser or the printable versions of lessons. Quizzes are not timed. Students may take these only once.
Mastery Assignments	Unit quizzes created to help students understand how to evaluate and analyze case-based scenarios and problems that would commonly appear in the subject area. Questions are more difficult, scenario focused questions that require students to synthesize information they have learned across multiple modules. Students may use notes and refer back to lessons using a separate browser or the printable versions of lessons. Quizzes are not timed. Students may take these only once.
Course Exam 1	Proctored, multiple-choice exam that is auto-graded. Students may take this only once.
Course Exam 2	Proctored, multiple-choice exam that is auto-graded. Students may take this only once.

Assignment Schedule

Assignment	Module Due
Mastery Assignment 1: Mastering Introduction to Biology Quiz	4
Mastery Assignment 2: Mastering Introduction to Biology Quiz	7

Course Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

TEL students are expected to practice academic integrity. If it is determined that a student has failed to comply with the Academic Integrity Policy, the issue(s) in question will be addressed by TEL, and subsequent action will be taken. TEL retains sole discretion to determine whether student conduct violates TEL's policies, and this policy does not create due process or other appeal rights for students.

Cheating TEL students are expected to refrain from acts of cheating. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- Accessing or attempting to access unauthorized course material
- Providing or attempting to provide unauthorized course material(s) to another person
- Using or attempting to use study aids during an academic exercise or examination unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Copying or attempting to copy another person's work
- Allowing another person to copy or attempt to copy your work
- Allowing someone else to complete your work
- Completing or attempting to complete someone else's work

Plagiarism TEL students are expected to produce original work and refrain from acts of plagiarism. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following:

- Copying someone else's work word-for-word
- Adopting someone else's ideas and presenting them as your own
- Using someone else's original work without acknowledging or citing the source

TEL instructors and instructional staff will use plagiarism detection software and other means to check writing assignments for plagiarism.

Appropriate Use of Technology TEL students are expected to use technology appropriately. Examples of the misuse of technology include, but are not limited to the following:

- Bypassing or attempting to bypass proctoring services
- Using or attempting to use unauthorized technology devices for examinations
- Providing or attempting to provide system credentials to an unauthorized person

Action in Response to Academic Misconduct Students who knowingly and willingly engage in academic misconduct will be subjected to disciplinary action. Issues brought to or discovered by TEL will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Action stemming from the result of an inquiry may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Issuance of an Academic Integrity Warning
- A grade reduction for the assignment or examination in question
- A zero for the assignment or examination in question
- Dismissal from the course
- Any other disciplinary action deemed appropriate by TEL

Discussions Students are expected to stay on topic and refrain from using vulgar or offensive language. Examples include, but are not limited to, inappropriate acronyms, profanity, derogatory terms, slang, and symbols. Please review the TEL Education [Code of Conduct](#) for more information.

NOTE: This section is not intended to create due process rights for students, does not constitute an exhaustive list of actions TEL may take, and does not constitute a “step-ladder” disciplinary process that escalates from the least to most adverse action. TEL may impose discipline in any manner it deems appropriate to the situation, and is not required to provide warnings or other initial steps prior to taking more severe action, up to and including dismissal.

Grade Discrepancies

Grades are awarded for a student’s individual academic work during each semester based upon the student’s mastery of the content. Disagreeing with a grader’s score of the student’s work does not qualify for a grade appeal. Moreover, students caught violating the Academic Integrity Policy must file an appeal if they disagree with the assessment of the student’s actions. Therefore, students who wish to appeal a grade to the Learning Experience Team must [submit this form](#) to start the appeals process. Upon the receipt of the appeal, the following process will be observed:

- Grade appeals will be submitted to an alternative, qualified member of our instructional staff.

Specific grade discrepancies will be escalated to the office of TEL's Academic Dean for the re-evaluation of the assignment, rubric, and correct answers. At the Dean's request, TEL's Learning Experience Team will conduct a thorough investigation using all evidence provided from the rubric, assignment instructions, notes from the original instructional staff member, and other relevant outsourced information. Academic integrity appeals will be submitted to the Appeal Committee, consisting of TEL's Academic Dean, Director of Curriculum, and Director of Instructional Support.

- The Appeal Committee will evaluate the appeal and all documented evidence. In the case of grade discrepancies, an evaluation of the student's awarded grade will be determined in accordance with the proper policies/standards outlined in the course syllabus.
- The Learning Experience Team will receive the Appeal Committee's assessment and forward this information to the student.
 - Once the Learning Experience Team provides a response to the disputed grade, the student will have the option to accept or to decline. If the student chooses to decline the response, the student's original grade will stand. If the student accepts the response, the grade will be changed, provided that the grade is different from the original grade.
 - In the case of an academic integrity appeal, the student can either accept the assessment and subsequent action or they can restart the course.

NOTE: While TEL will endeavor to follow the foregoing appeals process, it retains absolute discretion to deviate from this process when TEL determines such deviation is justified under the circumstances. Nothing contained herein shall be interpreted to create due process or contractual rights for students.

Exams

In this course, students will take their midterm and final examinations online. These exams are proctored through MonitorEDU. This service provides live online exam proctoring and support. This service records the student's computer webcam, speakers, and desktop during the exam. Students must use TEL's exam-proctoring solution, or have exams proctored by a school official (approved by TEL), to receive credit for the course.

A Student Quick-Guide will be provided explaining how to use this service in the exam modules.

Technical Requirements

This course is delivered 100% online, and students are required to have access to a

computer, laptop, or web-capable mobile device — along with consistent access to the Internet — to access course material and complete assignments.

Required technology:

- Desktop or portable computer, including Windows PC, Macintosh OS, or Chromebook (tablets, cell phones, and iPads are not supported)
- Google Chrome Browser
- Working built-in or external webcam, speakers, and microphone
- Internet speed must be at least 2 Mbps download and 2 Mbps upload. Hot spots are not recommended. Test Internet speed at: <http://www.speedtest.net>.

To access detailed information about the minimum hardware requirements necessary to take full advantage of TEL courses, visit the course home page.

Disability Services Statement

TEL is committed to providing equitable student access to course content and materials by providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. TEL also complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting the TEL Support Team. TEL's Support Team will coordinate reasonable accommodations upon registration and before the course begins. Students over the age of 18 taking college-level courses require a 504 for special accommodations.

Any student seeking to request academic accommodations on the basis of a documented disability should contact the TEL Support Team at disabilityservices@tel-education.org to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Course and Technical Support

Questions about course requirements, technical issues, or other issues while taking this course can be directed to the TEL Support Team via the Red Question Mark Widget button at the bottom right of each course page. The TEL Support Team will prioritize the request and respond accordingly.
