



Virtual Campus
School of Mathematics and Sciences

UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

COURSE NUMBER & NAME:

BIOL 1300: Life Science (non-lab)

TERM:

Fall 1st8wks 2026

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Rick L Hammer

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office: online – as needed

Phone: phone by appointment; contact by email preferred

Email: hammerr@wbu.edu

OFFICE HOURS, BUILDING & LOCATION:

Office Hours: On-line – as needed

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Life Science – A general Life Sciences course for non-science majors or minors that employs the scientific method to discover how living things are: organized, acquire materials & energy, respond to their environment, reproduce & develop, and adapt to their environment. Attention will be given to bio-ethical issues in contemporary biology.

PREREQUISITE:

none

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:

Text: *Concepts of Biology*. Openstax College. ISBN 978-1-938168-11-6

<https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/concepts-of-biology>

NOTE – this textbook is free. It can be downloaded in pdf or html format, purchased in printed form, or viewed on-line.

Course Website - A course website has been established on WBU's Blackboard server. Each student is **REQUIRED** to establish an active account for this website and to log on to BB regularly for posted lecture notes, messages, assignments, and handouts. In addition, it is **REQUIRED** that each student activate their student email accounts – this is the official means of communication between faculty and students. If you require assistance in getting this done, please contact the IT department at 806-291-3540.

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain how living organisms metabolize and self-perpetuate.
2. Describe cell structure and relate structure to function.
3. Compare and Contrast plants and animals in terms of morphology and physiology.
4. Analyze ecosystems with respect to biotic and abiotic homeostasis, populations, communities and habitat.
5. List and understand the basic classification of living organisms.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

In accordance with university policy, attendance in this course will be documented through a student's active engagement in weekly assignments, quizzes, or similar course elements requiring deliverables or direct communication between the student and the instructor through the course Bb site. Instructions for completing these assignments will be posted by the instructor prior to or at the beginning of each week of the class. Failure to attend or participate in this class may result in administrative withdrawal from the course or grade reductions. Failure to meet posted deadlines will result in a grade of zero or point reductions for the assignments affected.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

VERY IMPORTANT: Artificial Intelligence Policy for BIOL1300 with Dr. Hammer

1. No use of any generative AI tools permitted.

- A. Students are required to create and produce all work themselves or with assigned group members. Any work submitted that has used an AI generative tool like ChatGPT will be in immediate violation of the academic integrity policies for the course and WBU.
- B. All assignments must be fully created, designed, and prepared by the student(s).

C. Any work that uses generative AI will be treated as plagiarism.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations. Students should inform the instructor of existing disabilities the first class meeting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:

Students will be required to access readings, videos, or podcasts posted on Bb, or through various internet sources. Assignments may require participation in various interactive tools including discussion boards, journals, on-line quizzes or exams, written assignments, and student-produced video or audio files. Access to a reliable and reasonably fast internet connection is essential to successful participation in this course.

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

Course communication policy - WBU email is the official means of electronic communication between faculty and students. Students are **REQUIRED** to activate their WBU email address to receive or send email to the instructor. Announcements distributed through Bb will use only your WBU email address. The instructor is **NOT RESPONSIBLE** for communications students fail to receive, or the consequences of missed communication, if their WBU account is not set up and working properly. If you need assistance setting up your WBU email account, contact the IT support desk at 806-291-3540.

Examination Special Requirements- In accordance with the School of Math and Sciences policy, there **WILL BE ONE PROCTORED EXAM** in this course. Virtual Campus policies stipulate that **STUDENTS** must identify appropriate **PROCTORS** and that the proctors **MUST BE PRE-**

APPROVED. Qualifications for acceptable proctors and procedures for getting them approved are posted on the Virtual Campus web page. See

<https://www.wbu.edu/wbu-online/current-students/proctored-exams.htm>

Therefore - students MUST identify examination proctors IN ADVANCE and have them PRE-APPROVED NO LATER THAN the THIRD WEEK of the term.

Time Commitment - If taken during an 11 week semester in a traditional classroom setting, this course would meet for about 4 hrs per week. A good rule of thumb is that students should reserve at least as many hours outside of the class as they spend in-class to review material and complete assignments. While virtual campus students have the benefit of flexibility in scheduling when they will review lecture and laboratory materials, the content of the course is NOT reduced from the traditional format and will require AT LEAST the same level of effort as the in-class version of the course!

Therefore – to succeed in this course, students should be prepared to invest a MINIMUM of 8 hours per week, with additional effort required to complete lecture assignments or to prepare for proctored exams.

Grading - Final course grades will be assigned based on the proportion of points earned from the total points available across all assignment, quizzes, and exams. Point values of assignments, quizzes, or exams will be announced when the respective items are posted. Students should anticipate a minimum of 2 or 3 lecture exams; a proctored midterm exam covering all lecture material from the first half of the term; and a proctored final exam covering all material covered since the midterm. Quizzes will be posted for each chapter of material. All chapter quizzes combined will account for the equivalent of one lecture exam. Some assignments may include options asking students to take pictures or videos and post them on blogs established within the course black board site. Cell-phone quality images will suffice for those assignments.

Lecture exams will account for 50% of the course grade; assignments for 20%; chapter-level quizzes for 25%, and class participation for 5%.

Exam and assignment deadlines will be adhered to! Any variance from posted deadlines must be arranged IN ADVANCE! Students requesting extensions must communicate with the instructor in advance and provide verification of the extenuating circumstances leading to the request.

Tentative Class Schedule:

Coming Soon: The attached class schedule is subject to modification by the instructor. Actual dates may change. These changes will be posted on Black Board to give students sufficient opportunity to adjust their schedules accordingly.