

Mayville State University

BIOL 151 – General Biology II

Spring 2025

3 CR

Course and Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Joseph Mehus

Contact Information: SB 134, 701788-4802, joseph.mehus@mayvillestate.edu

Hours of Availability: 9am-10am MF

Instruction Mode: On-campus face-to-face

Time Zone: All times indicated throughout this syllabus reflect Central Time (CT).

Meeting Times and/or Location: MWF 11am:11:50am SB 117A

Zoom Link: No zoom link will be used for this course.

Course Materials and Technologies

Required

Raven Biology (12th ed.)

Computer/webcam that meets the university technology requirements

MS Office

There are other editions of biology textbooks that contain very similar content. If you use a different textbook you may have to hunt around a bit more for specific topics.

Printer (students will be required to print many documents for this course)

3-ring Binder

15 Binder tabs

Recommended

Notebook and pen/pencil. Handwritten notes tend to be better for students than typed notes.

Course Description

This course will survey the three domains of living things including archaea, bacteria, Protista, fungi, plants, and animals. This course will include historical foundations of taxonomy and evolution, classification, ecology, basic biology, and structures and functions of various organisms. Three hours of lecture per week.

Pre-/Co-requisites: BIOL 150/L General Biology I and Lab. BIOL 151L – General Biology II Lab

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Course Objectives

Through numerous instructional strategies and learning experiences, the following outcomes are expected to be met by the learner after completing the course (as aligned to Composite Science Education Program Approval Standards through North Dakota's [Education Standards and Practices Board](#)):

- The learner will be able to explain Darwin's theory of evolution and how natural selection leads to diversification.
- The learner will be able to recognize phylogenetic relationships.
- The learner will be able to explain/identify the diversity of life through use of the "tree of life."
- The learner will be able to describe the nature and significance of viruses.
- The learner will be able to describe the nature and significance of prokaryotes.
- The learner will be able to describe the nature and significance of protists.
- The learner will be able to describe the nature and significance of the different groups of fungi.
- The learner will be able to describe the nature and significance of the different groups of plants.
- The learner will be able to describe the nature and significance of the different groups of animals.
- The learner will be able to recognize and describe the different ecological relationships among living organisms and their environments.
- The learner will be able to apply ecological concepts to issues facing the Earth's biological systems.

Standards Alignment (Composite Science Education Program Approval Standards-ND ESPB):

- 13047.1 Composite Science Major/General Science The composite/general science program requires that environmental science be incorporated within other courses or as a separate course. The composite/general science program requires: 1. Coursework in biology, chemistry, physics, and earth science, including: a. Minimum of twenty four semester hours in one area, b. Minimum of twelve semester hours in two other areas, c. Minimum of four semester hours in the fourth area, d. Courses must be from those that the institution allows toward graduation in the science major. 2. Study of mathematics through the pre-calculus level (college algebra and above) and statistics.
- 13047.2 Nature of Science The program requires study of the history and philosophy of science as well as the interrelationships among the sciences.
- 13047.3 Inquiry The program requires study of the processes of science common to all scientific fields.

Course Expectations

Instructor/Student Communication

Students are accountable for all academic communications sent to their Mayville State University email address. Email is the primary and preferred method of contact. My email address is provided at the top of the syllabus. I check my email regularly during the work week and will likely respond within 24-48 hours. Email is not checked after work hours or on weekends, so please plan accordingly and do not think I am ignoring you. Emailing the day something is due and expecting immediate feedback is likely not in the best interest of the student.

If you choose to call my office (number at the top of this document) please leave a detailed message including which class, which item in the content area, and student name, and I will respond via email as it is the preferred method of contact and we also have a paper trail of our conversation. Phone messages are not checked during the evenings nor on weekends.

Students are REQUIRED to use their Mayville State University email address for correspondence. If you email from an outside network email address, faculty are not responsible for missed messages as they may be filtered out of the

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inbox. As an instructor I will only email you from my MSU email address or from other university platforms (ConnectND or Blackboard). You need to check your MSU email account daily as well as check announcements in the course daily as that is our main method of communication.

Assignments and Assessments

As a student of BIOL 151, I expect that you:

- Fully review/read the course syllabus and go to it if you have questions before asking the instructor;
- Fully complete the assignments/quizzes/reviews for each chapter...this includes reading the chapters and watching video postings, watching lecture videos, and completing exams all by the due dates.
- Keep and update Resource Manual
- Check your university email as well as check for announcements within the course shell every single day.

As the instructor of BIOL 151, you should expect of me that I:

- Clearly provide you a syllabus and disclose course activity due dates for each section of content
- Create a classroom environment that supports your understanding of content;
- Fairly grade assignments and exams

Chapter Reviews *required for each chapter*

Reviews for each chapter will be provided in Blackboard. Once the due date for the reviews has passed, no submissions will be accepted for credit. Each completed review is worth 20 points.

Quizzes *required for each chapter*

Quizzes will be given for each chapter in Blackboard. These quizzes will contain 5-10 questions from the chapter and/or lecture for the chapter. After the due date for the quiz no submissions will be accepted for credit. Quizzes will each be worth 10 points.

Activities *required for each chapter*

Activities will vary in content delivery method, the primary one being student flow charts that help organize one or more topics found within a chapter. These activities help promote a deeper thinking level on the content topic and help students organize their thoughts. The activities cannot cover every topic in the chapter, so it is important that students read and take notes on the chapter contents to help in other areas. Chapter activities are worth 10 points each.

Bonus Study Guides

Study guides are essentially more/in depth chapter reviews. The study guides provide a deeper look into the chapter and, upon completion, will earn 5 bonus points if submitted by the due date. No study guides will be accepted after the chapter due date. Student MUST complete the entirety of the study guide for points and complete it correctly. Students must complete study guides on their own, copied or plagiarized study guides will get a zero and a Starfish flag automatically raised.

Exams

There will be a total of 5 exams for the course. There will be 4 unit exams and 1 cumulative final exam during the semester. Exams will be taken on paper in the classroom. You will be expected to complete these exams individually and if it is discovered that students have provided information to one another, posted the questions (or any course content) online, or in some other manner of distributing content (social media, text/cell phone) a zero will

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immediately be given for the exam. The only thing students are allowed to use during the exam is their pencil and their knowledge. No exam submissions will be accepted after the due date. Each exam is worth 100 points.

Animations and Video Clips

Postings of a variety of animations and video clips may be provided for different content areas. These are for your viewing pleasure and may help you in fully achieving the topic-specific learning outcomes.

Resource Manuals

Resource Manuals are a required item for this course. Resource manuals are a high impact, course-long activity. Study guides will be checked 3 times during the semester, randomly during the semester. The first 2 resource manual checks will be worth 25 points each. The third resource manual checks will be worth 50 points. Resource manuals must contain the following information for each chapter:

- Tab and title for each chapter

- Each chapter will have a single paragraph summary, written individually by each student, about the content of each chapter.

- Printed, outline form of all PowerPoints for each chapter.

- All labeled/completed diagrams and activities in their respective chapters

- Completed/graded exams

Evaluation and Grading

Grading Policies

All deadlines in the course are 5pm CST on the due date provided in lecture by the instructor. If a student does not attend a lecture or does not keep track of the deadlines it will result in missed activities/quizzes/exams. Late materials are not accepted. There are bonus points available to students who fill out the bonus study guides. After the due date for the bonus study guides, no points can be earned.

Attendance/Participation Policies

Students are expected to attend all lecture days. There are no points simply for coming to class.

Grading Scale

Course grades will be calculated out of total course points.

You will earn a letter grade based on your total points earned out of the possible total points (percentage). Total point percentages will be carried out to the tenths place value and rounded to the nearest whole number for the final grade (≥ 0.5 is rounded up). Your percentage will determine your final grade.

- 90-100% = A

- 80-89% = B

- 70-79% = C

- 60-69% = D

- 0-59% = F

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Breakdown of Grades

Chapter Reviews (14)	280 points
Quizzes (14)	140 points
Activities (14)	140 points
Exams (5)	500 points
<u>Resource Manual</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total Points	1160 points

Enrollment Verification

On-Campus Course Statement

The U.S. Department of Education requires instructors to conduct an activity which will validate student enrollment in this course. Class attendance will be used to verify enrollment in on-campus courses. If you do not attend, your enrollment in this course will be at risk.

Proctor Notification

No proctors are required for this course.

Important Student Information

In the Announcements section of the Blackboard Institution Page, you can view and download the Important Student Information document for the current academic year. It includes information about:

- ✓ Land Acknowledgement Statement
- ✓ Academic Grievance Concerns and Instructor English Proficiency
- ✓ NetTutor - Online Tutoring Program
- ✓ Starfish - Student Success System
- ✓ Students with Documented Disabilities
- ✓ Student Learning Outcomes / Essential Learning Outcomes
- ✓ Academic Honesty
- ✓ Emergency Notification
- ✓ Continuity of Academic Instruction for a Pandemic or Emergency
- ✓ Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)
- ✓ Diversity Statement (Title IX)

Course Timeline/Schedule

This is a tentative schedule and may be changed at any point by the instructor. All due date times are 5pm CST.

Topic	Due Date	Assignment Checklist
Getting to know the system	1/17/25	Enrollment Verifications

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Genes within Populations	1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
The Evidence of Evolution	1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Systematics, Phylogenies, Comparative Biology	2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Exam 1	2/25	○ Exam
Viruses	2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Prokaryotes	2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Protists	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Exam 2	3/25	○ Exam
Seedless Plants	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Printed Notes
Seed Plants	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Fungi	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Exam 3	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exam
Animal Diversity	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Protostomes	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Deuterostomes	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Exam 4	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exam
Community Ecology	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz ○ Activity ○ Printed Notes
Dynamics of Ecosystems	5/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Quiz

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Activity○ Printed Notes
Final Exam (Exam 5)	5/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Exam