

Mayville State University

BIOL 151L – General Biology

Spring 2025

1 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: TH Noon-2pm

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

Course Materials and Technologies

Required

Raven 12th Ed.

Computer/webcam that meets the university technology requirements (including having USB ports or a dongle)

Camera/Smartphone (either by you or lab partner)

MS Office

Printer

Recommended

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

Course Description

Laboratory exercises designed to explore proper lab technique, and to study organisms from the three domains of living things including archae, bacteria, protists, fungi, plants, and animals; classification; evolution; and ecology. Two hours of lecture per week.

Pre-/Co-requisites: BIOL 150/L. However, BIOL 151 – General Biology 2 Lecture is typically needed by all students taking the lab also.

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](#)):

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- The learner will be able to model evidence of evolution and the process of natural selection.
- The learner will be able to produce a phylogeny and demonstrate the difference between convergent and divergent evolution.
- The learner will be able to identify the different groups of protists and their structures both microscopically and macroscopically.
- The learner will be able to distinguish between the different groups of fungi and their structures both microscopically and macroscopically.
- The student will be able to identify the different groups of plants and their structures both microscopically and macroscopically.
- The learner will be able to identify the different groups of animals and their structures both microscopically and macroscopically.
- The learner will be able to make observations and draw conclusions about different ecological relationships among living organisms and their environments.

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.

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 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 151L, I expect that you:

- Fully review/read the course syllabus and go to it if you have questions before asking the instructor;

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- Fully complete the assignments/labs before arriving to lab so that you and your lab partner understand and know what to do on the day of the lab.
- Check your university email as well as check for announcements within the course shell every single day.

As the instructor of BIOL 151L, 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

Lab Activities *required for each Lab Period*

Activities will vary in content delivery method/techniques, However, all will require in person attendance. Each lab is worth a total of 20 points.

Lab Exams

There will be a total of 2 exams for the course. 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 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 50 points.

Evaluation and Grading

Grading Policies

All deadlines in the course are the end of the lab period, unless specifically changed by the instructor. If a student does not attend a lab it will result in missed lab. Late materials are not accepted. The only opportunity to make up a lab is with documentation of a university excused absence. You and your lab partner will have 5 days to complete the missed lab if arranged before the missed lab. If you do not show up to a lab, and your lab partner shows up (because you have not worked with them at least a day in advance), your lab partner will work with another lab group to complete their assignment as they should not have to be punished or make up a lab due to partner issues.

Attendance/Participation Policies

Students are expected to attend all lab 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

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70-79% = C

60-69% = D

0-59% = F

Breakdown of Grades

Labs (12) @20 points	240 points
Exams (2)	100 points
Total Points	340 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. Enrollment verification items in the course content section must be completed to ensure enrollment. Complete these within the first week of the course.

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 at the end of the lab period unless specifically changed by the instructor.

Topic	Due Date	Assignment Checklist
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Enrollment Verifications	1/17/25	Enrollment Verifications
Syllabus/Lab Safety/Computer & Microscope Setup	1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review ○ Activity
Population Genetics	1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Foundations of Evolution	2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Natural Selection: Hardy Weinberg	2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
The Evolutionary Process	2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Taxonomy of Living Things	2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Lab Exam 1	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exam
Kingdom Plantae: Simple Plants	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Kingdom Plantae: Angiosperms	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Kingdom Animalia: Invertebrates	3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Kingdom Animalia: Protostomes	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Kingdom Animalia: Deuterostomes	4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Trophic Levels & Population Ecology	5/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lab
Lab Exam 2	5/8/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exam