

# Introduction to Biology II (Bio 122) Online Course Syllabus

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July 14<sup>th</sup> – August 15<sup>th</sup> 2025

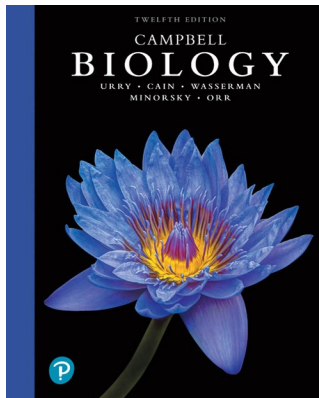
**Course Overview:** This course serves as the second part of a two-part sequence to introduce biology at the major's level. Bio 122 is a tour through some of the major concepts in biology, and the methods and processes used to gather the facts that inform those concepts. The course focuses on evolutionary diversity, anatomy and physiology, and ecology. Throughout the course we will refer to the methods and logic that were used to explore these concepts.

As an online course, students are expected to learn from the text independently. The course is divided into 4 units (see schedule below) that each include assigned reading, discussions, and online assignments. Though there are some short recorded lessons, most of the primary learning for this class occurs through reading the textbook. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that students learn the assigned material independently. To help assist with independent learning, the course is designed such that the entire class is working on the same topics at the same time, so that communication and discussion between students can occur.

**Course Goals:** This course is designated as a university studies 2b course. Therefore, by the end of the course you should be able to analyze and evaluate the use of scientific information in the context of social, economic, environmental or political issues. You should also be able to apply scientific theories and knowledge to real-world problems. You will also be expected to effectively communicate scientific information in writing. These goals will be assessed using exams, online assignments, and discussion boards.

## Course Materials:

- **Course Website:** A Canvas website has been established for this course. You can access this website by logging into your myUMassD portal from the UMass Dartmouth website ([www.umassd.edu](http://www.umassd.edu)). Class Powerpoints, quizzes, and other course materials will be made available through the Canvas website.
- **Text:** “Campbell Biology, 12<sup>th</sup> edition” by Urry et al., 2021. Students can purchase a used copy, buy digital access to “Mastering Biology” directly from Pearson publishing (instruction on our Canvas website), or purchase “Mastering Biology” from the campus bookstore. Note: all graded assignments for this class are run through Canvas; the mastering biology assignments are not required.



**Grading:** Grading will follow a standard grading rubric. 97-100 = A+, 93-96 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-71 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 60-66 = D, >60 = F.

**Exams are worth 60% of the total grade** – Each unit has an exam, that covers the material from that unit. Exams are open book (expect thought questions) and not cumulative.

**Online Assignments/Activities are worth 25% of the total grade** – Each unit will have additional assignments related to the class material. These assignments will be conducted through the course website, and will vary in format from simple quizzes to essays to additional discussion topics. Specific instructions will be provided for each assignment. Each assignment will be open on the course website for the entire unit, however, it is recommended that you complete all assignments prior to taking your exams, because they are intended to help solidify the material and prepare you for exams.

**Class participation in the form of discussion questions is worth 10% of the total grade** – Each unit, up to 2 points towards your overall grade will be awarded based on your participation in discussion boards. The discussion board is intended to serve as a tool for you to interact with and learn from your peers in the class, and with me. Discussion topics will be focused around either that unit's topics, or around interesting current events if they are broadly aligned with the course. Discussion boards will open at the beginning of each week, and remain open throughout the week. Please first review the "discussion board etiquette" video posted on the class website. I expect every student to contribute to the discussion board at least **twice** each unit. To receive full credit for each unit you will need to read the discussion thread and add to it with at least two comments of substance that move the discussion forward. I expect you to add your comments at different times, that is, check back in on the discussion after your first comment and then post another. You are encouraged to enter more comments as you wish.

**A Pre/post-assessment is worth 5% of the total grade** - In an effort to assess student learning, all students are required to take the same (short) assessment during the first unit and the last unit of the class. The first assessment (pre-assessment) is on the myCourses website welcome page, and is due at the end of the first unit, Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at

midnight (available now). The second assessment will become available at the beginning of the last unit, and is due at the end of the last unit, August 15<sup>th</sup> at midnight. Whichever assessment you do better on will count for 5% of your final grade. Grades from each assessment will only be released at the conclusion of both assessments.

You can find all assignments, links to discussion boards, and general instructions for each unit by clicking on the side bar tab for that unit, found on the left hand side of the course website. You will only be able to access the side bar tab for a specific unit during that unit. It is your responsibility to complete all of the assignments during that unit.

#### **Policies/Other:**

- For technical issues with the website, go to <http://www.umassd.edu/cits/id/student/> or contact the student IT service center: 508-999-8884 Email: [mycourseshelp@umassd.edu](mailto:mycourseshelp@umassd.edu). More information is available in the UmassD portal mycourses page.
- I am not responsible for insuring that your posts/other assignments go through. However, there is a practice discussion board and a practice test for you to use in the first week of class to make sure everything is working correctly. I will also do my best to return grades as soon as possible, and will notify students when new grades are posted. Use this information to address any problems as they arise.
- I will not hold virtual “office hours”, however I will respond to emails as soon as I can to answer your questions as they arise. I will also be available during exam times to discuss issues.
- I will be communicating with the class both by posting announcements on the website, and by emailing to the class roster. You are responsible for checking the website for announcement and for ensuring that your email address is functional. I will be aiming for redundancy between these systems, but may not always succeed.

#### **Schedule**

##### **Unit Dates**

Unit 1 - Biological Diversity except plants and animals  
Mon 7/14 – Mon 7/21

Unit 2 – Plant and animal diversity  
Tu 7/22 – Tu 7/29

Unit 3 – Comparative anatomy and physiology  
Wed 7/30 – Wed 8/6

Unit 4 – Ecology  
Thur 8/7 – Fri 8/15

##### **Assigned Reading**

CH 26, 27, 28, 31

CH 29, 30, 32, 33, 34

CH 40, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49

CH 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56