

# *Syllabus for Biology 102: The Living World*

*Spring 2021*

*Asynchronous Lecture*

## Instructors:

Dr. Althea A. Archer

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Virtual Office Hours: By request

The schedules and policies associated with this course may be subject to revision or change as a consequence of changing circumstances or events. Reasonable notification will be provided to students prior to any major changes in course policies or procedures.

CONTACT ME: The best way to get ahold of me is by emailing me. I will always try to get back to emails within 48 hours or 72 hours, if it is a weekend. I get a lot of emails, so please begin emails with "BIOL 102" so that we can prioritize your email.

CONDENSED CLASS SCHEDULE: This is a full-semester, 3-credit course that is condensed into 9 weeks. That means that this class will be very fast-paced, and you will need to keep up on the readings to succeed in this class! I will be emailing you with reminders, but we do not meet as a class over Zoom or in person. You will be responsible for making time to read, watch videos, and complete labs in your own time.

## *Course Description*

During this course, students will learn about all life on Earth, including plants, animals, and microorganisms. We will study interactions between humans and the planet, as well as dynamic changes on Earth and how they impact life. This course will cover how life has changed over geologic time, and the evolutionary processes that determine new species and relationships among organisms.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. distinguish between deductive and inductive reasoning and explain the scientific method
2. describe different types of ecosystems and niches
3. explain how evolution occurs' and provide examples of evolutionary relationships among organisms
4. list homologous structures that humans share with different animals
5. interpret an evolutionary phylogeny
6. gain understanding of how the changing planet impacts the biosphere

## *Required Textbooks*

- Edward O. Wilson, *Diversity of Life*, (1992). Publisher: Harvard University Press.
- Neil Shubin, *Your Inner Fish* (2009). Publisher: Random House.
- SimUText Online textbook. Must purchase and download software to complete the labs. Link provided on D2L

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** SCSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator. We are committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity and work to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Accommodations are provided on an individualized, as-needed basis, determined through appropriate documentation of need. Please contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS), [sas@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:sas@stcloudstate.edu) or 320-308-4080, Centennial Hall 202, to meet and discuss reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

**RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY:** It is our intent that students from diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource. Please let us know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you, personally, or for other students or student groups. As a student in this class, you are required to treat other members of the class with respect and kindness. Diverse perspectives are welcome and disagreeing is fine. However, disrespectful, rude, or exclusive behavior will not be tolerated.

## GRADES

| Item              | Dates      | Details       | points | %    |
|-------------------|------------|---------------|--------|------|
| Labs              | Mondays    | 4 points each | 16     | 16%  |
| Video Reflections | Wednesdays | 4 points each | 32     | 32%  |
| Reading Quizzes   | Fridays    | 5 points each | 40     | 40%  |
| Final Exam        |            | 12 points     | 12%    |      |
| Total             |            |               | 1000   | 100% |

| Percentage | Grade |
|------------|-------|
| ≥ 99       | A+    |
| 90-98.9    | A     |
| 89-89.9    | B+    |
| 80-88.9    | B     |
| 79-79.9    | C+    |
| 70-78.9    | C     |
| 69-69.9    | D+    |
| 60-68.9    | D     |
| < 60       | F     |

LABS will include three simulated labs via SimUText, an online textbook and one lab that will be conducted on D2L. Each lab is worth 4 points, for a total of 16% of your final grade.

VIDEO REFLECTIONS are 2-3 sentence reflections that you will write in response to watching videos on D2L. These videos will show scientific case studies that relate to course material. Each reflection must include 2-3 complete sentences that you write in your own words. Each sentence should start with one of our starter phrases, which are listed below. You will be graded on your grammar and punctuation and on your ability to show that you watched the video (specific details, etc).

Starter phrases that you should use are:

- I was surprised by ...
- I found it interesting that ...
- I wonder why ...
- It's really cool that ...
- I am disturbed by ...
- I want to know more about ...
- The science behind that seems ...
- I saw that before when ...
- I did not want to know that ...

READING QUIZZES will be a series of quizzes on D2L that correspond with readings and video lectures. These quizzes are all open-book/open-note and are due at 10:00 pm each Friday (see the schedule for reading assignments). You do NOT have to wait until the due date to take these quizzes, but can take them at any point after they are posted. You will be given one week for each quiz. You will have as much time as you need to complete the Quizzes, and you will receive your score as soon as the quiz is over. You must take the quizzes via D2L. Each quiz is worth 5 points, for a total of 40% of your final grade.

THE FINAL EXAM will be comprised of multiple choice questions and will be conducted via D2L. It will be cumulative and cover the entire class' material. It is worth 12% of your final grade.

### *Academic Integrity*

St. Cloud State University has university-wide policies about academic integrity, and all students are responsible for being familiar with and adhering to them. These policies are in place to protect students, first and foremost.

*As a student at St. Cloud State University and as a student in this class, you are expected to fully and properly acknowledge the work of others. Every instance of plagiarism will be reported, as per the policies of SCSU, but please do not hesitate to ask us in advance if you think something might be questionable or if you are unsure about what is considered to be plagiarism. We are happy to help, as long as you inquire in advance!*

Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to:

- cheating: using a resource other than one's own work to answer questions;
- plagiarism: misrepresenting another's ideas as one's own or not giving credit to the creator of a work;
- falsification: submitting falsified or fabricated information;
- facilitating others' violations: knowingly permitting or facilitating the dishonesty of others;
- impeding: placing barriers in the way of others' academic pursuits'

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*Course Schedule (version dated February 25, 2021)*

| MONDAY  | TUESDAY                    | WEDNESDAY                              | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                                   |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Mar 1st   | 2nd                        | 3rd<br>Video Reflection 1<br>due 10pm  | 4th  | 5th<br>Wilson Ch 1-3<br>Quiz due 10pm    |
| 8th<br><i>Spring Break</i>                        | 9th<br><i>Spring Break</i> | 10th<br><i>Spring Break</i>            | 11th<br><i>Spring Break</i>  | 12th<br><i>Spring Break</i>              |
| 15th  | 16th                       | 17th<br>Video Reflection 2<br>due 10pm | 18th   | 19th<br>Shubin Ch 4-6<br>Quiz due 10pm   |
| 22nd<br>Darwinian Snails<br>Lab due 10pm          | 23rd                       | 24th<br>Video Reflection 3<br>due 10pm | 25th   | 26th<br>Shubin Ch 1-3<br>Quiz due 10pm   |
| 29th  | 30th                       | 31st<br>Video Reflection 4<br>due 10pm | Apr 1st  | 2nd<br>Shubin Ch 4-7<br>Quiz due 10pm    |
| 5th<br>Skull Homologies<br>Lab due 10pm           | 6th                        | 7th<br>Video Reflection 5<br>due 10pm  | 8th  | 9th<br>Shubin Ch 8-11<br>Quiz due 10pm   |
| 12th  | 13th                       | 14th<br>Video Reflection 6<br>due 10pm | 15th   | 16th<br>Wilson Ch 7-8<br>Quiz due 10pm   |
| 19th<br>Isle Royale Lab<br>due 10pm               | 20th                       | 21st<br>Video Reflection 7<br>due 10pm | 22nd   | 23rd<br>Wilson Ch 9-10<br>Quiz due 10pm  |
| 26th  | 27th                       | 28th<br>Video Reflection 8<br>due 10pm | 29th   | 30th<br>Wilson Ch 11-12<br>Quiz due 10pm |
| May 3rd<br>Bottlenecked<br>Ferret Lab due<br>10pm | 4th                        | 5th                                    | 6th<br>FINAL EXAM<br>covering:<br>Wilson Ch 1-15 &<br>Shubin Ch 1-11 | 7th                                      |