

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**Accelerated Sciences Division**

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**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Number (Prefix Code):** BIO111

**Course Name:** General Biology I lecture

**Course Description:**

This course is the first in a two part series covering a general study of life processes, emphasizing basic concepts of biology suitable for health science majors and as a general education elective for non-science majors. Concepts to be covered in this first part include: Scientific method, and importance of scientific literacy, biological principles of life; levels of biological organization, importance of chemistry for life; characteristics of biological molecules, the cell as a living unit, variations in cell structure, characteristics of the plasma membrane, diffusion, osmosis, active transport, other transport methods for large molecules, energy capture and transfer: photosynthesis and glucose catabolism.

**Course Delivery Model(s):** Online, Online Interactive

**Time Requirement:**

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Lecture Hours per term:    | 45 |
| Laboratory Hours per term: | 0  |
| Total Hours per term:      | 45 |
| Course Duration (weeks):   | 5  |
| Credits:                   | 3  |

**Credit Hour Verification:**

This list represents the average amount of time a student is expected to spend to successfully complete this course. *Total hrs/wk 27*

|                    | <b>Activity Type</b>       | <b>Online-Interactive<br/>Hrs/wk</b> | <b>Online (Self-paced)<br/>Hrs/wk</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Course Time</b> | Lecture                    | 9 hours                              | 0 hours                               |
|                    | Discussion forums          | 1 hour                               | 2 hours                               |
|                    | Audio/Video recordings     | 3 hours                              | 6 hours                               |
|                    | Quizzes (outside of class) | 2 hours                              | 2 hours                               |
|                    | Homework                   | 3 hours                              | 5 hours                               |

|                              |                          |           |           |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Preparation and Study</b> | Study (assessment prep)  | 4 hours   | 4 hours   |
|                              | Reading                  | 4 hours   | 4 hours   |
| <b>Other</b>                 | Exams (outside of class) | 1 hour    | 1 hour    |
| <b>Total</b>                 | Total per week           | 27 hours  | 27 hours  |
|                              | Total per course         | 135 hours | 135 hours |

**Prerequisites:** None

**Co-requisites:** BIO111L recommended.

**This course may be taken again for credit the following number of times (repeatable):** 5

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES, OBJECTIVES, & ALIGNMENT**

### **Student/Course Learning Outcomes**

In successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

| <b>SLO/CLO</b>   |
|--|
| 1. Demonstrate thorough knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and core concepts of biology.  |
| 2. Assess problems in the field of biology and develop solutions or strategies to solve those problems based on logic and the knowledge acquired during this course. |
| 3. Professionally construct and express their ideas, thoughts, and concepts in biology through written and verbal communication.                                     |

## **TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS**

**Required Textbook(s):** Biology: The Essentials, Hoefnagel, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, The Essentials (SmartBook) LearnSmart, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed, LearnSmart Prep.

**Required Materials:** Working computer with a strong internet connection, camera, and a microphone. Scientific calculator.

### **Scientific Calculator\*\***

*\*\* Graphics or text-memory calculators are not allowed for use during quizzes or exams. If a student brings one, they will have to take the quiz without a calculator! Students are encouraged to obtain a scientific calculator with exponents and logarithms immediately, rather than the day before a quiz or an exam. It is important to be comfortable with the calculator being used, rather than to be struggling to locate the keys for certain mathematical operations. For example, a TI-30X IIS is acceptable.*

**Provided Materials:** The following materials will be provided:

*Homework and quizzes platform (McGraw-Hill).*

## Technology Requirements

**External resources:** McGraw-Hill

**Learning Management System:** Canvas. If a student is unfamiliar with the Canvas learning management system, please visit the manuals and learning guides available in the Canvas Student Guide. It is important that students are comfortable and competent in using this system, as all course material and communication will be done via Canvas.

Navigating Canvas – the Canvas site has a large set of [Canvas tutorials and videos for students](#).

**Browser and Computer Requirements for Canvas:** This course requires that students have access to Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge.

**Examination System:** is Proctorio. We will be using the Proctorio Online Exam Proctoring Service in this course. Proctorio is a software extension in Chrome that uses your computer's screen, web cam, and microphone to create a remote proctored environment, and enables you to take exams via Canvas in the location of your choice. You must have a strong and stable internet connection for Proctorio to work well. During the exam, you, your computer, and the environment you are taking the exam in may all be recorded.

In addition to the instructor(s) and Teaching Assistants(s) of this course, Proctorio and SCU Proctorio administrators are the only ones who will have access to the recordings. The Chrome browser extension must be installed before students can take any exam, and it can be removed once an exam is complete.

There will be a practice exam to become familiar with using Proctorio, and surface any issues you may encounter with Proctorio.

**Suggestions for completing online coursework:** Save work often; this includes backing it up on multiple devices or cloud applications. When submitting final papers on the Canvas learning management system (LMS), ensure that all files have been uploaded properly. Also make sure to keep a hard copy of all papers/projects in case of an unforeseen technological failure or outage.

## EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING

### **Grading scale:**

Letter grade

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89.99%

C = 70% - 79.99%

D = 60% - 69.99%

F = 0.0% - 59.99%

**Assessments:**

| Assessment Name     | # of assignments | Weight | SLO Linkage |
|---------------------|------------------|--------|-------------|
| Participation       | 5-10             | 15%    | 1,2 and 3   |
| Reading Assignments | 14               | 15%    | 1,2 and 3   |
| Homework            | 14               | 30%    | 1,2 and 3   |
| Exams               | 2                | 40%    | 1,2 and 3   |

**Course Topics:**

| Week | Module | Topic  | Assessment Activity                               | SLO Linkage |
|------|--------|--|---|-------------|
| 1    | 1      | Scientific Study of Life                     | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 2      | Science, Chemistry and Cells                 | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 3      | Cells  | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
| 2    | 4      | The Energy of Life                           | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 5      | Photosynthesis                               | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 6      | Respiration and Fermentation                 | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
| 3    | 7      | DNA Structure and Gene Function              | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 8      | DNA Replication, Binary Fission, and Mitosis | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 9      | Sexual Reproduction and Meiosis              | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
| 4    | 10     | Patterns of Inheritance                      | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 11     | DNA Technology                               | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 12     | Communities and Ecosystem                    | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
| 5    | 13     | Preserving Biodiversity                      | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |
|      | 14     | Plant Form and Function                      | Reading assignments, homework, and participation. | 1,2 and 3   |

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

All university policies apply to this course and all others. For full policy information please consult the SCU Catalog. Additionally, program policies apply to students in each program as described in the Catalog and in SCU Health Handbook for clinical courses.

**Drop Date:** It is a student's responsibility to understand when to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the [SCU Academic Calendar](#) for dates and deadlines for registration. Also refer to SCU Academic Policies for [information about the drop period](#).

**Incomplete Policy:** Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. See the [SCU Catalog for Policies about Incomplete Grades](#)

**Academic Integrity:** Students at this university are expected to maintain the highest degrees of professionalism, a commitment to active learning, and display integrity both in and out of the classroom. See the SCU [SCU Academic Integrity Code](#).

**Accessibility Services and Accommodations:** The Office of Student Services provides support to students with disabilities requiring accommodation in concert with the lead faculty for this course. All students are encouraged to request accommodation as far in advance of when the accommodation will be required to allow the University to process the request and provide approved accommodation. To begin the process please request a consultation with the designated Accessibility Services Officer as soon as possible. Once the Office of Student Services approves the request, the letter of accommodation will be provided to the student and lead faculty member via email. The student should be certain to follow-up with the lead faculty member to plan for the specific accommodation needs for the course. Program requirements cannot be modified to accommodate a disability. Please see the catalog for details regarding [Accessibility Services and Accommodations](#).

[A complete list of University Services](#) is available through MySCU, including:

- Tech Support information
- Veterans Support Services
- Resources for Title IX support through the Campus Safety tab
- Student Advocacy and Accountability resources

**Learning Resource Center:** Students can use the library's resources which provide students with an excellent collection of books, journals, electronic databases, and websites as well as consult with the librarian to help with the course.

**Online Etiquette:** In general, behavior in an online classroom should emulate the professional behavior expected in an on-ground classroom with a few additional requirements:

- Avoid using text slang and abbreviations such as "u" (instead of "you"), "TLDR" (Too Long, Didn't Read) or "TBH" (To Be Honest) - not everyone knows what they are. Do not use ALL CAPS for entire sentences or posts - this is seen as yelling at someone.
- Any form of personal attack or inappropriate response with other students or faculty is unacceptable. We will remove any discussion posts showing this and warn the author.
- If a student disagrees with someone's comments, they should do so respectfully and collegially and provide legitimate examples to support their side.
- Before pressing the submit button review comments, making sure nothing is coming across as defensive, too "know-it-all" or critical, or academically inappropriate. It is easy for someone to misinterpret the meaning when they cannot see facial expressions or hear the tone of voice.

- Avoid short, generic replies such as "I agree!", "I like it!" or "Funny!" – explain why, add another point in support of the idea, or raise a question to continue constructive dialogue.

**Attendance:** [SCU policy](#) defines attendance for all courses and specifies online courses as active, weekly participation in the course as described in the syllabus. Examples of activities could include, but are not limited to:

- Participating in weekly online chats or discussions
- Submitting or completing assignments
- Commenting on other student contributions
- Actively logged on and participating in class at least three times per week

See the Academic Policies page in the [SCU Catalog](#) for more details on Attendance Policy.

## **Accelerated Sciences Course Recommendations**

- Read before and after each class. Skim the chapter before it is covered in lecture to become comfortable with some of the terms associated with each topic. Review each chapter after it is covered in class to enhance understanding of the material.
- Do not wait until the night before homework is due to start the assignment. Understanding of concepts will be enhanced if the time is taken to learn them beforehand and later review the material without being rushed.
- Stay focused by finding an environment to study with few distractions.
- Participate during class by taking notes and looking over them afterwards.
- Any topics covered in the course could be presented in subsequent examinations, so it is critical to prepare and learn all presented material.
- Remember that procrastination in an accelerated course can quickly prove disastrous! Failure to learn foundational principles can make all future material seem nearly incomprehensible, so make sure to budget time wisely over the next five weeks.

### **Specifically for synchronous courses:**

- Ask questions for clarification when not understanding the material being covered.
- *Do not skip class, arrive late, or leave early.* Given the accelerated nature of our courses, every minute of class missed can have a real impact on student success in a course.
- Work on assigned problems as close to the time as when the topic is covered in class to increase understanding of specific concepts.
- Find a group of students to study with. This makes studying more fun and helps learning of the material by teaching to and learning from peers. Explaining these concepts to other students aids in mastery of what is covered.

## **Teaching Methods & Instruction**

In classes with scheduled class time, lecture will be delivered in real time/live by the instructor. Students must adhere to the attendance policy set out by the instructor for the class. In asynchronous classes, students will review lecture content on their own time. Due to the individualized nature of learning, students should expect to spend as much time as needed based on individual attainment of prerequisite knowledge.

- **Lecture Outline PowerPoints, Supplemental Videos and Support Materials:** The lecture outline is a series of PowerPoint slides on the most important chapter topics that should be reviewed before beginning the Reading Assignment. These slides will also serve as a good reference when completing homework and reviewing for exams. Supplemental videos and support materials contain additional videos or other items related to some of the most important or interesting topics in the chapter. Some videos show fun applications. These are all optional learning materials.
- **Reading Assignments:** These sections are created on "Connect" through SmartBook. They improve reading productivity and provide students with better knowledge retention. SmartBook is an intelligent

eBook that applies the adaptive technology of LearnSmart to ensure a focus on content the student has not yet learned while also promoting long-term retention of already learned material.

- **Supplemental Videos:** Its content helps students gain a deeper understanding of the concepts presented in the learning modules and in the textbook. Often, Supplemental pages feature animations, videos, or other interactive learning resources.
- **Homework:** Students reinforce concepts learned in class by completing the homework assignments. Homework assignments are open-book formative assessments where students can have unlimited attempts to practice problems. The highest score achieved is recorded in the gradebook. Homework must be completed by the due date – late submissions incur a 2% grade reduction for every day submitted late.
- **Discussion Board Posts:** Weekly discussion boards are asynchronous, however participation between students is required. Faculty will be active in all discussion boards and work interactively with students to build knowledge. Students must view the lecture material and PowerPoints on Canvas before beginning discussion boards and assignments in each module to be better prepared to participate interactively with peers in the discussion boards to maintain the participation grade.
- **Exams:** There are two exams in each class, a mid-term, and a final exam. There will be questions that are similar to all quizzes, homework, questions at the end of each chapter and any other activity given. The Exams are all on Canvas. Please pay attention to the due dates. They are final and will not be extended. You must use proctoring methods required by the instructor.
- **Note:** Completing assignments open book (book, instructor office hours, tutor, Google, etc.) is different than testing in an exam environment. It is acceptable and encouraged to use all available resources to learn how to complete an assignment; however, the long-term goal should be to pass the exams without any outside aid.

