**BSC 1005 Life Science**

**Ref. # BSC1005-20202-51-M-005**

**Pruitt Campus, Room G114 930-1145AM, MW**

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| **INSTRUCTOR**  **INFORMATION:** | Instructor: Dr. Christopher D. Krause, Ph.D.  Office: N212, Main Campus  Phone: 772 462-7025  Email: ckrause@irsc.edu  Office hours  Mon: 1100AM - 330PM (virtual)  Tue: 100PM - 200PM, Main Campus, N212  Wed: 200PM - 600PM, Main Campus, N212  Thur: 200PM - 230PM (virtual)  Other times: by appointment (in person/Blackboard) |

# **Class Overview**

We will be utilizing a novel approach to learning this semester both in format and content presentation. This class is designed so you, the student, can learn Biology through a theme-based online text. During the face to face class time we will use multiple forms of learning exploration to expand on the content you have learned from the text and its accompanying resources. You will be responsible for dedicating time outside of class, the recommendation is at least 3 or more hours a week, to learning the material. Then, when we are together as a group, we will expand your understanding of the topics and apply the information in various ways.

**Online** -This course will rely on the McGraw-Hill Connect platform. Our “textbook” is all online and based on themes or big ideas in biology to help you see the relevancy of the material as you learn. Students are expected to dedicate time to prepare for the class meeting – such as reading, taking notes, and **completing the “Prep” assignments as well as read the text PRIOR to on campus class meetings.** Discussions, scientific readings, Connect homework, reading notes and other interactive learning tools will be used by the instructor to help guide the student through the content. It is necessary to be prepared for on campus meetings so the student can actively participate in discussions, work within a group, and ask questions about the material. A good working knowledge of web-based applications and ample access to a computer with internet access are essential for this class.

**On campus -** Class time on campus each week will be focused on extending the concepts taught in the online lectures and text. Each class will have a content review and concept exploration portion. Case studies, video lab discussion, student presentations, scientific articles, debates, and other learning models will be used to expand understanding of the current concepts. Some of the learning projects will be instructor lead and others will be guided by students.

# **Requirements:**

### Text: Connect Master: Why Biology? 1.0 Author: Michael Windelspecht; IRSC ISBN: 9781264022748

The “textbook” for this course is fully online. You will be purchasing an access code from either the IRSC bookstore or directly from the McGraw-Hill (MGH) Publisher. We will be accessing all the materials through the Connect Learning system of McGraw-Hill. The access code is mandatory. You cannot pass the course if you do not access the online material. Please only use Blackboard to access the material from the MGH Connect and Campus system to ensure you are working in the correct course. If possible set up your Connect account prior to the first day of class. Instructions to link your access code to blackboard will be posted on blackboard. All students must be registered and active on the McGraw-Hill Campus website by 1/17/2020 but preferably ASAP. Access to McGraw-Hill Campus Module is on the Blackboard page for this class.

**Companion Websites:** Blackboard course website**,** <http://biology-irsc.weebly.com/>

### **Blackboard Utilization:**

Access to and usage of Blackboard are required for this course as well. Class assignments, forum discussions, group projects, grades, notes, and announcements will all be posted via Blackboard. Please make sure you are familiar with this program.

# **Assessments & Grading:**

Forums, homework, presentations, online Connect work, in class learning models, and exams will all be used to determine your final grade. Remember, you earn your grade; I don’t give it to you. The work for the course has been broken down per category. Blackboard automatically calculates your grade based on the average score you earned per category (see below) and this overall grade is a running score. Students are required to check their grade center to ensure grades have been rolled over from connect.  Grades will be posted in Blackboard but technical and human errors may not reflect the true grade in Blackboard. Instructors reserve the right to manually calculate grades to verify the blackboard grades. Grades are based on the actual points earned by the student.

All online assessments are due at the time posted. It is your responsibility to complete the work on time and submit it. Remember all electronic communication is time stamped. Please review the make-up and late policy posted below.

## Grading Scale Breakdown Percentage

Unit Tests 5 unit exams 50%

(5 Section tests will be given; the lowest score will be dropped)

Discussion Boards / TBA 10%

In Class work /Worksheets

Connect Homework 10 (Lowest HW grade dropped) 20%

Prep Assignments 18 modules (Lowest score dropped) 15%

Attendance 5 pts X 5 units 5%

TOTAL 100%

Grading Scale Final %

A =100 -90%

B = 89.9 – 80%

C = 79.9 – 70%

D = 69.9 – 60%

F = 59.9 % & below

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| **COURSE CALENDAR: See the detailed schedule of activities posted on blackboard. It is subject to change with advanced notice. Below is an overview of the course.** |

**W**--deadline is March 25th;Please speak with me before you withdraw.

I – if you are passing the class but emergency prevents taking final. I will not give an instructor withdraw unless you come and talk to me.

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| **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TOPICS:** |
| Life Science is a course designed to help the student gain knowledge in a wide array of fundamental biological principles. By using the scientific method and problem solving students will explore biological concepts and how they interconnect with daily life. Topics of study this semester will be Energy Drinks, Cancer, Genetic Diseases, Climate Change, and Evolution of Viruses. The major goal of this course is to help the student learn the fundamentals of Biology and how it relates to life outside the classroom. Through this course students will extend their scientific learning beyond the classroom. See Course Calendar for topics and schedule of due dates. |
| **COURSE OBJECTIVES:** |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Using the scientific method, critically analyze and evaluate scientific data and analytical skills to solve problems relevant to biology and the life sciences. 2. To understand the structure of atoms and how they combine to form molecules, macromolecules and their importance. 3. To identify the biology makeup of food and recognize how eating provides energy for the organism. 4. To understand the structure and function of cells, genes, and inheritance. 5. To understand natural selection and evolution biology. 6. To recognize the importance of vaccination and understand how vaccines work with the immune system 7. To understand climate change and the effect of life on this change. 8. Communicate major biological concepts and relate how these are connected within various and the biological and physical sciences. | |
| **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** |
| **Upon completion of the course, students will have the ability to**   * Communicate major biological concepts and relate how these are connected within various and the biological and physical sciences * Apply problem solving, analytical, and communication skills based on the scientific method to provide the foundation for lifelong learning and career development. * Make use of technology to organize, acquire, and convey information relevant to the biological sciences |
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| **MEANS OF ACCOMPLISHING OUTCOMES:** |
| Methods of instruction: Lecture, Class discussions and/or interactions, and exams  **PRACTICE GOOD STUDY HABITS**   * **Start early** –*don’t wait until halfway through**the semester to follow these suggestions***.** * **Set aside study time** and use it*only*for studying. Plan on studying an average of*2-3 hours per college credit*for eachcourse. *Take breaks*; **reward yourself** for reaching milestones. * **Study often** when well rested in a quiet, comfortable location.*Don’t wait to cram*. * **Take notes** in class and get copies of instructor’s lecture notes from the Internet. * **Read the assigned chapters** in the text*before*the lecture. * ***Recopy* notes**by hand. Clarify confusing points using the text or asking instructor. * **Make flash cards** to help learn vocabulary and definitions. * **Draw and label** processes and sequences of events for better visualization. * **Ask questions** during lecture, after lecture, in the computer lab, or during instructor’s office hours. * **Organize study groups** to help you with answering questions and teaching each other. * **Tutoring** in ASC is available for free! |

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| **ATTENDANCE AND PROCEDURES:** |
| **Participation online:** Participation is vital in this course. Playing an active role in the course both online and in class will help each student get the most from peer based interaction and assignments; as well as the more traditional learning from notes and the text. Students are required to read and complete all online activities via Blackboard or McGraw-Hill Campus. Announcements, online lectures, discussions, assignments, etc. will all be through online media. Although there is no specific day or time to login, I recommend that you log in **at least** 3-4 times per week so that you do not miss important announcements, deadlines, e-mail or course changes.  **On Campus Attendance Policy:** It is expected that you will attend **every** class period. If there is a reason you must miss a lecture please try to contact me prior to class beginning. Contact does not excuse the absence. You will be responsible for obtaining the notes or work from either Blackboard or a classmate. Absences or tardiness have a deleterious effect on student learning. Attendance will be recorded and assessed at each class. One percent per unit will be assigned for attendance. You are allowed to miss one lecture class per unit and still receive the one percent. If you miss more than one class per unit then then entire 1% will be lost and you will receive a zero for attendance in that unit. Each unit is assessed for attendance.  **Make-up Exam Policy**: Students are only allowed 1 make-up exam per the semester for in-class exams. In order to be eligible for the make-up exam, the following criteria must be followed.   1. The instructor must receive a phone call/message, email, or blackboard message no later than the morning of the exam before the time of the exam informing the instructor that you are unable to take the exam due to illness, family emergency, or car issues. 2. The student only has 3 business days to take the make-up in the assessment center. (For example: test is on a Wednesday so make-up is due by the following Monday end of day. Exceptions will be made if a doctor’s note proves a long-term illness like the flu.) 3. Online exams must be fully completed in one sitting. They cannot be paused. Exams must be completed/submitted in the time allowed and by the due date. Late exams will receive a zero.   **Late Work Policy:**  The policy varies depending on the type of work.   * Connect homework assignments should be completed by the due date and time. The lowest connect homework assignment is dropped. You have two attempts for each homework assignment. The highest score is kept. * No late prep assignments will be accepted. You are working towards completing 100% of the prep questions by the due date and time. Your grade is based on the percentage of work you have completed by the due date. Starting prep assignments after the due date will result in a zero grade. Not finishing the prep assignment by the due date and time will result in less than a 100% grade. Your lowest prep assignment grade is dropped. * All other assignments posted on blackboard, discussion boards, or done in-class will have its own written and/or verbal late policy.   **EXTRA CREDIT**: Limited extra credit opportunities are available. It is strongly recommended that students spend their time on required material and do not rely on extra credit to increase their score.  **SCANTRON:** If needed, students will supply their own Scantron answer sheets for exams. You must use a No. 2 pencil to mark your answers. You are responsible for ensuring that erasures are complete. Scantrons will not be re-graded after they have been given back to the student.  **TUTORING:** Tutoring is provided by the IRSC ASCs. It’s free! Check with the ASC for current operating hours. Use it!  **CHEATING:** Cheating, including plagiarism, of ANY kind will not be tolerated by this department. Any student caught cheating will receive an immediate F on the assignment in the course and may also receive an F in the course (no withdrawal allowed.) Any student witnessing an act of cheating who does not report it is considered guilty of this same inexcusable behavior.  **CELL PHONE USE:** As stated on page 69 of the Indian River State College Student Handbook, the use of cell phones is prohibited during class at IRSC. All phones, tablets, and smart watches must be set on silent or off during the class period.   Any student who uses a phone to make or answer a call, or send and read text messages or emails, social networks, other than IRSC emergency messages during class time may be asked to leave and may be considered absent for that class. No student has the right to disturb the teaching and learning process. |

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| **LIBRARY AND ON-LINE REFERENCE MATERIALS:** |
| The Miley Library serves as IRSC's main library located in Fort Pierce. There are also libraries located on each campus. The library is an information place providing professional assistance, library books and media, and access to the library's electronic resources. There is an extensive online database system also available through IRSC’s website [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu). |
| **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:** |
| Indian River State College provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities through the Educational Services Division / Student Disability Services Office. The rights of students with disabilities which pertain to post-secondary education are provided under **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Title IX.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title IX and other federal laws require institutions to provide reasonable accommodations to qualifying students with disabilities, including disabilities related to pregnancy and childbirth. Students who wish to request an accommodation for a documented disability may contact Student Disability Services at (777)462-7808 or (772)462-7782 or email [irscdisabilityservice@irsc.edu](mailto:irscdisabilityservice@irsc.edu).  **Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment Policy:** Indian River State College and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. IRSC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, sex (pregnancy), religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status or genetic information in its programs and activities. If you have encountered any form of discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator. If you report such an incident of misconduct to a faculty member, that faculty member is required by law to notify the IRSC Title IX Coordinator. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination and non-harassment policies: Adriene B. Jefferson, Equity Officer and Title IX Coordinator, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34987; IRSC Main Campus, W Building, Room 207; (772)462-7156; [ajeffers@irsc.edu](mailto:ajeffers@irsc.edu).  **Statement to Students:** If you are experiencing difficulty in your course, **your first obligation is to work directly with your instructor to resolve the issue**. If you are unable to settle your concerns with the assistance of your instructor, you can contact the Department Chair (Dr. Robin Willoughby, 462-7498), or the Assistant Dean (Dr. Anthony Dribben, 462-7503) who will assist you or advise you and if necessary help you contact Vice President (Dr. Heather Belmont, Vice President of Academic Affairs, 462-7215). |
| **Syllabus Disclaimer:** |
| The instructor views the course syllabus as an educational contract between the instructor and students. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus changes in the course Announcements or course e-mail. |