

Biology for Science I (B1001A) Course Outline

1. Course Information

Course Information

Biology for Sciences I (B1001A), FW24 is offered in-person format. Certain digital platforms used (SimUText and MindTap) will require students to work online. Lectures are synchronous and in-person in the room specified above. Students will attend live session with the professor twice per week where they will watch the lecture, take notes and participate in some active learning. Skill Development (Labs) sessions are delivered synchronously in-person on the 3rd floor of the North Campus Building (room numbers posted on OWL course site). Office hours will be delivered in-person (date, time and room locations are all posted on the OWL course site).

List of Prerequisites

Grade 12U (SB14U) Biology or Grade 11U (SB13UA) Biology and permission of the Department. A minimum mark of 80% in Grade 12 U Biology (SB14U) is recommended for students registered in a faculty other than the Faculty of Science. Note: The combination of Biology 1001A and 1002B (with appropriate marks) are the prerequisites for senior Biology courses and admission to modules offered by the Department of Biology and the Basic Medical Science Departments

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

2. Instructor Information

Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Dr. Niki Sharan (Course Coordinator and Instructor)	nsharan@uwo.ca	Check OWL	519-661-2111 X86502	Check OWL
Dr. Beth MacDougall-Shackleton (Instructor)	emacdoug@uwo.ca	Check OWL	519-661-2111 X81206	Check OWL
Ms. Winona Gadapati (Lab Coordinator)	wgadapa2@uwo.ca	Check OWL	519-661-2111 X81141	Check OWL

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

The first point of contact for all administrative issues in this course is the First Year Biology course coordinator, Dr. Niki Sharan (for missed Quizzes, Tests and Exam) and Ms. Winona Gadapati (for missed skill development sessions). Do not contact Dr. MacDougall-Shackleton nor Dr. McNeil for any question other than their lecture content (which should be posted to the OWL forum and not emailed to them directly). They are not responsible for any administrative component of the course. When you email Niki Sharan or Winona Gadapati (nsharan@uwo.ca or wgadapa2@uwo.ca), be sure to put in your e-mail 1001A, your full name as it appears at the registrar's office, student number and lab section number, and a clear description of your issue. We can only respond to e-mails that come from your official Western e-mail account. We do not respond to emails received from non-uwo accounts (eg, gmail, hotmail, yahoo etc).

3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

Biology 1001A is designed to help students in the Faculty of Science and Faculty of Health Science build on the knowledge and skills acquired in Secondary School Biology as preparation for success in second year programs in the Biological Sciences.

By engaging in this learning environment, students can expect to enhance their ability to:

1. Build productive academic relationships with diverse members of the FYB community.
2. Collaborate with peers and/or instructors to create consensus around diverse ideas (e.g. during classes, studying, preparing team assignments).
3. Apply effective learning strategies to academic work.
4. Demonstrate a broad understanding, application, and analysis, of evolutionary principles pertaining to the origin and inheritance of genetic variation.
5. Communicate scientific ideas to an audience of peers and/or instructors in written, oral and graphic formats.
6. Apply scientific experimental design, equipment, skills and analyses to test hypotheses.
7. Locate, evaluate, and extract scientific ideas from academic and non-academic literature; ethically incorporate such ideas into academic work.

Both the lectures and the lab components of the course are offered in-person. Please see your Western Timetable and OWL course site for details on day, time and location.

Class Schedule:

Week of	Cycle #	Lecture #	Biology 1001A Class Schedule - Fall 2024	
2-Sep		1	Welcome Lecture (online) and Q&A Session (Sept 5th in NCB 101)	Instructional Team
9-Sep	1	2	Evolution is Happening	MacDougall-Shackleton
		3	A big idea in Biology: descent with modification from a common ancestor.	
16-Sep	2	4	Cell Cycle and Cell Division	Sharan
		5	How are progeny cells produced and how can diversity be generated during cell division?	
23-Sep	3	6	Inheritance of Sameness	Sharan
		7	How can we quantify the genetic material of an organism?	
30-Sep	4	8	DNA Mutations and Repair	Sharan
		9	What different mechanisms create mutations?	
7-Oct	5	10	Genetics and Inheritance	Sharan
		11	How is genetic information passed on and how do genes interact?	
Reading Week: Oct 12 -20; no lectures or skill development sessions - Enjoy the Break!				
21-Oct	6	12	Families to Populations	MacDougall-Shackleton
		13	How do selection, genetic drift, and other forces affect genetic variation?	
Midterm Exam - Will take place as noted on OWL) Covers Cycles 1-5				
28-Oct	7	14	All about sex	MacDougall-Shackleton
		15	Why reproduce sexually?	
4-Nov	8	16	Species and Speciation	MacDougall-Shackleton
		17	Where do new species come from?	
11-Nov	9	18	Evolutionary Relationships & Diversity of Life	MacDougall-Shackleton
		19	How are different groups of organisms related? How did humans and other species evolve?	
18-Nov	10	20	Cooperation and Conflict	MacDougall-Shackleton
		21	How can we explain helpful, apparently non-selfish behaviour?	
25-Nov	11	22	Ecology in the Anthropocene	MacDougall-Shackleton
		23	What are the limits to population growth? How do humans affect other life?	
2-Dec			Final Exam Review/Q&A Sessions	Instructional Team
Final Exam date and time to be announced by registrar's office - See Western Exam Schedule in December				

Note: Topics and descriptions outlined in the course schedule may change as the course proceeds.

Key Sessional Dates

See OWL

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning

In the rare event of another COVID resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online. Lectures will be delivered asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Labs will be offered synchronously via Zoom. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructors.

4. Course Materials

The following course materials are a requirement for this course:

1. Textbook (5th edition). Other editions (eg, 4th) etc will not suffice. You must use the 5th edition as many revisions have been made to this new edition. The textbook is available for purchase in electronic form called MindTap.
2. SimUText

All materials are available for purchase at the uwo bookstore (online or in-person).

A Personal Response System called “iClickers” will be used during lectures. These do not count for grades. They are for class participation only. Participation is encouraged but not mandatory.

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/home>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Technical Requirements

Your weekly OWL quizzes and lab assignments and other digital tools will require you to have a working computer with a very stable internet connection.

5. Methods of Evaluation

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

OWL Quizzes	12%
Skill Development	20%
Midterm Exam	33%
Final Exam	35%

The Midterm Exam will cover material from Cycles 1-5, inclusive. The midterm will take place as noted on OWL. There will be a midterm make-up exam (date/time/room TBA on OWL at a later date). The make-up exam is not a rewrite. It is only for those students who did not write the originally scheduled midterm. In order to miss the midterm, you MUST get permission from your academic counselor in your Faculty’s Dean’s office. Failure to do so will lead to a grade of zero on the midterm.

In order to pass the course, you must receive a grade of 50% or above and must pass the skill development portion of the course. A score of 60% or above is considered a passing grade for skill development. If you do not pass the skill development portion of the course but receive a grade of 50% or above in the course, you must repeat the skill development portion of the course during a future offering of the course (summer 2025 or fall 2025 or any subsequent year), in order to pass B1001A.

IMPORTANT: If you miss more than 1 skill development session in B1001A, you will not pass the skill development portion of the course. In order to pass skill development you cannot miss more than 1 session.

6. Student Absences

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:

Missed OWL Quizzes:

You cannot receive academic consideration for missing OWL Quizzes. There are no make-up quizzes. If you miss a quiz, you will receive a grade of zero for that particular missed quiz. Unlike the midterm and final exam, you have several days to complete each OWL quiz. Choose the day that is convenient to you. However, if you are not able to complete a quiz and miss it, we will compensate for your missed quizzes by adding 10% bonus to your overall quiz grade at the end of the term (to a maximum of 100%; you cannot receive a grade beyond 100%). There are various reasons for which you may miss a quiz (medical absence, technical difficulties, forgetting to submit, error in submitting, religious holidays, varsity event, other commitments). The 10% bonus will make-up for any quiz that you missed for whichever reason applies to you.

Missed Skill Development Sessions (Labs)

Labs in this course are called “Skill Development” (or Skills for short). If you need to miss a skills session, you must contact the skill development coordinator, Ms. Winona Gadapati, at wgadapa2@uwo.ca **no more than 48 hours after your scheduled lab session** that you missed or will be missing.

Important: Reiteration that you cannot miss more than 1 skill development session in this course this term. If you miss more than 1 session, you will fail the skill development portion of the course.

If you have a valid reason to miss a skill development session, you must email Ms. Winona Gadapati, at wgadapa2@uwo.ca no more than 48 hours after your scheduled lab session that you missed or will be missing. She will respond to your email and let you know how you will receive consideration to miss the skill session.

As noted in the course outline above, you must receive a minimum grade of 60% to pass the skill development portion of the course. If you fail to do so, you will have to repeat the skill development portion of the course during the next offering of the course to pass B1001A.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University’s medical illness policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Missed Midterm

There is one midterm exam in this course worth 33% of the overall course grade. It will take place in October. If you miss the midterm without official permission (academic consideration from your Faculty's Dean's office) you will receive a grade of zero. If you miss the Midterm WITH official permission (academic counselor) then you will be qualified to write the make-up midterm.

There is a Make-up for the Midterm Exam. Make-up midterm is only available to students who have been granted academic consideration by an Academic Counselor to miss the midterm.

It is important to note that Make-up midterm is not a rewrite. In other words, if you wrote the originally scheduled Midterm, you are not permitted to write the make-up midterm. Therefore, if you think you cannot write the midterm for any reason, you MUST get official permission to miss the midterm. Once you write the originally scheduled midterm, it is too late to get exemption and reweighing of your final grade! If you miss the midterm without official permission (academic counselor) you will receive a grade of zero. If you miss the midterm WITH official permission (academic counselor), you will have permission to write the Make-up midterm. If you cannot write the make-up midterm you need to obtain ANOTHER official approval (academic counselor) in order to be excused from writing the make-up midterm. If you miss BOTH the regular midterm and the Make-up midterm with official permission, the weight of the midterm will be transferred to your Final Exam.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

If you anticipate scheduling conflicts (medical, personal, sport, religious etc) and cannot write the final exam, you MUST contact your academic counselor in your Faculty's Dean's office to get academic consideration to miss the originally scheduled final exam.

There is a Make-up for the final exam, called Special Exam as noted above. Make-up final exam is only available to students who have been granted academic consideration by an Academic Counselor

The make-up final exam is not a rewrite. If you wrote the originally scheduled final exam, you are not permitted to write the make-up final. Therefore, if you think you cannot write the final exam for any reason, you MUST get official permission to miss the final exam. Once you write the originally scheduled exam, it is too late to get exemption and permission to write the make-up final exam. If you miss the final exam without official permission from your academic counselor, you will receive a grade of zero. If you miss the final exam WITH official permission (academic counselor), your grade will

temporarily appear as ‘SPC’ and you will have permission to write the Make-up final exam (also called Special Exam) which will take place in January 2025 (exact date, time room number will be posted on OWL closer to the make-up date). If you cannot write the make-up final exam, you need to get ANOTHER official approval (academic counselor) in order to be excused from writing the make-up final exam. If you fail to do so, you will receive a grade of zero on the final exam. If you miss BOTH the regular final exam and the make-up final exam with official permission, you will receive an incomplete (INC) grade in the course which means you are qualified to write the final exam during the next offering of the course (Summer 2025 – check Western calendar/timetable for details).

6. Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

7. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Pencils, erasers and a non-programmable basic calculator are permitted during the midterm exam and final exam. No other items are permitted.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

iClickers will be used during lecture to encourage participation and active learning. iClicker participation doesn't count for grades. Although iclickers may be used for data gathering by the instructor, the student's privacy will always be protected. Students must ensure that their iclicker is not being used by anyone else other than themselves.

8. Support Services

Please visit the Science & Basic Medical Sciences Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: <https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html.

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Student Development Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.