



North Dakota State College
of Science



2025-2026 Syllabus

BIOL 150 - Fall 2025

Course Information

Course Number: BIOL 150

Course Title: General Biology I

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Instructor: Susan Duffy, M. Ed., NBCT

Phone: (701) 356 – 2050

Email: sduffy@wes-fargo.k12.nd.us

Office Location: 206 J – West Fargo High School

Office Hours: B Day Block 2 (10:25 – 11:55 am)

Course Description

The first semester of a two-semester sequenced study of the fundamental topics of biology with an emphasis on cellular biology. The course is designed for science majors and meets NDUS biology transfer requirements. The course focuses on biochemistry, cellular biology, and genetics.

Textbook and Required Materials

iPad – West Fargo High School Issued

Lisa A. Urry, et al. Campbell Biology in Focus, 3rd ed. Boston: Pearson. 2020.

ISBN: 9780134710679

Learning Goals/Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- a. Understand cellular and viral structure and function.
- b. Understand fundamental biochemical principles.
- c. Understand rudimentary classical genetics.
- d. Understand rudimentary molecular genetics and have a familiarity with various DNA technologies.
- e. Use knowledge about mechanisms of cellular and molecular processes.

Grading and Evaluation

Your grade will include assignments, quizzes, and unit exams, lab reports, papers, and projects. The exams will be a combination of online and written questions that will incorporate multiple choice, short answer, and essay. Assignment due dates will be posted with the expectation that assignments are submitted on time. Late assignments are not accepted. Feedback and grades can be views on the Schoology and PowerSchool platforms.

Grading Scale

Grading System	Percent
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60-69
F	Below 59

Grading Breakdown

- 70% - Unit Tests & Semester Final
- 20% - Quizzes
- 10% - Daily Work

Grades and Assignments

- PowerSchool is the official gradebook for West Fargo Public Schools.
- Schoology is the official LMS (Learning Management System) for West Fargo Public Schools.
- Semester Grades for both NDSCS and West Fargo High School will be posted to transcripts at the end of the semester.
- Official transcripts can be accessed from West Fargo High School and NDSCS.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance, promptness and participation in classes, laboratories and/or shops are expected of each student. For more information, refer to the NDSCS College Catalog under [Attendance Policy](#).

As a dual credit student attending West Fargo High School, students are also required to follow West Fargo Public Schools attendance expectations in conjunction with the attendance expectations of NDSCS. [West Fargo Public Schools Student Handbook](#)

Tie to Assessment Outcomes

This course supports Liberal Arts assessment outcomes.

Course/Instructor Expectations

Students are expected to use their official NDSCS email in the course, this is where communications from the college and your instructors will be sent. If you need assistance with your email, visit www.ndscs.edu/TechnologySetup. Assistance is also available from the ITS Service Desk at 701-671-3333.

As a dual credit student attending West Fargo High School, students are also required to follow West Fargo Public Schools course expectations in conjunction with the course expectations set forth by NDSCS. [West Fargo Public Schools Student Handbook](#)

	Unit	Exam Date
1	The Chemistry of Life and Macromolecules	September 11
2	Cell Structure and Function	October 1
3	Cellular Energetics	October 30
4	Cell Communication & Cell Cycle	December 4
5	Heredity	December 22
	Semester 1 Final	January 5

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, falsifying research data or results or assisting others to do the same will be cause for sanction up to and including reduction in grade, failure of course or removal from class. Repeating offenses may result in additional sanctions.

In conjunction with West Fargo Public Schools, academic integrity is laid out in the [student handbook](#).

Statement on use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Use only with prior permission

For certain assignments in this course, you may request permission to utilize artificial intelligence tools or systems to assist with your work. Any use of AI must be explicitly approved by me in advance. When making such a request, you must disclose exactly which AI tool(s) you plan to use and for what purpose(s). You are required to clearly indicate which portions of your submitted work incorporated AI assistance. Unauthorized or undisclosed use of AI will be considered academic dishonesty. If approved AI usage, you remain fully responsible for your submitted work meeting assignment requirements and objectives. Please consult me if you have any questions about this policy.

ADA Statement

NDSCS is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please discuss your concerns with the instructor. If you have a disability and require accommodation, contact the Accessibility Coordinator at NDSCS.Accessibility@ndscs.edu or 701-671-2623 as soon as possible in the semester. Student Accessibility Services is located in Old Main 230. The Accessibility Coordinator will send instructors notice of approved accommodation. If you have already been approved for accommodation, you are encouraged to talk with your instructor to discuss arrangements to implement your accommodation.

Equal Opportunity Statement

North Dakota State College of Science is an equal opportunity employer and equal opportunity educator. NDSCS is fully committed to equal opportunity in employment decisions and educational programs and activities. All practices are in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, for all individuals without regard to age, color, gender identity/expression, genetic information, marital status, national or ethnic origin, physical and mental ability status, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, familial or parental status, status as a U.S. veteran/service member, or participation in lawful activity off the employer's premises during nonworking hours which is not in direct conflict with the essential business-related interests of the employer.

For more information, refer to the NDSCS College Catalog under [*Non-Discrimination Statement and Equal Opportunity Policy*](#).

Continuity of Instruction

NDSCS is committed to the continuity of instruction in the event of an emergency disruption that may result in the suspension of activities, including in-person classes at NDSCS. NDSCS is committed to preparing for any significant operational disruption or closure, which could result from flooding, weather, medical emergency, campus evacuation or other emergency.

An emergency closing of the College, campus closure, and/or suspension of in-person classes does not equate into a suspension of instruction. Faculty contract days remain in effect, though the means of instructional delivery may change.

All communications and updates are sent out in official College email and posted at NDSCS.edu

Land Acknowledgement Statement

NDSCS acknowledges that we occupy the sacred ancestral lands of the First Nations cultures of North Dakota. Without them, we would not have access to our gathering, dialogue, and learning spaces.

Developed/Revised (Date): August 2025