

Human Biology-BIOL 103

Spring 2025

Monday & Wednesday 12:30-pm-1:45pm

Newton 203

Instructor: Wendy Owens Rios
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-11:15am or by Appointment

Instructor: Nathan Morris
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Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30pm-1:30pm
Wednesday 2:00pm-3:00pm
Thursday 1:00pm-2:00pm
or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

Designed for non-majors. Principles of basic human functions are discussed and applied to prepare the student for making broad based value judgments. Practical questions of modern life are treated scientifically from a biological viewpoint. Counts for general education only if BIOL 104 is taken concurrently. Credits: 3(3-0)

At the end of their course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic chemistry of life.
2. Understand the structure and function of cells and how they reproduce.
3. List all the anatomical systems in the human body and their function(s).
4. List the components of each normal human system and explain their function(s).
5. Understand the relationship between evolution and human form and function.
6. Explain structural and functional abnormalities of each human.
7. Explain injuries to the human body.
8. Evaluate the unique status of each human.
9. Apply scientific information and critical thinking when making bioethical decisions.

Required Materials:

Human Biology – Mind Tap Access -ISBN 9781305270220 Price: \$125.00

This option includes the e-text access online for 365 days and a perpetual offline download access, and 6-month access to MindTap which is required for the course. It does not include any loose-leaf or hard copy of the text.

IMPORTANT: Please note that you need to have this by the beginning of the semester. If you are waiting for financial aid to come through you can sign up for an initial 14-day trial so you can take the online quizzes and do the tutorials. Once you receive your access code, you should be able to enter it and seamlessly continue to receive credit for your work done via Mindtap.

OR

Cengage Unlimited-ISBN 8220123493776 Price: \$174.99 for 1 semester

This option makes sense if you have two classes this semester that are using Cengage text books.

****Access MindTap via the link in your Brightspace course. Otherwise, the course will not be linked to your subscription. The link is in the first module within the Brightspace course homepage.****

Cengage Spring 2025 Student Office Hours

To alleviate questions regarding Cengage materials, Cengage offers students virtual Office Hours where a Cengage expert will meet with them 1:1 and answer any questions they may have.

When: January 13th - February 7th (closed 1/20)

Weekdays: Monday through Friday, 12-5p ET

[Link to Cengage Student office hours](#)

Lecture notes

We will try to post the lecture notes on Brightspace 1-day prior to class. You are welcome and even encouraged to download these and bring them to class. We will provide limited lecture note packets or you may use your tablets to write notes.

Assignments

Topics will be covered as listed in the course outline. Within each module on Brightspace there are links for the reading assignments, graded assignments, case studies and some helpful videos that will be covered in the class. Please make sure to review these weekly. The reading assignments should be started **BEFORE** the topic is covered in lecture. Before coming to class, skim through the chapter and become familiar with the major themes and vocabulary. Careful examination of the figures will also make the lecture material more meaningful for you. After class, the chapter should be carefully re-read. Material from the lectures, readings and case studies will be tested on the exams.

MindTap Assignments

There are pre learning and post learning assessments for each chapter. These are linked within each chapter module.

Pre-learning assessments will always be due on either a Monday or a Wednesday, at 11am, before the scheduled lecture.

Post-learning assessments will always be due on a Sunday or a Wednesday at 11:59 pm.

Due dates are listed in the links. You will be able to view the correct answers after the respective due date. Because three pre learning and 3 post learning assessments are dropped, we will NOT re-open any assessments for missed due dates, illness or other issues. Use these drops wisely! Contact us immediately if you have extenuating circumstances. Forgetting a due date is NOT an extenuating circumstance.

TopHat MiniQuizzes

During most lectures, there will be a TopHat miniquiz on the previous lecture's material. We will take a practice miniquiz during the first day of class. Each miniquiz will have 3 questions: answering gets you one point (total of three) and getting it correct gives you a second point (total of another 3). Each miniquiz is worth 6 points (three for taking it, three for getting it correct). The miniquizzes will give you some exposure to how I ask multiple choice questions on the the Exams and will reinforce important material to study for upcoming Exams. Please look at the schedule to see when the miniquizzes will take place.

Grading

Exams**	40% of total Grade
Test 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3	Feb 10 th
Test 2: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8	Mar 12 th
Test 3: Chapters 13, 9, 10	April 9 th
Test 4: Chapters 12, 15, 16, 25	May 14 th Newton 203 – 12-2:30pm (on final exam schedule)
1 Case Study: Nonna Eddy's Heart	5% of Total Grade Mar 10 th
TopHat MiniQuizzes***	15% of Total Grade
MindTap Pre-reading assignments***	20% of Total Grade
MindTap Post-reading assessments***	20% of Total Grade

***No extra credit assignments are available.**

** Tests are taken in class and on time. If you have a reason to miss an exam, full documentation must be provided to the instructor to make up the exam. NO EXCEPTIONS.

***3 pre-learning, 3 post-learning MindTap assessments, and 3 TopHat MiniQuizzes are dropped.

Letter grades will be assigned by ROUNDING UP your grade to the nearest whole point. For instance, a 72.1% average rounds UP to a 73 and you receive a C, not a C-. The higher number in the scale is the CEILING of the range.

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Percentage Range (%)	Quality Points	Final Grade
92.1-100	4.00	A
89.1-92	3.67	A-
86.1-89	3.33	B+
82.1-86	3.00	B
79.1-82	2.67	B-
76.1-79	2.33	C+
72.1-76	2.00	C
69.1-72	1.67	C-
66.1-69	1.33	D+
60-66	1.00	D
0-59.9	0.00	F

Grade Appeals on Exams

Requests for recalculation of exam scores or reevaluation of a question or your exam grade must be made in writing and accompanied by the exam item in question. Recalculation of a grade is simple – show me my math error and it will be corrected immediately. To request a re-evaluation of my scoring on a question, submit a typed explanation of how your original submission fully and cogently addresses the question asked. All grade appeals must be submitted to me in person no later than 1 week after the exam has been returned.

Academic Honesty

We take plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty seriously. At its most basic, that means you are responsible for doing your own work. You may not reuse work from other classes, use the work of another person, plagiarize, or use artificial intelligence to help with or generate assignments.

We enforce Geneseo's plagiarism policy. You can find more information about the policy here: [Geneseo's Academic Dishonesty Policy](#).

Unintentional plagiarism. While the first thing most people think of when they hear the word plagiarism is cheating, you can plagiarize without intending to. Some students plagiarize because they have trouble with paraphrasing or fail to give credit to their sources of information, especially when they search online instead of utilizing assigned material. We believe this class will help you develop and/ or strengthen the skills you need to avoid unintentional plagiarism. We am happy to help you if you have questions or are struggling with this. Come talk to us during office hours or by appointment if you have questions or want help. *Ultimately, you are responsible for avoiding plagiarism, but there are many resources and ways to get help.*

AI, like Chat-GPT. You must do your own work, which means that you should not utilize tools like Chat-GPT for any aspect of our course work. Such use is a form of academic dishonesty. Use of such

tools is not only cheating, it will also cheat you of the opportunity to learn and develop your own skills. While AI will undoubtedly play important roles in our future society, you will be better able to utilize AI if you have developed your own critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills by doing your own work. If you have any questions about this, please ask.

Show your work. Upon request, I expect you to be able to show your work or process for completing assignments. This means, you should keep notes, brainstorming sheets, drafts, outlines, and any other work that you created in the process of writing a paper or completing an assignment.

(Adapted from a statement written by Dr. Emilye Crosby, Professor of History.)

Class Etiquette

We realize some of you might be using your cell phones during class to answer questions, however, PLEASE turn your ringers off during class. If there is a reason you need it to be turned on to ring (awaiting an emergency call from parents or child) please let us know before class begins and there will be no problems with letting your cell phone ring during class. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter as cell phone usage during class has become an increasing disturbance in recent years.

We also expect that if you bring your **computer** to class you will be using it for the purpose of following along **in class and/or taking notes**. Many students use their computers for checking email/playing games and/or surfing the web during class. This can be very distracting to the individual and to the people around that individual. We expect the courtesy of not performing such tasks during the 75 minutes that class is in session. If you wish to do any of these things (checking email/playing games and/or surfing the web) during the time class is scheduled, please do not come to class. We reserve the right to dismiss individuals who we find using their computers during class for unrelated class activities.

You should feel free to email your instructors whenever you have a question or concern about the course, and we will get back to you as soon as we are able. However, please do not expect a response outside of regular business hours (9am–5pm M–F) or within 24 hours, because we may not see your email right away.

As per college policy, all academic communications *must* be done via your geneseo email account OR the college learning management systems.

Accommodations

SUNY Geneseo is dedicated to providing an equitable and inclusive educational experience for all students. The Office of Accessibility will coordinate reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities to ensure equal access to academic programs, activities, and services at Geneseo. Requests for accommodation including letters or review of existing accommodations should be directed to Dr. Amy Fisk in the Office of Accessibility Services in Erwin Hall 22 or access@geneseo.edu or (585) 245-5112. Students with letters of accommodation should submit their letter to each faculty member and discuss their needs as soon as possible. Please contact the Office of Accessibility Services for questions related to access and the process for requesting academic accommodations:

- Student responsibility: Please submit your letter of accommodation to us at the beginning of the semester and make an appointment to discuss arrangements.

- Instructor responsibility: We are committed to working with you to figure out how to create a just learning environment while meeting the learning outcomes of the course. Unless you communicate otherwise, we will keep all accommodations confidential.

Safeguarding your mental health

Diminished mental health, including significant stress, mood changes, excessive worry, or problems with eating and/or sleeping can interfere with optimal academic performance. The source of symptoms might be strictly related to your course work; if so, please speak with us. However, problems with relationships, family worries, loss, or a personal struggle or crisis can also contribute to decreased academic performance.

SUNY Geneseo provides mental health services to support the academic success of students. Counseling Services, a part of the Lauderdale Center for Student Health & Counseling, offers free, confidential psychological services to help you manage personal challenges that may threaten your well-being.

In the event we suspect you need additional support, we will express our concerns and the reasons for them, and remind you of resources (e.g., Counseling Services, Career Services, Dean of Students, etc.) that might be helpful to you. It is not our intention to know the details of what might be bothering you, but simply to let you know we are concerned and that help, if needed, is available. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do -- for yourself /and /for those who care about you.

Important dates to keep in mind

March 15-22	Spring Break (no class)
April 23	Great Day (no class)
April 23	Last day to elect Pass/Fail
April 30	Last day to withdraw from full semester courses
May 7	Last day of regularly scheduled Human Biology class
May 14	Final Exam – Newton 203 – 12pm-2:30pm

Spring 2025 Course Outline

Date		Topic	MiniQuiz	Instructor
January	22	Introduction to the course Chapter 1 – Learning about Human Biology	Y (practice)	Owens Rios
	27	Chapter 1 – Learning about Human Biology continued. Chapter 2 – Chemistry of Life	Y	
	29	Chapter 2 – Chemistry of Life continued	Y	
February	3	Chapter 3 – Cells and How They Work	Y	Morris
	5	Chapter 3 – Cells and How They Work	Y	
	10	Test #1 – Chapters 1, 2, 3	N (Test Day)	
	12	Chapter 5 – The Skeletal System	N	
	17	Chapter 6 – The Muscular System	Y	
	19	Chapter 6 – The Muscular System - continued	Y	
	24	Chapter 7 – Circulation, the Heart and Blood Vessels	Y	
March	26	Chapter 7 – Circulation, the Heart and Blood Vessels	Y	Morris
	3	Chapter 8 – Blood – continued	Y	
	5	Chapter 8 – Blood – continued	Y	
	10	Nonny Edda’s Heart (case study)	Y	
	12	Test #2 – Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8	N (Test Day)	
	17	Spring Break No Classes	N	
	19	Spring Break No Classes	N	
	24	Chapter 13 – The Nervous System	N	
	26	Chapter 13 – The Nervous System - continued	Y	
31	Chapter 9 – Immunity and Disease	Y		
April	2	Chapter 10 – Respiratory	Y	Owens Rios
	7	Chapter 10 – Respiratory - continued	Y	
	9	Test #3 – Chapters 13, 9, 10	N(Test Day)	
	14	Chapter 12 – The Urinary System	N	
	16	Chapter 12 – The Urinary System – continued	Y	
	21	Chapter 15 – The Endocrine System	Y	
	23	Great Day – No Classes	N	
	28	Chapter 15 – The Endocrine System - continued	Y	
30	Chapter 16 – The Reproductive System	Y		
May	5	Chapter 16 – The Reproductive System -continued	Y	Owens Rios
	7	Chapter 25 – The Human Impact on the Biosphere - continued	Y	
	14	Test #4 – Chapters 12, 15, 16, 25 Newton 203 – 12:00pm-2:30pm (on final exam schedule)	N	