

Principles of Biology II, lecture (MB&B/BIOL 182z)

Class meetings MTWRF 11:00AM - 12:40PM ONLINE COURSE

Instructor:

Dr. Sarah Kopac

skopac@wesleyan.edu

and skopac@mxcc.edu (email both)

For office hours, schedule on 10to8.com

Professor Sarah M. Kopac, Ph.D.



e-mail: skopac@wesleyan.edu

Text: Sadava, Hillis, Heller and Hacker. Life: The Science of Biology, 11th edition

Format: Synchronous (live) lectures and discussion sections will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1:30–3:10 via Zoom. Attendance at lectures and discussion sections is required.

Pre-recorded lectures and/or activities will be posted on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30.

Recommended Resources:

- Either a reliable scanner or scanner app will be required for uploading assignments. Access to a printer is recommended but not required
- Two screens (e.g. phone + laptop) are best for problem sessions or 1 screen + slide printouts or physical textbook

All live sessions will be recorded. Other lectures will be pre-recorded and linked on the Moodle site at approximately 1:30pm EST on class days. Students might also be provided links to other sites and videos which might or might not be required.

Students are expected to check the class Moodle site and their email daily in order to stay up to date with the class. Items may be added throughout the day as Dr. Kopac receives questions and input from students, so be sure to check the previous day's Moodle section before moving on.

Grades

Course Grade composition

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Exam 1: | 20% | HW & activities: | 35% |
| Exam 2: | 20% | Participation: | 5% |
| Final exam: | 20% | | |

- All quizzes and exams will be given online. Students should notify me via skopac@wesleyan.edu as early as the morning of the quiz/exam if their internet shows signs of being unreliable. Exams may not be taken late for any reason other than one which is excused by the Dean.
- Resources cannot be used for assessments unless it is explicitly stated as such. If you are unsure, ask or err on the side of caution.
- Students are responsible for the quality and submission of their work. Not seeing a certain item in the gradebook will not be accepted as an excuse for why students missed deadlines, didn't realize they handed in the wrong version, or decided not to focus on late assignments due to assuming an earlier one would have a high grade (due to the lowest grade drop policy)

Assignments

- An account on gradescope.com will be initiated for you. Many assignments will be through this site.
- All assignments should be saved as a pdf before uploading. Directions are here. [Any assignments not submitted as a pdf and/or not visible on Moodle/Gradescope will be given a 0, without exception.](#)

Late policies:

- Quizzes & exams may not be taken late for any reason other than one which is excused by the Dean.
- Homework assignments are due at 1:30 PM unless otherwise noted.
- Late assignments will have 10% deducted if submitted within 24 hours. Assignments submitted later than 24 hours will not be accepted.
- One assignment per student will be dropped- this can be the lowest grade OR a missing assignment. This does NOT include quizzes or exams.
- Please be advised that any absences will be counted as such, regardless of the reason, including family travels.

Disabilities & accommodations

I am committed to giving all students the accommodations they need in accordance with University policy. If you qualify for accommodations of any kind, or suspect that you do, notify me at skopac@wesleyan.edu as SOON as possible. Sooner is better, as I might be able to reach out to class deans to get the necessary information.

Wesleyan's policy is that any student receiving accommodations must present documentation as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Those who would like to request accommodations or determine if they are eligible for Accommodations can contact Disability Resources (860-685-5581).

Contacting me

I can be reached at my Wesleyan email, skopac@wesleyan.edu I can also be reached through my Middlesex email, skopac@mxcc.edu; students are encouraged to try either email, particularly on days without live sessions. I will poll the class for their preference of office hours. I also have an account on 10to8.com where students can view all open slots for booking a one on one meeting. These must be reserved at least 6 hours in advance. (Just google 10to8 Kopac.)

Two common reasons why students say they were hesitant to contact professors is that they didn't know what to ask or simply felt self-conscious. I will never discourage a student *except* occasionally to comment if they are disparaging themselves. I have often helped students formulate their questions and pinpoint what it is they are unsure about. I prefer to meet, or at least converse with, every student at some point during the semester. I'm open to hearing feedback on things you did or did not like, and have received more than one cat picture from students.

Honor Code

Students will be expected to uphold the Honor Code. Any violation of the Honor Code will be reported and the student will receive a zero for the assignment in question; further repercussions may include failure of the course and/or suspension/expulsion, depending on the decisions of the Honor Board. See the Student Handbook and records of the Student Honor Board 2019–2020 for details.

Plagiarism (Copying):

If the submitting student is found to not be the original creator of the content, the student will be given a zero for the assignment. Students can work together on specified assignments but submissions must be uniquely written (and phrased)

by each individual. If two students hand in identical assignments, they will both be given zeros.

Most assignments will be submitted to plagiarism detecting systems. Assignments can be stored in these systems to identify plagiarism in the future. Assignments will also be analyzed for use of auto-paraphrasing sites. These sites produce results that have poor grammar, phrasing, and flow; therefore, points will be deducted for these items.

Any indication that students have spoken to peers, consulted a website, textbook, or slides during exams or quizzes will be given a 0 for that evaluation and a case will be submitted to the appropriate administrative bodies.

Learning goals

This course covers macro-biological topics. Students will be able to describe major physiological systems including circulation, respiration, and homeostasis. They will be able to compare and contrast these systems in organisms from different branches of the Tree of Life. They will understand the interactions between these systems and what happens when they fail.

Students will also learn the principle components of evolution. They will practice building phylogenies using phenotypic traits. Genetic analyses used for evolutionary comparisons will become familiar to students, and students will be introduced to symbiosis with the example of the human microbiome.

Of note: this syllabus can and will change. I often change the order of readings for a class and spend more time on one topic than another due to the interest and background of students. In leu of this, I will only post the schedule of readings one week ahead of time. Exam and quiz dates, however, will not change and are posted in the top section of Moodle and above.

Other tips & suggestions

- Make sure to preview the text/reading assignment before each class. Reading science textbooks can take a lot of time, but it will give you a deeper understanding of the material.
- Make sure to get easy points! Some easy ways to boost your exam scores:
 - Review homework and problem session assignments and the answer keys
 - Never leave an answer blank– I give lots of partial credit
 - Read questions completely before answering
- Network with your peers! While it might be a little harder to connect with the other students with the online format, it will still benefit you. By collaborating with others in the class, you can practice your explanations and explore different ways of thinking. Wesleyan's diversity is a resource in both arts and science; take advantage of it!

Modified from writings by Michelle Murolo

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see this? Citations are important. Please review the University's plagiarism policy. Many students plagiarize unintentionally. However, these are still violations of the Honor Code! A rule of thumb is to never copy and paste any words that you are going to submit as an assignment in a science course.