

BIOL 106-002 Course Syllabus

Class Meeting: The class is completely online using the WSC Plato environment.

Instructor: Dr. David Doe

Office: Wilson Hall, room 216A

Phone and Voice Mail: 572-5291

E-Mail: Use email in course Plato website, not the WSC email.

Online Office Hours: Mon and Thurs 7:30-9:00 PM

Textbook: Customized book from *The Living World* by Johnson. 4th edition

Course Description: Introduction to the study of cells, cellular reproduction, inheritance and the gene, and the development of organisms.

Conduct of the Course: We will not meet face-to-face during this course. All communication will be conducted online. It is arranged by weeks. Each week has one or more topics (see the schedule of topics). Weeks begin on each Monday (except the first week) and end at midnight on the following Sunday. Content information is provided via the text, narrated PowerPoint presentations, tutorials, periodic podcasts and *Illuminate* sessions, and web links. Weekly requirements include reading the course content, participating in one or more discussion topics, usually doing a homework assignment, doing and reporting on activities, and a quiz on the week's material. Since this is a 4-credit course and is equivalent to a core lab course, the activity substitutes for the lab of the traditional course. The activities will vary in format throughout the semester, but all will require a report.

Begin your journey through the course with the "Getting Started Page." It contains information about the various components of the class and the "Plato" platform for the course.

There will be no exams. You will be evaluated on your participation in discussion forums, conducting and reporting the results of various activities, quizzes and homework assignments. Details about each of these will be posted on each week's Assignments and Activities page.

There are several ways by which we will communicate during the semester. For questions about course content, use the "Ask the Professor" forum which has a link on each week's page. This way everyone can access the forum and learn for your

password to you so you can log into the session.

There is also a Student Lounge discussion forum for you to communicate with each other, not with me.

The course is organized into weeks with specific topics and concepts to be covered. Our week will start on Monday, so I will post the new content on Sunday evening. Each week will have a web page with links to the assignments, activities and discussions. Begin each week at the Weekly Assignments and Activities page (at the "Start Here" icon) for the instructions and background material for the week. I suggest printing this page for easy reference each week. Each Weekly Assignment and Activities page is divided into Introduction, Learning Objectives, Required

Online courses are similar to face-to-face courses in that there are fixed work requirements and

Plagiarism: "*Plagiarism is the act of presenting the intellectual work of others (words, ideas, artwork, computer programming code, etc.) as if it were one's own. Some common forms of plagiarism are (1) submitting someone else's paper as one's own; (2) copying a passage from another source without citing the source; (3) expressing a published idea or theory in different words, without crediting the source of the idea. Plagiarism constitutes intellectual dishonesty and undermines trust between members of the college community.*" (Westfield State College Bulletin, 2009-2010) [Click here for more information on how to avoid plagiarism.](#) Anyone who plagiarizes their writing assignment (from an online source, printed source, or another student) will receive a zero for the assignment and a report of the incident will go to the academic dean.

NOTE: Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of their abilities should contact me as soon as possible, so that we can discuss class requirements.

Any comments or suggestions? If so, please send them to Dr. Doe [via](#) Plato email

Last updated: 8/26/09