INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Mary Oswald, Ph.D.  
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Office: Life Sciences South 260  
208-885-4095  
Tentative Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 11am-noon; or by appointment (scheduled via email or VandalStar)

I will communicate with you by university-sponsored email. Please be sure to check your UIdaho email account often, and ensure that my email address is not blocked.  
If at any point you are struggling with the material or have life issues that impact your academic work, you need to contact me immediately so we can work together to come up with potential solutions as soon as possible.

CLASS TIME/LOCATION:  
MWF, 8:30-9:20am, REN 111  

PREREQUISITE:  
You must have passed CHEM 101 or CHEM 111 to enroll in BIOL 115.

COURSE DESCRIPTION/FORMAT:  
In this course, you will be introduced to the cell, heredity, and related scientific research. Specific topics to be introduced include: the chemistry of life, cell structure and function, meiosis and mitosis, inheritance, and gene expression.

Students often find the Biol115 material to be complex and somewhat difficult to learn. To help you identify knowledge gaps and stay on track with your studying, this is a ‘flipped’ classroom. The basic format of a flipped classroom is to post materials for students to review before they come to class, then use class time to explain things in more detail or work through problems to further student understanding. This requires students to put in time learning the material outside of class on a regular basis, and helps them better grasp complex material.

I will post study guides, reading assignments, and lecture recordings on BbLearn for everyone to access. The intent is that students will use these items to learn the basic material of the course outside of class time. To incentivize staying on top of the material (and check student understanding), there will be short on-line homework assignments associated with the material. Students will then deepen their learning by attending class to work through problemsets, listen to mini-lectures, and have group discussions. Due to anticipated issues with COVID, I am NOT requiring attendance. The materials for the lecture periods will be posted to BbLearn, so if you are quarantining or just not feeling up to class that day (I do not want you to attend class while sick!), you can access the missed materials on your own.

As attendance is not required, my assumption is that if you show up for class you have done the necessary at-home preliminary work and are actively wanting to engage with me, your fellow students, and the material that day. If you attend class in-person, masks/face coverings are required, per UI policy. If you choose not to attend in-person on a given day, you do not have to let me know.
**COURSE MATERIALS**

**Required online material:** *Mastering Biology for Freeman, Biological Science, 7th Ed* (Pearson) – This package for homework and studying is automatically included in your UI fees with Inclusive Access (there is nothing to purchase separately from the bookstore). You will create an account with Pearson (if you don’t already have one) within our course BbLearn site, and use BbLearn to access the materials during the semester. Further information will be presented at the beginning of the semester.

**Required textbook:** Freeman *et al.* 2020. *Biological Science*, 7th edition, Pearson publishing. Included as an e-book with your Inclusive Access to Mastering. You may also purchase this as a hard copy book separately through BbLearn (or other sources) if you want one. Reading assignments (chapters 1-19) will be listed on BbLearn with the schedule for each of the four major units. These should be read ahead of time in preparation for the class time for which they are listed.

**Course website:** https://bblearn.uidaho.edu/webapps/login/
The course website will include a copy of the syllabus, lecture materials, access to MasteringBiology, links to supplementary material, and grades. This will also be my primary form of communication with you outside of class. Check the website often!

**ASSESSMENT**

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<tr>
<td><strong>Category</strong></td>
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*I typically DO NOT curve individual exams or the course as a whole, so please don’t ask. I round to the nearest whole % for the final grade (example: a total percentage of 89.5 would be rounded up to a 90, while an 89.4 would be rounded down to an 89).*

**Grade Reports**
Grades will be updated regularly in BbLearn/My Gradebook. You should check these grades periodically for any mistakes in entry and to check that your overall performance is on track. **You have one week after a grade is posted to contest it.**

For formal grade reporting, Early Warning Grade notifications (D/F/participation issues) use the VandalStar Progress Surveys system, while Midterm and Final grades are officially entered in VandalWeb.

**MasteringBiology**
You will complete on-line assignments in order to help you understand the material and practice articulating that understanding. Questions will be similar to what may be found on exams. These assignments will be found on BbLearn. Assignments will open a week before the material is covered in class, and are due by **11:59pm the night before that class** (dates indicated on the Course Schedule and the Mastering Assignments calendar).

It is your responsibility to finish the assignments before each closes. Keep in mind that computer/internet issues can arise, so it is in your best interest to plan ahead and complete them earlier in the week. For Excused Absences that extend beyond the open period, refer to the Excused Absences section below.
Exams

There will be four ‘regular’ exams, plus one final exam, each worth the same amount of points. Regular exams will occur during normal class periods, while the Final is scheduled based on UI’s Final Exam Schedule. Your lowest exam score of the five will be dropped at the end of the semester (only the highest four will count towards your final grade). With the exception of Excused Absences (see self-titled section below), there are NO makeup exams!

Exams will cover material from lectures, assigned readings, assigned content on Mastering, and in-class exercises. The material we will cover builds upon itself. We will often refer back to concepts covered in previous lectures and units. For this reason, all exams are comprehensive, though the focus of each regular exam will be on the current unit. The final exam is comprehensive of the entire semester.

Exam Dates: exams are scheduled for the following dates:
- Exam1 – Sept. 15
- Exam2 – Oct 11
- Exam3 – Nov 8
- Exam4 – Dec 3
- Final Exam – Dec 14 (8-10am)

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Only students with major medical/family issues or written/emailed official university excuses will be allowed accommodation on assignments. Accommodation make take the form of make-up work or dropping an assignment from the student’s grade calculation. Makeup work may differ from the original assignment. Final acceptance of accommodation is at the discretion of the instructor. Arrangements must be made at least ONE WEEK PRIOR to your absence in the case of known schedule conflicts (ex: participation in official university sporting events, course field trips, etc…). In the case of an emergency/non-scheduled absence (major medical/family issues), accommodation must be requested immediately following the absence (don’t expect to be granted make-up work if a month goes by between the emergency and your request). It is the student’s responsibility to document the extent of his/her issue and promptly make a written/emailed request for accommodation.

GRADE DISPUTES:

Keep every graded item handed back to you for the entire semester; this is useful for studying as well as insurance against typos when scores are entered into the gradebook. If you feel that an assignment has been graded incorrectly, you have one week after receiving the graded assignment to dispute your score. You must return the assignment to your instructor or TA, along with a written request for re-grading that includes a description of the dispute. Final grade assignment is at the discretion of the instructor or TA.

COMMUNICATION:

Spelling, grammar, punctuation, logic and legible handwriting are critical elements of communication. You may lose points on assignments and exams for misspelling, poor grammar or syntax, improper punctuation, flawed logic or illegible handwriting.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Refer to Article II of the UI Student Code of Conduct (http://www.uidaho.edu/DOS/judicialaffairs/studentcodeofconduct/articleii). Plagiarism or academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form. Offenses may lead to a zero on the assignment or in the class, letters to your Department Chair and College Dean, and a formal complaint filed with the Dean of Students. Be aware than even one incident of academic dishonesty may result in expulsion from the university.
COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The over-arching goal of Biol 115 is to prepare students for future coursework in biology-related sciences. Preparedness encompasses 3 general areas: 1) foundational knowledge & understanding of biology, 2) skill as a scientist, and 3) skill as a student. By the end of the semester, a successful student will have:

- a foundational vocabulary and understanding of the cellular processes vital to life on Earth, including the following core areas
  - Relevance of chemistry to biology
  - Large biological molecules (structure, function, & importance)
  - Cellular structure and function (membranes, metabolism, & division)
  - Inheritance of traits (Mendelian genetics & meiosis)
  - Protein synthesis (process, importance, & mutation effects)
- increased awareness of science as a process rather than simply a collection of facts to be memorized
- increased confidence in generating scientific hypotheses and interpreting scientific data
- increased ability to communicate scientific information
- a better understanding of how he/she learns
- increased awareness of study habits helpful in science
- knowledge of the learning resources available to help them succeed

LEARNING OUTCOMES: In accordance with the University’s Learning Outcomes - Learn & Integrate: Students will synthesize previous biological knowledge with knowledge gained from lectures, assignments, and group work, to attain an understanding of the cell and heredity.

Think & Create: Students will synthesize and apply their knowledge of biological processes by forming hypotheses and discussing problems in class.

Communicate: Students will become conversant in the language used in biology, and will practice the language of biology in small groups and short writing assignments.

Clarify Purpose & Perspective: Students will gain an understanding of cellular processes that support life (including human life), and how the genetic code informs life.

Practice Citizenship: Students will attain basic biological knowledge, which will allow them to make informed contributions to discussions of issues that impact humans and the environment, for ex: health and medicine, genetic counseling, science education, etc…

ACADEMIC SUPPORT; TUTORING & COLLEGE SUCCESS
TCS offers three distinct services dedicated to student success: tutoring, SI–PASS, and Academic Coaching. Vandal Tutoring provides drop-in style tutoring in person at the Library or online through uidaho.edu/tutoringonline at no cost to undergraduates. SI-PASS provides peer assisted study sessions for difficult courses. You can find the schedule of currently supported courses at uidaho.edu/si. Academic Coaching offers students an opportunity to work with a coach, one on one, to improve their academic skills such as: effective studying, test taking, time management, and note taking. Visit uidaho.edu/academic-coaching to schedule an appointment.

CENTER FOR DISABILITY ACCESS & RESOURCES
Students with disabilities needing accommodations to fully participate in this class should contact Center for Disability Access and Resources (CDAR). All accommodations must be approved through CDAR prior to being implemented. To learn more about the accommodation process, visit CDAR’s website at www.uidaho.edu/cdar or call 208-885-6307.

Please notify the instructor during Week One of classes if accommodations are required.
CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR
The following behaviors are rude to the instructor and fellow students, and are considered unacceptable behavior for class and lab: ringing cell phones, use of cell phones for talking or texting, web surfing, sleeping, reading extraneous material, chatting with neighbors (this includes the Zoom Chat area), etc… I reserve the right to dismiss students from class (with appropriate grade deduction for missed assignments) that display any of these behaviors. Repeated violations may result in an F on that day’s work, an F in the course, and/or removal from the course.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO CLASSROOM LEARNING CIVILITY CLAUSE
In any environment in which people gather to learn, it is essential that all members feel as free and safe as possible in their participation. To this end, it is expected that everyone in this course will be treated with mutual respect and civility, with an understanding that all of us (students, instructors, professors, guests, and teaching assistants) will be respectful and civil to one another in discussion, in action, in teaching, and in learning. Should you feel our classroom interactions do not reflect an environment of civility and respect, you are encouraged to meet with your instructor during office hours to discuss your concern. Additional resources for expression of concern or requesting support include the Dean of Students office and staff (885-6757), the UI Counseling & Testing Center’s confidential services (885-6716), or the UI Office of Human Rights, Access & Inclusion (885-4285).

FIREARMS POLICY
"The University of Idaho bans firearms from its property with only limited exceptions. One exception applies to persons who hold a valid Idaho enhanced concealed carry license, provided those firearms remain concealed at all times. If an enhanced concealed carry license holder’s firearm is displayed, other than in necessary self-defense, it is a violation of University policy. Please contact local law enforcement (call 911) to report firearms on University property."