



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

Biology for Science Majors II

BIOL 1407.87

Shannon K. Hill, Ph.D.

NOTE: This is a 16-week online course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

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Course Description:

The diversity and classification of life will be studied, including animals, plants, protists, fungi, and prokaryotes. Special emphasis will be given to anatomy, physiology, ecology, and evolution of plants and animals. Semester Hours: 4 (3 lecture/3lab per week).

This course is online, which means you will participate in the course using MCC's learning management system, called Brightspace (<https://brightspace.mclennan.edu/d2l/login>) and the website that accompanies your textbook, called Connect.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Prerequisite: BIOL 1406 with a minimum grade of C.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

We care about your success! MCC provides several FREE resources to help you achieve your academic goals. Free online tutoring is available at <https://www.mclennan.edu/academicsupport-and-tutoring/> via Zoom. MCC Success Coaches help you develop study skills and find resources to meet challenges that students often face (transportation, food availability, childcare, etc.). You can speak with a Success Coach by calling 299-UCAN or going to <http://www.mclennan.edu/completion-center/>. No appointment is needed!

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Shannon K. Hill, Ph.D.

MCC E-mail: shill@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8188

Office Location: S 110

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: If you would like to meet online, please email me and we will set-up a Zoom appointment.

Other Instruction Information: If you are on campus, feel free to stop by my office (Science Building, Room 110) or, if you prefer, email me and we will set-up an in-person appointment.

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Biology

Author: Peter H. Raven, George B. Johnson, Kenneth A. Mason, Jonathan B. Losos, Tod Duncan

Edition: 12th

Publisher: McGraw Hill Education

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements will be posted in Brightspace on a regular basis. They will appear on your homepage when you log in and/or will be sent to you directly through your preferred method of notification from Brightspace. Please make certain to check them regularly, as they will contain important information about upcoming events.

DISCUSSION FORUMS

Discussion Forums are a way for you to engage with each other about the course content. Each week we will have a discussion forum topic. In order to get full credit for each discussion, you will need to post a thoughtful, well-written discussion about the week's topic as well as respond a classmate's post. Your participation in the weekly Discussion Forums will be used as a proxy for your attendance. This means that you need to have 2 posts per week, your original post and your reply to a classmate's post. Your 2 posts must be on different days, thus emulating what happens in a face-to-face course, where we would meet twice a week. Weekly Discussion Forums should be completed by Friday at noon CST.

NETIQUETTE

When posting in the discussion forum, it is important to understand how to politely interact with one another online. You can read more about the rules of netiquette at <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/index.html>.

QUESTIONS

In an online course, it is normal to have many questions about course content and semantics, such as clarification about assignments, course materials, or assessments, or even wanting to form a study group. So, when you have questions, your first stop should be to post your question in the STUDENT LOUNGE QUESTION FORUM, which you can access by clicking the DISCUSSIONS link in the Brightspace navigation bar. This is an open forum, that is student-driven, meaning that I am not actively monitoring the forum. Rather, students are encouraged to give answers and help each other. If your question is not adequately addressed in the forum, then you can email me directly (shill@mclennan.edu).

PARTICIPATION

Participation is essential to your success in this class. In distance education courses you are required to participate just as if you were in a face-to-face course. This means that in order to get full credit for participation, you will have to complete your discussion assignments, labs and class assignments and exams by each deadline. Consistent failure to participate in class will result in a negatively impacted grade at a minimum, and you may be dropped from the class if you exceed the allowed number of absences (e.g. 8 missed Discussion Forums).

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IMPORTANT DATES

Important due dates, as well as weekly chapters and topics, can be found in the SCHEDULE file, which is located on the CONTENTS page, in the ORIENTATION folder, in Brightspace. Please refer to the schedule frequently. In addition, I will post reminders prior to the due dates in the ANNOUNCEMENTS page on Brightspace.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Each week you will need to complete the following: • Read the weekly chapters and associated PowerPoint presentations. This will be available every Monday by noon CST. • Watch my video lectures associated with each chapter. • Post in the weekly Discussion Forum by Friday at noon CST. • Respond to one other student's post in the Discussion Forum by Friday at noon CST. • Complete the weekly lab assignments by Friday at noon CST. • Complete the Species Recovery Plan assignment by the due date.

SPECIES RECOVERY PLAN PRESENTATION

The capstone project at the end of this class will be a presentation you give on the Species Recovery Plan (SRP) of a federally endangered or threatened species. Instructions pertaining to this presentation can be found under the CONTENTS link, in the ORIENTATION folder, in Brightspace. Each week you will have SRP assignments that can then be collectively used to make your presentation.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

LEARNING OUTCOMES – LECTURE: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe modern evolutionary synthesis, natural selection, population genetics, micro and macroevolution, and speciation.
2. Describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.
3. Identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on plants and animals, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.
4. Describe basic animal physiology and homeostasis as maintained by organ systems.
5. Compare different sexual and asexual life cycles noting their adaptive advantages.
6. Illustrate the relationship between major geologic change, extinctions, and evolutionary trends.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – LAB: Laboratory activities will reinforce study of the diversity and classification of life, including animals, plants, protists, fungi, and prokaryotes. Special emphasis will be given to anatomy, physiology, ecology, and evolution of plants and animals. Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
2. Use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
3. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.

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4. Demonstrate knowledge of modern evolutionary synthesis, natural selection, population genetics, micro and macroevolution, and speciation.
 5. Distinguish between phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.
 6. Identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on plants and animals, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.
 7. Describe basic animal physiology and homeostasis as maintained by organ systems.
 8. Compare different sexual and asexual life cycles noting their adaptive advantages.
 9. Illustrate the relationship between major geologic change, extinctions, and evolutionary trends.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Your daily schedule can be found on the CONTENT page of Brightspace, in the ORIENTATION folder.

Please refer to your lecture and lab schedule often during the semester. While we will do a good job of staying on schedule, if there are any needed scheduling adjustments, they will be announced on the ANNOUNCEMENTS page of Brightspace.

Course Grading Information:

Your grade will be comprised of 4 unit exams, a cumulative final, laboratory exercises, discussion forums and a presentation. Your lowest unit exam score will be dropped (please note, the cumulative final cannot be dropped). Your lowest lab exercise grade will also be dropped.

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F < 60%

Lab Exercises: 30%

Discussion Boards: 10%

SRP Presentation: 10%

Exams: 50%

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

LATE WORK: Late grades will be reduced by 50% and will only be accepted for one week past the due date.

ATTENDANCE: Absence from more than 25 percent of scheduled lecture and/or laboratory meetings will be taken as evidence that a student does not intend to complete the course. For this course, your participation on the Discussion Forums will be used to record your attendance, e.g. 8 missed Discussion Forums = 25% absences. If the student's 25% absences are reached before the official drop date, the student will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. If the student's 25% absences are reached after the official drop date, the instructor may assign a W, if the student is passing and requests to be withdrawn. However, if a student who is not passing reaches the 25 percent point after the official drop

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date, the student will receive an F. Each absence will count toward attendance requirements in the course, including the first week of class.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Since the lowest unit exam score will be dropped, absolutely no make-up exams will be provided. Rather, the missed unit exam will be dropped as your lowest unit exam grade. Please remember, the cumulative final cannot be dropped.

MAKE-UP LABS: Since the lowest lab worksheet score will be dropped, no make-up labs will be provided. Rather, the missed lab worksheet will be dropped as your lowest lab worksheet grade.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing and presentation software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines. More advanced knowledge on how to create, record and upload a presentation are required, but a step-by-step tutorial will be provided. Students will need to be able to use Brightspace (our course's learning management system), McGraw Hill's Connect (for labs and various assignments) and Zoom (for video conferencing, such as digital office hours).

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS ACCESS • If you do not have access to a computer off campus, there are many computer labs on campus you can use to participate in the course. Most public libraries also have computers with internet access that you can use for free. The Brightspace App is also available, free of charge, for your phone.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS • You will need to have an up-to-date browser, operating system and the Microsoft Office 365 suit. You can obtain the Microsoft Office 365 suit for free, using your school email address. Please visit <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office> to download Microsoft Office. Some of the documents in this course will be available to you in PDF form. If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer, you can download it by going to <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

BACKUP PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY • In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Each student is expected to behave in a civil and respectful manner toward the instructor and other students. This includes prompt and regular participation, practicing academic integrity and seeking to take full advantage of this educational opportunity. Please observe the netiquette rules discussed earlier within this syllabus.

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[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/student-email.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.