

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE
COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2025**

BI1080 (A2): Introduction to Biological Diversity – 3 (3-1-3) 105 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Jessie Zgurski **PHONE:** 780-539-2863
OFFICE: J221 **E-MAIL:** JZgurski@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 – 5:00 PM, walk-in, or by appointment.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course examines the major lineages of life on Earth. It provides an overview of evolutionary principles and classification, the history of life, and the key adaptations of prokaryotes, protists, fungi, plants, and animals. Laboratories survey the diversity of biological form and function and introduce students to data collection and scientific writing.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Biology 30 (Prerequisite)

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

1) Wasserman, S. A., Minorsky, P. V., Jackson, R. B., Scott, K. G. E., Rawle, F. E., Moyes, C. D., Durnford, D. G., Walde, S. J., Cain, M. L., Urry, L. A., and Reece, J. B. 2021. Campbell Biology, Third Canadian Edition. Pearson Canada. (Recommended Textbook. The Second Edition of Campbell Biology, Canadian Edition, is also acceptable.)

2) Biology 1080 Lab Manual (Required – Available at the Bookstore)

3) Binder for Biology 1080 Lab Manual (and other lab handouts) – It should be able to hold about 200 pages.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lectures (Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 – 9:50 AM in J204), Laboratory (Wednesday or Friday, 2:30 – 5:20 PM in J130), Seminars (Monday 11:30 – 12:20 PM in J204 or Friday 10:00 – 10:50 AM in J201).

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the course, students should:

- Understand how to use the scientific method to test biological hypotheses.
- Be able to describe the process of natural selection and be able to provide examples of the evidence for evolution via natural selection.
- Be able to use current phylogenetic and taxonomic nomenclature to discuss the evolution of life on Earth.
- Be able to list the characteristics that define the major clades of life, including the eukaryotes, fungi, land plants, vascular plants, seed plants, flowering plants, chordates, and amniotes.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS: Laboratory	40% (Labs start January 15/17, 2025)
Seminar	10% (Seminars start January 13/17, 2025)
Midterm	20% (In class, February 25, 2025)
Final Exam	30% (During exam week, exact time and place TBA)

The final exam period is from April 14 to 23, 2025, and the registrar's office will determine the precise time and place of the exam. Exams may be scheduled on Saturdays or during evenings. Please be available to write final exams on campus during exam week.

The 40% laboratory mark will be broken down as follows:

Assignment	Weighting	Due Date*
Lab Biosafety Online Mini-Course	1%	January 15/17
Museum Questions	2%	February 5 or 7

Assignment	Weighting	Due Date*
Isopod Lab Assignment	5%	February 12 or 14
Algae Lab Questions	2%	February 26 or 28
Lab 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 Questions/Sketches	1% each	At the end of lab
<i>Brassica</i> Experiment Lab Report	8%	March 26 or 28
Lab 9 Diagrams	2%	March 26 or 28
Lab Final	15%	April 2 or 4

* This due date will depend on which lab section you are registered in.

The 10% seminar mark will be based on participation and short assignments you can work on during the seminar period.

GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is less than C-.

All marks will be assigned according to the criteria outlined in this syllabus.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Lecture Schedule – Winter 2025		
LECTURE TOPIC	Readings (Campbell's Biology)	
	Dates (Approximate)	Textbook Chapter
Introduction to BI1080	January 7	-
1. Unifying Themes in Biology	January 7, 9	Chapter 1
2. Taxonomy, Phylogeny & Systematics	January 14, 16, 21	Chapter 26
3. Descent with Modification	January 23, 28	Chapter 22
4. Evolution of Populations	January 28, 30	Chapter 23
5. Origin of Species	February 4, 6	Chapter 24
6. History of Life	February 11, 13	Chapter 25
Winter Break – No Classes	February 18, 20	N/A
Midterm	February 25	Covers Topics 1 - 6
7. Protists	February 27, March 4	Chapter 28
8. Plants – Colonization of Land	March 6, 11	Chapter 29
9. Plants – Seed & Flowering plants	March 11, 13	Chapter 30
10. Fungi	March 18, 20	Chapter 31
11. Animals – Invertebrates	March 25, 27, April 1	Chapter 32, 33
12. Animals – Chordates/Vertebrates	April 3, 8, 10	Chapter 34
Final Exam	TBA – Exam Week	Covers Topics 7 – 13,

Laboratory Schedule – Winter 2025		
Date	Lab	Assignment Due?
January 15 or 17	Lab 1: Biology Tools and Techniques	Lab Biosafety Online Mini-Course. Hand in lab drawings at end of period.
January 22 or 24	Lab 2: An Introduction to Evolution and Speciation	Hand in graphs and answers to questions by end of lab period.
January 29 or 31	Lab 3: Museum Field Trip	No
February 5 or 7	Lab 4: Habitat Selection in Terrestrial Isopods	Hand in museum worksheet.
February 12 or 15	Lab 5: Diversity of Photosynthetic Pigments	Isopod assignment due
February 26 or 28	Lab 6: Plants Part I – Plant Form and Function	Algae assignment due. Hand in sketches and answers to questions by end of lab period.
March 5 or 7	Lab 7: Plants Part II – Reproduction in Land Plants	Hand in sketches and answers to questions by end of lab period.
March 12 or 14	Lab 8: Biology of Invertebrates (Protostomes)	Hand in sketches and answers to questions by end of lab period.
March 19 or 21	Lab 9: Introduction to Deuterostomes	No
March 26 or 28	Lab 10: Review	Rat and perch dissection diagrams due, <i>Brassica</i> lab report due.
April 2 or 4	Lab Exam	Lab Exam this week

Seminar Schedule – Winter 2025	
Date	Activity
January 13 or 17	Finding primary and secondary sources
January 20 or 24	Phylogenetics Tutorial
January 27 or 31	Statistics Tutorial I (Chi-Square Test)

Seminar Schedule – Winter 2025	
Date	Activity
February 3, 7	Population Genetics Exercise
February 10, 14	Earthviewer Exercise
February 24, 28	No Seminar – Midterm Week
March 3, 7	Statistics Tutorial II (t-test) and Lab Report Writing
March 10, 14	Algae and Protista Exercises
March 17, 21	Fungus Exercises
March 24, 28	Lab Exam Preparation
March 31, April 4	No Seminar – Lab Exam Week
April 7, 11	Final Exam Preparation Exercises

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: For our first laboratory (on January 15 or 17, depending on your lab section), please bring a copy of the lab manual, a binder, and something to write with. Please wear closed-toe shoes. Lab coats and gloves will be provided.

Seminars start during the second week of class, so the first seminars will be held on January 13 or 17, depending on your section. Please bring paper and something to write with. During seminars, you will learn skills that will be necessary to write lab reports, such as how to conduct the required analytical statistical tests. You will also work on questions and problems related to the lecture material.

Students are responsible for completing and submitting work on time. Late assignments will typically be docked 5% of the mark per day late. No assignments will be accepted if they are more than one week late. Assignments not handed in will receive a mark of zero.

The midterm will be conducted in class on February 25 and the laboratory final will be delivered during the last laboratory period on April 2 or 4. A calculator will be permitted during the midterm and the laboratory final; otherwise, electronic devices are prohibited during exams. Students who cannot write the midterm or laboratory exam during the scheduled time due to a serious illness or another compelling reason must arrange to write it later. The final exam will be held during exam week. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of zero unless the

exam was missed for a compelling reason (such as an illness). In such a case, the exam will be deferred.

You are expected to take notes in this class. Copies of the lecture PowerPoint presentations will be made available on the course website prior to the lectures. I recommend printing out copies of the PowerPoint files and writing additional notes on them during lecture. Alternatively, you can load them up on your tablet or e-reader and take notes that way. The PowerPoints are designed to be filled out during lecture. Other learning resources, including practice exam questions and pre-lab PowerPoint presentations, will be added to the course web page during the semester.

Phones should be put away during this class (including during labs or seminars), and tablets and computers should only be used for taking notes. Using electronic devices to play games, watch videos, shop, or browse social media is distracting to other students and inconsiderate to the instructor. Except in cases of approved accommodations from Accessibility Supports and Disability Services, students are not permitted to take photos or make audio/video recordings during class.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Please note that all assignments completed for this class, except for the rat and perch dissection diagrams, must be completed individually.

ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORTS AND DISABILITY SERVICES: If you require disability-related accommodations and support, please contact the Accessibility Supports and Disability Services office. Their Email address is AS@nwpolytech.ca and their website is <https://libguides.nwpolytech.ca/learningcommons/AccessibilityServices>

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS: NWP students have access to mental health counseling services. Please do not hesitate to seek help if you are suffering from issues such as anxiety, depression, trauma, grief, or any coping-related concerns. Go to <http://www.mystudentsupport.com/> or call 1-855-849- 8641 to speak to a counselor. The NWP website also has mental health supports available. Please visit https://www.nwpolytech.ca/services/mental_health/index.html for more information.