

**BIO 14 Course Outline as of Fall 2018****CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: BIO 14 Title: CURRENT ISSUES IN BIO  
 Full Title: Current Issues in Biology  
 Last Reviewed: 5/9/2022

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

**Catalog Description:**

An introduction for non-majors to the core principles of biology through the study of current issues in modern biology. Topics include ecology, evolution, anatomy, physiology, genetics, molecular, and cell biology.

**Prerequisites/Corequisites:****Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

**Limits on Enrollment:****Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: An introduction for non-majors to the core principles of biology through the study of current issues in modern biology. Topics include ecology, evolution, anatomy, physiology, genetics, molecular, and cell biology. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

## **ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:**

<b>AS Degree:</b>	<b>Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	C	Natural Sciences	Fall 2018	
<b>CSU GE:</b>	C	Natural Sciences	Fall 2006	Spring 2010
	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	B2	Life Science	Fall 2018	
	B2	Life Science	Fall 2006	Spring 2010
<b>IGETC:</b>	<b>Transfer Area</b>		Effective:	Inactive:
	5B	Biological Sciences	Fall 2018	
	5B	Biological Sciences	Fall 2006	Spring 2010
<b>CSU Transfer:</b> Transferable		Effective:	Fall 2018	Inactive:
<b>UC Transfer:</b> Transferable		Effective:	Fall 2018	Inactive:

**CID:**

**Certificate/Major Applicable:**

Major Applicable Course

## **COURSE CONTENT**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Apply the scientific method to investigating and evaluating biological phenomena.
2. Explain the application of the core principles of biology to current issues.

**Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the scientific method and critically evaluate current scientific issues using this methodology.
2. Compare and contrast science and pseudoscience.
3. Assess the role of science in society.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of each of the following core principles of biology: ecology, evolution, anatomy, physiology, genetics, molecular, and cell biology.
5. Synthesize information from the core principles of biology and apply them to specific current issues in modern biology.

**Topics and Scope:**

- I. Scientific method versus other methods of decision-making
  - A. What is science and how is the scientific process conducted?
  - B. Science versus pseudoscience
  - C. Science's role in and influence on society
- II. Basic principles of ecology
  - A. Flow of energy and matter
  - B. Ecosystem structure and function

- C. Community structure and function
- D. Population structure, growth rates, and human population dynamics
- III. Principles of evolution
  - A. Natural selection
  - B. Speciation
  - C. Relationship to biodiversity and extinction crises
- IV. Structure and function of cells
  - A. Prokaryotic versus eukaryotic cells
  - B. Molecular biology
  - C. Relationship to anatomy and physiology, genetics, and evolution
- V. Genetics and inheritance
  - A. Molecular genetics
  - B. Mendelian genetics
  - C. Relationship to cell biology, evolution, and populations
- VI. Anatomy and physiology of plants and animals
  - A. Structure and function of specific selected tissues, organs, organ systems, and organisms
  - B. Relationship to ecology, evolution, genetics, and disease mechanisms
- VII. Applications of each of the above to current events and issues in modern biology

### Assignment:

1. Assigned reading from text and/or instructor prepared material (10-30 pages/week)
2. Case studies relating to specific biological topics and their relationship to current events
3. Response papers analyzing current biological issues (2-4 pages each)
4. Oral report on a current biological issue
5. Quizzes (3-10)
6. Objective examinations including midterm exams (2-4) and a comprehensive final exam (including essay questions)

### Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

**Writing:** Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Response papers

Writing  
5 - 30%

**Problem Solving:** Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Case studies

Problem solving  
5 - 30%

**Skill Demonstrations:** All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Oral report

Skill Demonstrations  
0 - 10%

**Exams:** All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes, Midterm exams, Comprehensive final exam

Exams  
40 - 70%

**Other:** Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Attendance and participation

Other Category  
0 - 10%

**Representative Textbooks and Materials:**

Principles of Biology. Brooker, Robert and Widmaier, Eric and Graham, Linda. McGraw Hill. 2015

Current Issues in Biology, Volume 6. Scientific American. Pearson. 2010 (classic)

Biology Today: An Issues Approach. 3rd ed. Minkoff, Eli and Baker, Pamela. Garland Science. 2003 (classic)

Instructor prepared materials