

POLK STATE COLLEGE

BSC 1930H HONORS BIOLOGICAL ISSUES

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CREDIT HOURS, PREREQUISITES, AND COURSE DESCRIPTION:

3 hours Lecture, 3 credits

Prerequisite: Placement at the college level in reading and writing, or completion of required college preparatory courses in reading and writing

This course provides students with an opportunity to investigate current biological issues through background research and classroom discussion. Students research, investigate, present, and write about selected biological issues during this course. Issues may include, but are not limited to, methods of science, ethical issues in biology, genes and genetics, DNA technology, evolution, nutrition, and ecology, as well as the biological basis for cancer, AIDS, and other diseases. Honors content is included.

PSC MISSION AND CORE OBJECTIVES: Polk State College is a quality-driven educational institution, providing access to affordable associate and baccalaureate degrees, career certificates, and workforce development programs, delivered by diverse, qualified faculty and staff who are committed to student learning and achievement through the consistent practice of collaboration and focus on excellence. In line with this purpose, PSC's General Education outcomes develop competence in the areas of 1) Communication, 2) Critical Thinking, 3) Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning, 4) Information Literacy, 5) Diversity, 6) Culture, 7) Ethics and 8) Social Responsibility. Please see the PSC catalog for complete descriptions of these outcomes. A primary focus of this course is competence related to the areas of:

1. Communication

Students demonstrate the ability to read, write, speak, and listen effectively, utilizing standard English.

2. Critical Thinking

Students demonstrate the ability to reflect on, analyze, synthesize, and apply information through problem solving.

3. Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning

Students apply mathematical and scientific principles and methods to solve abstract and real world problems.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students apply the scientific method while defining, analyzing and solving problems throughout the course apply these tools to life situations. (3)
2. Students identify, analyze, and participate in discussions related to selected biological issues of relevance to society. (1)

3. Students critically evaluate scientific issues as a basis for informed decision-making. (2)
4. Students use primary resources to research, write, and or create an original academic work.
5. Students interpret qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources.

TEXTBOOK AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

For textbook information, students may visit the campus bookstore, the bookstore website at <www.efollet.com>, or see the course syllabus.

COURSE CONTENT: **Specific course content may change based on the substitution of one or more currently relevant biological issues for a particular area listed below.*

- Scientific Methods
- Biodiversity: Classification of Organisms, Endangered Species
- Population Biology: Overpopulation
- Communities and Ecosystems: Human Disturbance, Natural Management
- Genetics: Predicting and Controlling Traits, Genetic Screening
- Evolution: Natural Selection, Insecticides and Antibiotics, Human Biological and Behavioral Evolution
- Disease: Societal Reactions, AIDS, Ebola
- Biological Warfare: Anthrax, Weapons Programs
- Animal and Human Behavior: Nature vs. Nurture
- Global Change: Global Warming, Climatology

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: These will vary according to specific course objectives, student learning needs, and instructional style.

WRITING REQUIREMENT (THE GORDON RULE):

The Gordon Rule, State Rule 6A-10.30, requires A.A. program students to complete six semester hours of English and six semester hours of additional courses in which the student must demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments. Because PSC uses a "Writing Across the Curriculum" approach to meeting the writing requirement, in addition to the required composition courses, any of the required social sciences and humanities courses will fulfill the writing requirement.

This is not a *Gordon Rule* writing course, but it may include writing assignments as part of the course requirements.

In addition, State Rule 6A-10.30 requires A.A. program students complete six credits of college-level mathematics. Taking the appropriate General Education mathematics courses satisfies the mathematics portion of the requirement.

A minimum grade of C is required in all courses with primary responsibility for fulfilling the communications and mathematics areas of the General Education requirements. This includes any course taken to complete the General Education mathematics requirement, and the courses taken to complete the communications requirement.

STUDENT HELP: The professor is available for help during posted hours and by appointment during other non-class hours. Students are encouraged to seek assistance from the professor. To further the educational process, the campus Learning Resources Centers, comprised of a Teaching, Learning, and Computing Center (TLCC) and library, are available for student use. Each unit provides qualified staff and up-to-date equipment and facilities to promote student academic success. The TLCC provides tutoring services, computing resources, and other instructional support. The libraries provide information resources, individual and group study space, research assistance, information literacy instruction, and computing resources. Each facility provides free wireless access to the Internet. Library and TLCC hours of operation, including tutor schedules, are posted at each facility and on the PSC website.

WITHDRAWAL: Students may officially withdraw from course(s) during any given term, provided they follow appropriate policy and procedure. Following the conclusion of the Drop/Add period, students may officially withdraw without penalty from any credit course, provided they submit the appropriate forms to Student Services no later than the published deadline. The published deadline reflects approximately, but no more than, 70% of the term, based upon the course's scheduled duration. It is the student's responsibility to submit these withdrawal forms. Failure to do so may result in an "F" in the course. Under the Forgiveness Policy, students are allowed only three attempts in any one course, one initial enrollment and two repeats. Students are not allowed to withdraw from a third course attempt. If a student stops attending class, the grade earned, usually an F, is assigned and posted. Prior to withdrawing from a course, students should consult the Financial Aid Office to determine what impact, if any, withdrawing has on financial aid status. Students cannot use course withdrawal to avoid academic dishonesty penalties. Students who have been penalized for academic dishonesty in a course are not eligible to withdraw from the course.

REPEATING A COURSE: Under the Forgiveness Policy, a student is allowed only three attempts in any one college credit course: one initial enrollment and two repeats. In certain circumstances, students may petition to repeat a credit course beyond the three attempts. Students should be aware that repeating courses may result in a higher course cost. A course cannot be repeated unless the previously earned grade is a "D," "F," or "W" (see College Catalog for details). . Prior to repeating a course, students should consult the Financial Aid Office to determine what impact, if any, repeating has on financial aid status.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students are responsible for their own work. It is assumed that each student is honest and will abide by that standard. However, in the event there is an indication or suspicion that there has been a case of cheating/plagiarism, the situation will be dealt with in accordance with published College policy. Copies of this policy are available in Student Services offices.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCESS/USE POLICY: All individuals who employ information technology resources provided by Polk State College (this includes, but is not limited to, telephones, computers, the PSC local area and wide area networks, and the Internet) must use these resources for academic purposes only. Use of these resources is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use can result in revocation or suspension of this privilege.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you are a student with a disability and will need special accommodations or auxiliary aids under the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact the Coordinator of Academic Advising in Student Services on either campus.

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA: Grades will be determined using a combination of assessment methods. These will include exams, quizzes, written assignments, projects, presentations, and Internet research. The following scale will be utilized to determine letter grades:

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80 - 89%

C = 70 - 79%

D = 60 - 69%

F = 0 - 59%

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is the student's responsibility. A student may be dropped from class for excessive absences (more than 3 hours). A student who is dropped before the no-fault drop deadline receives a grade of *W* (unless it is a third attempt of the class). Withdrawals are not permitted on the third course attempt. A student dropped **AFTER** the no-fault drop deadline, or dropped on his/her third attempt of the class, receives a grade of *F*.

WORK MISSED: Procedures for work missed are determined by the instructor.