



**Division of Earth, Life & Natural Sciences  
Biology Department**

[https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/science-technology-engineering--math/ biology/](https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/science-technology-engineering--math/biology/)

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**BIOL 1309: Biology for Non-Sciences Majors II  
CRN 16682**

**Spring 2021 Second Start (SS) HCC Online  
3 Credit Hours 48 hours/semester**

Instructor: Cassidy Johnson, Ph.D.                      Office Phone: 713-718-2367  
Office: Angela Morales, Room 101                      Office Hours: See Cisco Webex (in Canvas)  
HCC Email: [cassidy.johnson@hccs.edu](mailto:cassidy.johnson@hccs.edu)

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear the concerns and just to discuss course topics.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact My HCC Email address is my preferred method of contact. Please contact me using the mail function in Canvas so. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours Monday through Friday; I will reply to weekend messages during the following we

### **What's Exciting About This Course**

Biology is the study of life. Learning and understanding Biology helps you know:

1. How and why things happen in the physical world.
2. More about yourself and your daily experiences.
3. How to live a healthier life and improve the lives of others.
4. How different organisms interact with each other, as well as our impact on them.

### **Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites**

BIOL 1308 Biology for Non-Science Major I (lecture).

Please carefully read the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#).

### **Course Type**

**Online Anytime** - Students can take classes online at any time. These are traditional online classes and students never come to campus.

### Canvas Learning Management

All Biology sections utilize [Canvas](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

USE [FIREFOX](#) OR [CHROME](#) AS THE INTERNET BROWSER.

### HCC Online Information and Policies

For online/hybrid students. As an online /hybrid student, you are responsible for all information/requirements provided by the online college. Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>. This includes the mandatory online course prior to start of class.

### Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

When applicable, look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

### Instructional Materials

**Required Resources:** The textbook listed below is *required* for this course; however, it is FREE and is already provided to you in Canvas. You can download a copy of the book in PDF form or in a format for iBook from the OpenStax website. Links for downloads can be found in Canvas. You may also purchase a print copy from Amazon. Other materials to assist with the course content (videos, slides, etc.) will be provided in Canvas from the instructor.



#### OpenStax: Biology

ISBN-10: 1-947172-52-2

ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-52-4

To enhance your learning experience and provide affordable access to the right course materials, this course is part of the HCC Textbook Savings program that provides inclusive access to course materials. You can easily access the required materials for this course at a discounted price, and you will benefit from single sign-on access with no codes required in Canvas.

Your Houston Community College student account was billed for these materials at the time of registration and the price is guaranteed to be the lowest cost available for your required materials.

It is NOT recommended that you opt-out of these materials, as they are required to complete the course. You may choose to opt-out prior to Census Date, but you will then be responsible for purchasing your course materials at the full retail price and access to your materials may be suspended. The opt-out process would be for students who already have an access code because they are repeating the course or already purchased materials.

Students who opt out will receive a credit to their student account within two weeks of the official day of record from the Bursars Office. The Official Day of Record for this term is 2/25/2020. If you desire discounted loose-leaf printed course materials, you can do so from the bookstore after the official day of record for approximately \$25-35.

## Other Instructional Resources

### Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

### Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

### Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer- assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

## Course Overview

Provides a survey of biological principles with an emphasis on humans, including chemistry of life, cells, structure, function, and reproduction.

## Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

BIOL 1309 satisfies the Natural Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Biology Discipline Committee has specified that the course address the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information, and creative thinking by completing a written assignment such as a book report, research paper, or essay.
- **Communication Skills:** Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication by completing a written assignment such as a book report, research paper, or essay.
- **Quantitative and Empirical Literacy:** Students will demonstrate the ability to draw conclusions based on the systematic analysis of topics using observation, experiment, and/or numerical skills by completing textbook reading assignments, completing assignments, and answering questions on quizzes and exams that pertain to Course Student Learning Outcomes below.
- **Teamwork:** Students will demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal by completing textbook reading assignments, completing assignments, and answering questions on quizzes and exams that pertain to Course Student Learning Outcomes below.

### Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

- Will display an understanding of biological systems and evolutionary processes spanning all ranges of biological complexity, including atoms, molecules, genes, cells, and organisms.
- Will integrate factual and conceptual information into an understanding of scientific data by written, oral and/or visual communication. (This may include successful completion of a course-specific research project or a case study module).
- Will apply principles of the scientific method to problems in biology in the collection, recording, quantitative measurement, analysis and reporting of scientific data.

### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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

### Learning Objectives

Consistently demonstrates knowledge of:

1. Science as a process
2. Classifications and scientific nomenclature
3. Evolution

4. Darwin, the Origin of Species, and Natural Selection
5. Major events in the evolution of life on Earth
6. The Tree of Life
7. Genetics, its variations, and adaptations
8. Radiations and Extinctions
9. Primate and Hominid Evolution

### **Student Success**

Academic standards require a minimum of 3 study hours for every contact hour; meaning for a class that meets 3 hours per week, you need to budget and set aside a minimum of 9 hours each week to study and prep for your course success. Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Timely completion of assignments
- Participating in class activities
- Successful exam performance, including the mandatory final

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

### **Instructor and Student Responsibilities**

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Attain a raw score of at least 50% on the departmental final exam
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook

## Assessments

### Module “study plan” assignments

We will be using the adaptive learning platform Waymaker go through the material in this course. The course content is chunked into Learning Modules “study plans.” Each study plan is linked to the free textbook, OpenStax Biology. The study plans include short reading assignments, videos, and low stakes quizzes to help you review the material. Completing each study plan will earn you points in the class!

### Module quizzes

Each module has a “final” quiz based on the study plan. These quizzes will help review the study plan contents, and prepare you for the mini-exam.

### Mini-exams

A mini-exam will be given every two weeks and will (usually) cover a single module. The mini-exam is shorter than a “regular” exam with only ~25-35 questions. The purpose of these mini-exams is to let you focus your studying on one topic, rather than multiple topics, at a time. The mini-exams will be given through Canvas using the Respondus LockDown Browser system and a Webcam. A link to download the LockDown software will be in your “Start Here” module. Students with disabilities who need assistance as a part of reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information. One mini-exam will be dropped.

### Adobe Spark video assignment

During the course of the semester, you will be watching a lot of educational videos. How about you get an opportunity to make your own?? For this assignment, you will have an opportunity to create your own video using a free platform, Adobe Spark. Adobe Spark is a fun, digital product platform that you can use on your smartphone. You will produce a video on a selected topic related to the course. Detailed instructions, and link to the software and a grading rubric for the assignment is posted in Canvas.

### Final Exam

The HCC Science Discipline requires a System-wide Comprehensive Final for each course. The exam is comprehensive and will be worth 10% of your final course grade. The exam is a 50 question, multiple choice exam and will be taken online using LockDown Browser & Webcam.

### Grading Formula

Assessment	% of grade
5 Mini-exams* (drop 1)	55%
Module quizzes	15%
Completion of module study plans	10%
Spark video assignment	10%
Department final	10%
Total	100%

A = 100 - 90:

B = 89 - 80:

C = 79 - 70:

D = 69 - 60:

F = 59 and below

**Incomplete Policy:**

In this course, the purposes of the “I” (incomplete) grade is for students who are caught up and passing at the student withdrawal deadline, and then have a medical or other problem that prevents them from completing the course. If you are not passing at the student withdrawal deadline, you should drop yourself from the course, or you will likely earn an “F.” An incomplete “I” grade will be given only if all of the following conditions are met:

- ✓ You have earned at least 85% of the available points by the date that the “I” grade is requested.

You can provide documentation showing why you should earn an incomplete, such as a doctor’s note, etc.

You must be passing with a grade of “C” or better.

You must request the incomplete in writing BEFORE April 26<sup>th</sup>.

In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student’s request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

**Course Calendar**

Week	Topic/Module	Module due date	Exams dates	Other important dates
15-Feb	The history of life	2/27 (Sat) @ 11:59PM		
22-Feb	The history of life	2/27 (Sat) @ 11:59PM		
1-Mar	Prokaryotes	3/13 (Sat) @ 11:59PM	Mini-exam #1: The history of life (starts 2/26 @ 8AM, ends 2/28 @ 11:59PM)	Official day of record (2/25)
8-Mar	Protists & Fungi	3/13 (Sat) @ 11:59PM		
15-Mar	Spring Break	Spring Beak		Spring break 3/15 - 3/3/19
22-Mar	Plant diversity	4/10 (Sat) @ 11:59PM	Mini-exam #2: Prokaryotes, protists, fungi (starts 3/12 @ 8AM, ends 3/14 @11:59PM)	
29-Mar	Plant reproduction	4/10 (Sat) @ 11:59PM		
5-Apr	Animal diversity & features of animals	4/24 (Sat) @ 11:59PM	Mini-exam # 3: Plant diversity & reproduction (starts @ 8AM 4/9, ends 4/11 @ 11:59PM)	
12-Apr	Invertebrates	4/24 (Sat) @ 11:59PM		<b>Last day to withdraw</b> (4/15)
19-Apr	Vertebrates	5/8 (Sat) @ 11:59PM	Mini-exam #4: Animal diversity, features, invertebrates (starts @ 8AM 4/23, ends 4/25 @ 11:59PM)	
26-Apr	Overview of body systems	5/8 (Sat) @ 11:59PM	Spark Video Assignment due 5/2 @ 11:59PM	
3-May	Overview of body systems	5/8 (Sat) @ 11:59PM	Mini-exam #5 Vertebrates, body systems (starts @8AM 5/7, ends 5/9 @ 11:59PM)	
10-May	Final exam week		Comprehensive final exam (mandatory): Starts @ 8AM on 5/13, ends 5/16 @ 12 noon	Last day of semester (5/16)

### Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

### Instructor's Practices and Procedures



### **Missed Assignments**

The study plans are due by midnight on the assigned due date (see Canvas for more details). Students can finish a study plan after the due date; however, there is only a two day “grace period” and for each day late there will be a 10% deduction. Each student will be able to drop one of the five, mini-exams. There are no makeup exams, and any missed exam will be used as a dropped exam. The Spark video assignment must be turned in by the due date for full credit. Any late submissions will lose 10% for each day the assignment is turned in late.

### **Academic Integrity**

The practice quizzes you encounter during your reading and the completion quizzes for each module are designed to help you learn the material. These quizzes do not use the LockDown Browser; however, you should treat like opportunities to test what you know! I urge you to not use the internet, phone, etc. to answer these quizzes. For exams, you are not allowed to use any extra resources. The exams require the use of LockDown Browser and webcam, and the use of notes, the book, digital devices (phone, iPad, etc.), or assistance from individuals currently taking or not taking the course is prohibited. The use of these items on the exam will be considered cheating and could result in a grade of 0 for the exam and/or removal from the course with an assigned grade of F. Scholastic dishonesty also may result in a referral to the Dean of Student Services. See the link below for details. If you have a question about what counts as cheating, please reach out to me.

Here’s the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

### **Attendance Procedures**

Students will need to log in at least three times during the first week of the semester; afterwards, the assignments can be completed at the student’s discretion, as long as everything is completed by the due date.

### **Student Conduct**

I expect that everyone in the class will help me to build and maintain a respectful, safe, and open learning environment. We all come from different backgrounds and walks of life, and that is what makes college such a great experience! Students are expected to treat each other with respect and be open to differing opinions. Students who are disrespectful (name calling, overt rudeness, sending inappropriate emails or messages) to anyone in the class will be asked to drop and will have a report filed on Maxient.

### **Instructor’s Course-Specific Information**

The course is designed with the flexibility in mind for the online learning environment. All of the modules and study plans will be open on the first day of class and students can complete them at their own pace, as long as the assignments are completed by the due date. The class will not meet regularly online; however, the professor is readily available to meet with individual students via virtual office hours. Please reach out as soon as possible with any questions or concerns.

### **Biology Program Information**

The Biology area of study here at HCC covers the smallest and simplest organisms

(microbiology) to the largest and most complex organisms (human anatomy and physiology, zoology, botany).

AWARD TYPES: Associate in Science

AREA OF STUDY: Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

Please visit link: <https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/science-technology-engineering--math/biology/>

### **HCC Policies**

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

### **EGLS<sup>3</sup>**

The EGLS<sup>3</sup> (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS<sup>3</sup> surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS<sup>3</sup> surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

### **Campus Carry Link**

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

### **HCC Email Policy**

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through

the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

### **Housing and Food Assistance for Students**

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support.

Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

### **Office of Institutional Equity**

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

### **disAbility Services**

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

### **Title IX**

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross  
Director EEO/Compliance  
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity 3100 Main  
(713) 718-8271  
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu)  
<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

### **Office of the Dean of Students**

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

### **Department Chair Contact Information**

Dr. DaeJan Grigsby

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