



FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE

BSC1005 – Biological Principles for Non-Majors

Fall 2025 – A16

Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30am-12:45pm

Building 009, Room 134

Instructor Information

Name: Kori Spiropoulos, Assistant Professor of Biology and Microbiology

Email: kori.spiropoulos@fgc.edu. I should respond to your correspondence within three business days.

Office: Building 009, Room 123

Office Hours: TBD

Office Phone: 386-754-4486

Course Information

Credits: 3

Requirements Met: GE, GEC

General Education Area: Natural Sciences

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course applies the scientific method to critically examine and explain the natural world including but not limited to cells, organisms, genetics, evolution, ecology and behavior.

Required Texts/Learning Resources

Good news – your textbook for this course is free! The following Fowler, Samantha, Roush, Rebecca, Wise, James (2013). *Concepts of Biology*. OpenStax. ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-03-6
URL: <https://openstax.org/details/books/concepts-biology>

State Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will evaluate data regarding validity
- Students will read and interpret a variety of scientific data
- Students will describe the natural world
- Students will articulate and practice the scientific method

Critical Dates – Fall 2025

| Date | Event |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday, August 18 | Fall A16 and A8 classes start |

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| Monday – Wednesday, August 18-20 | Add/Drop period for Fall A8 |
| Monday – Friday, August 18-22 | Add/Drop period for Fall A16 |
| Monday, September 1 | Labor Day – No Classes |
| Monday, September 15 | Fall B12 classes start |
| Monday – Wednesday, September 15-17 | Add/Drop period for Fall B12 |
| Friday, September 26 | Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – A8 |
| Monday, September 29 | Fall B10 classes start |
| Mon. – Wed., Sep. 29 – Oct. 1 | Add/Drop period for Fall B10 |
| Friday, October 10 | Fall A8 classes end |
| Monday, October 13 | Fall B8 classes start |
| Monday – Wednesday, October 13-15 | Add/Drop period for Fall B8 |
| Tuesday, November 7 | Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – A16 |
| Tuesday, November 11 | Veteran's Day – No Classes |
| Monday, November 14 | Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – B12 |
| Thursday, November 18 | Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – B10 |
| Monday, November 21 | Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – B8 |
| Wednesday – Friday, November 26-28 | Thanksgiving Break – No Classes |
| Friday, December 5 | Fall A16, B12, B10, and B8 classes end |

Schedule of Class Events

Please note that the following schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Students should refer to the course calendar on their Canvas homepage for the most up-to-date schedule.

| Module | Dates | Topic(s) | Coursework |
|---------------|--------------|---|--|
| START HERE | 8/18/2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor and Course Information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus quiz |
| 1 | 8/18 - 8/24 | The Scientific Method and Evaluating Scientific Claims | Q1 (Quiz 1) – The Nature of Science HW 1 (Homework 1) |
| 2 | 8/25 - 8/31 | Water and pH; Biological Molecules | Q2 – Water and pH Q3 – Biological Molecules HW 2 |
| 3 | 9/1 - 9/7 | Cells | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/1 - NO CLASS (Labor Day) |

| | | | |
|----|---------------|---|---|
| | | | Q4 – Cells HW 3 |
| 4 | 9/8 - 9/14 | Cellular Processes | Q5 – Cellular Processes Project 1 (<i>replaces HW 4</i>) |
| 5 | 9/15 - 9/21 | Cell Cycle and Mitosis | Q6 – Cell Cycle and Mitosis HW 5 |
| 6 | 9/22 - 9/28 | Meiosis and Patterns of Inheritance | Q7 – Meiosis Q8 – Patterns of Inheritance HW 6 |
| 7 | 9/29 - 10/5 | Genes and Biotechnology | Q9 – Genetics HW 7 |
| 8 | 10/6 - 10/12 | Evolution | Q10 – Evolution Project 2 |
| 9 | 10/13 - 10/19 | Diversity | Q11 – Diversity HW 9 |
| 10 | 10/20 - 10/26 | Digestive System & Nutrition; Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems | Q12 – Digestive System Q13 – Cardiovascular and Respiratory Systems HW 10 |
| 11 | 10/27 - 11/2 | Immune System; Reproductive System | Q14 – Immune System Q15 – Reproductive System HW 11 |
| 12 | 11/3 - 11/9 | Endocrine System; Musculoskeletal System; Nervous System | Q16 – Endocrine, Musculoskeletal, and Nervous Systems Project 3 |
| 13 | 11/10 - 11/16 | Ecology | Q17 – Populations HW 13 |
| 14 | 11/17 - 11/23 | Ecology | Q18 – Cycles and Biomes Project 4 |
| 15 | 11/24 - 11/30 | • 11/26 - <i>NO CLASS</i> | Thanksgiving Break (11/26-11/30) |
| 16 | | FINAL EXAM | FINAL EXAM – Wednesday, Dec. 3 rd 11:30am-2:15pm |

Student Expectations

Academic Integrity

All quizzes are in-person during class and proctored through Honorlock. Quizzes are closed book, meaning that no outside notes nor devices may be used. No cheating will be tolerated.

The use of AI such as ChatGPT is not acceptable for any assignments unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Attendance

Attendance and participation are mandatory. Although attendance itself will not be graded, there will be in-class assignments that cannot be made up without a valid, documented excuse. Receiving five (5) or more absences will result in a 10% deduction in your overall class grade.

Courtesy and Student Conduct Code

Students are expected to be respectful toward both their professor and their peers. Both verbal and written communication should be professional, positive, and clearly stated. Please refrain from using slang or abbreviations when using written correspondence. Discrimination and the use of profanity or offensive language is prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework

Late work (DBPs, activities, labs, homework, and quizzes) will incur a penalty of one (1) letter grade, or 10 percentage points per day that it is late. Late work will not be accepted more than 72 hours past the deadline. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis for extenuating circumstances. If you experience a life-altering event which prohibits you from completing an assignment by the scheduled due date, you must provide documentation to support your claim. Please communicate known circumstances as far in advance of a due date as possible. In order to avoid late work caused by temporary disruptions in internet service or other unanticipated technical issues, please consider working ahead.

Grading Policies (Student Performance Measures)

Learning Activities

- Assignments (15%): Assignments will include weekly homeworks and in-class activities. Homeworks will primarily be completed through Canvas and will be due at 11:59pm of the posted date. In-class assignments will primarily be on paper and will be due before the end of class, unless otherwise specified.
- Quizzes (35%): There will be weekly quizzes on lecture material. These will primarily be administered in class, on Canvas. **You must be in person to take the quiz.** Since we will discuss answers in class soon after the quiz, make-ups are not allowed, but your lowest quiz score will be dropped each semester.
- Projects (35%): There will be quarterly, "take-home" projects that you must complete outside of class. These projects are designed to integrate the material that you've learned in a hands-on, applied approach. There will be more information on project design and how they will be graded in the instructions for each activity.
- Final Paper (15%): During finals week, you will have an in-person final paper. Don't stress! You can choose any topic from the course, bring any resources that you need, and you will have 2 hrs and 45 minutes to write 1500 words about something new that you learned related to the course content. More details will be discussed in the course.

Grading Scale

A – 90% - 100%

B+ – 85% - 89%

B – 80% - 84%

C+ – 75% - 79%
C – 70% - 74%
D+ – 65% - 69%
D – 60% - 64%
F – 59% or below

Returning Grades

I will grade most assignments within one week of the due date. For more expansive assignments, I will return them within two weeks. This gives me ample time to provide constructive, useful feedback to help you progress and grow as a student in this course. I strongly encourage you to review **ALL** feedback, regardless of the score you receive on an assignment.

Rounding Grades

Your overall grade will be rounded to the nearest 1% and assigned to the corresponding letter grade. For example, an overall average of 79.4% will be rounded to 79% and will be counted as a C. Similarly, a grade of 79.5% will be rounded to an 80% and will be counted as a B. This is not negotiable under any circumstance.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities will be provided at the instructor's discretion throughout the semester. Those who are not actively engaged in course assignments throughout the semester may be denied the opportunity to gain extra credit.

Student Support and Tech Needs

This course requires students to have access to a computer and the internet. For those students who do not own a computer, computer labs are available on the FGC campus and in public libraries. Students without internet can come to the FGC campus, go to local public libraries, coffee shops, etc.

Minimal technical skills require for this course include the ability to use Microsoft Office products and navigate the Internet.

If you have any additional questions, please contact IT at 386-754-4408. You can also email the Florida Gateway College helpdesk at helpdesk@fgc.edu.

Florida Gateway College Policies and Statements

The Library

The Wilson S. Rivers Library is located in Building 200 and also includes millions of e-books and articles (<https://www.fgc.edu/academics/library/index.html>). The library has more than 70 computers with 50 pages daily of free B&W printing for students. There are also small and large study rooms available for two hours at a time. Click the link above for more information. Librarians are available to assist with research help, and there are helpful videos on library searching and citation help here: (<https://fgc.libguides.com/researchhelpguides>).

Phone- 386-754-4401
Email- library@fgc.edu
[Ask-A-Librarian](#) text and chat

Fall & Spring Semester Library Hours

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 am – 7:30 pm
Friday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday: 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Sunday: CLOSED

Summer Semester Library Hours

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 am – 6:30 pm
Friday: CLOSED
Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED

Student Success Center (SSC)

The Student Success Center (SSC) is located in Building 008. The SSC offers a variety of resources for students and faculty. Access to computers and limited printing is available. Copies of reference books, textbooks, access to course specific software, and access to tutors for all levels of math and writing are available in the SSC. Tutoring in other subjects is also offered. The SSC provides space for students to study in subject specific learning groups. Stop by or call the Student Success Center to request the most current tutor schedule (386-754-4382).

Fall Semester SSC Hours

Monday--Thursday: 8:00am – 6:00 pm
Friday: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Spring Semester SSC Hours

Monday--Thursday: 8:00am – 6:00 pm
Friday: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Summer Semester SSC Hours

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 am – 5:00 pm

If you have any questions, you may contact the center by phone at 386-754-4479, 386-754-4382, or by emailing Christina Slater at christina.slater@fgc.edu.

EAB Navigate

The SSC initiates student progress reports to the entire campus through EAB Navigate. EAB Navigate is an early-alert tool designed to identify students who may be susceptible to falling behind in their course before they actually do.

Twice during the semester, we provide instructors with the opportunity to ALERT students of their course progress. This is done through the FGC Wolves email account. Students may receive an email stating their success may be at risk in a specific course. If you receive this email, DO

NOT PANIC. Please contact your instructor directly, your academic advisor, and the SSC. Your instructor's information is provided in the email.

Navigate Student is a mobile app designed to support students during their academic careers at FGC. Navigate Student is the ultimate student resource that acts as a personal advisor and provides students with the information they need, when they need it. Additionally, students may make an appointment with an advisor, view campus events, be alerted on important to-do's, view class schedules, explore their major, and much more.

Please do not allow yourself to struggle. We are here to help you achieve success. The mission of the SSC is to help encourage and promote your educational journey here at FGC and beyond.

Class Recording

A student shall not make a recording in class unless the recording is limited to the class lecture, and

1. the recording is made for the student's personal educational use,
2. in connection with a complaint to the college, **or**
3. as evidence in or in preparation for a criminal or civil proceeding.

Students are not permitted to record in class, through any means over any medium, any academic or other activity that is not a class lecture. A recording of any meeting or conversation between students, or between students and faculty, is strictly prohibited unless all parties have consented to such recording. A recording of a class lecture may not be published without the prior express written consent of the recorded faculty member.

Resource Information

Florida Gateway College has partnered with **BetterMynd**, (<https://www.bettermynd.com/students>) an online therapy platform for college students, to offer our students access to free video-therapy sessions with their diverse network of licensed mental health counselors.

Florida Gateway College students can now access free online therapy sessions on the BetterMynd platform with the counselor of their choice. These 50-minute, live video-sessions are private, confidential, and can take place from the convenience of your laptop, smartphone, or tablet. Sessions are available during the day, at night, and on the weekends.

To register and get started with a counselor that's a good fit for you, sign-up here. (<https://app.bettermynd.com/register>)

If you have any questions about these services, you can email BetterMynd at students@bettermynd.com.

If you are in the need of additional resources please contact the Director of Student Life, Amy Dekle, at amy.dekle@fgc.edu, or by visiting Building 007.

Academic Appeal; Grievances; General Complaint

If a student wishes to file an academic appeal, grievance, or general complaint, please visit the college's website. Under Students and the Complaints & Appeals section (<https://www.fgc.edu/students/complaints-and-appeals.html>), information regarding policy, procedure, and forms related to these topics is provided.

College Course Withdrawal and Drop Process

A course may be dropped only during the published add/drop period. After add/drop, students must withdrawal from their course. Please visit the [College Catalog](#) for more detailed information about the drop and withdrawal process.

Students are responsible for withdrawing by the published deadline. Students must allow sufficient time for the process to be completed. **The fully approved withdrawal form is due to Enrollment Services by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline posted on the [Academic Calendar](#) or it is considered late.**

To withdraw from a course, the following steps must take place:

1. The student obtains the instructor's authorization and last date of attendance in person or via email.
2. The student meets with an academic advisor, who will sign the form (Building 14). Or, if an online student, emails the advisor a statement requesting a withdrawal from the course. The email must include the instructor's email with the last date of attendance.
3. The advisor will complete a withdrawal form, attach the emails from the student and instructor in lieu of signatures and forward the form to Financial Aid.
4. A Financial Aid representative will complete and sign the form and forward the form to Enrollment Services to be processed.

Students are strongly encouraged to begin the withdrawal process the day **before** the withdrawal deadline to allow sufficient time for the process to be completed by all offices involved (Instructor, Advising Services, Financial Aid, Enrollment Services).

It is the student's responsibility to understand all financial and academic implications of the withdrawal. Students are permitted a maximum of two (2) withdrawals per course. Upon the third attempt, a student must receive a grade for the course. Absence from class or merely notifying the professor does not constitute withdrawal. A student who stops attending class without withdrawing will receive a grade from the instructor.

Incompletes

Incomplete grades are reserved for students who are unable to complete a course and the withdrawal date has passed. A student should only be issued an incomplete if at least 75% of the course assignments have been submitted and the student can reasonably complete the remaining assignments **within the first three weeks** of the next term to earn a passing overall grade. Otherwise, students should be issued the earned letter grade in the course at the end of the current term.

The **Incomplete Grade Request Form** must be completed and submitted for approval by the **FIRST day of Final Exams and BEFORE** issuing the "I" grade. The instructor will describe the circumstances leading up to the requested "I" for the course, and list the missing assignments, quizzes, exams, and any other course requirements needed to satisfactorily complete the course **within the first three weeks** of the next term. The form must be signed by the instructor, student, and the Dean/Executive Director over the program. Once all participants have signed, an approval email will be sent to the instructor for authorization to assign the "I" grade.

Student Communication Standards

You are expected to communicate in a professional and respectful tone with the instructor and fellow classmates. All written communication (in email correspondence, discussion forums, assignments, quizzes and exams, etc.) must use proper written English. Please refrain from using online and texting abbreviations and language. Oral communications, if applicable, must be made with a respectful tone and body language. Use proper [netiquette](#) throughout!

Academic Honesty

At Florida Gateway College, we value the development of critical thinking, effective communication, and academic growth. To ensure fairness and uphold the principles of academic integrity, any instances of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, fabrication, unauthorized use of AI technologies, etc.) are not permitted and will be dealt with severely. Students should make themselves aware of the student code of conduct found in the Student Handbook. We believe in your ability to think critically and develop your own unique perspectives. By adhering to these guidelines and committing to the principles of academic integrity, you will not only enhance your learning experience, but also foster an environment of trust and respect within our academic community.

Use of AI Technologies

The use of AI technologies to generate or assist in the creation and completion of assignments is strictly prohibited, unless explicitly allowed by the instructor as described in the course syllabus. It is your responsibility to read this thoroughly and carefully at the beginning of the semester.

Your assignments should reflect your own thoughts, analysis, and original work. Florida Gateway College employs the use of AI detection tools to assess the authenticity of your assignments. These tools are designed to identify instances of cheating and plagiarism, including the use of AI technologies. Any submissions that violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of AI technologies in your courses, please review your course syllabus or reach out to your instructor for clarification.

Civil Rights and Compliance Statement

Florida Gateway College does not discriminate in education or employment related decisions on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, religion, disability, age, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or any other legally protected status in accordance with the law. The Civil Rights & Compliance Officer is Cassie Buckles, Executive

Director of Human Resources, Building 001, Room 116, 149 SE College Place, Lake City, FL 32025, and may be reached at cassandra.buckles@fgc.edu or by phone at 386-754-4313.

Disability Statement

The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) is a resource for both students with disabilities as well as faculty. Students with disabilities in need of academic accommodations must first be registered with the OAS to verify the disability, establish eligibility, and determine reasonable academic accommodations.

After registering with the OAS, students must request their academic accommodation letters be sent to them each semester to share with their instructors. Upon receipt of the letter, the instructor will be available during office hours or via email to discuss the accommodations a student will need during the course. Students with disabilities who are not registered with the OAS or faculty who may have questions or concerns regarding an accommodation, please contact the office at the following:

In person: Building 007, Room 107

Phone: (386) 754-4393

Email: Accessibility.Services@fgc.edu

FERPA Statement

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides certain privacy rights to students related to educational records. This information can be found in the College Catalog, at the Office of Enrollment Services in Building 015 or on the Florida Gateway College website (www.fgc.edu/students/registration-and-records/ferpa/).

SACSCOC Statement

Florida Gateway College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate and associate degrees. Florida Gateway College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Florida Gateway College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

Honorlock Statement

Florida Gateway College has partnered with Honorlock, an online testing proctoring service. If off-campus remote proctoring is required during any course, Honorlock will be the online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam. You **DO NOT** need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable Internet connection.

To get started, you will need to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension using Google Chrome. You can download the extension on the Honorlock website (www.honorlock.com/install/extension/). When you are ready to test, log into the LMS, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking **Launch Proctoring** will begin the Honorlock

authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact Honorlock by live chat, by phone at 844-243-2500, and/or by email at support@honorlock.com.

If you encounter a Canvas issue, please contact Canvas via the Canvas Help menu or by clicking the **Canvas Support** link within your course(s).

Turnitin Statement

Instructors may require writing assignments to be submitted to Turnitin when uploaded to Canvas. Turnitin is an internet-based service that looks for similarities and potential plagiarism by comparing your assignment submissions with its massive database of student work (including previous student submissions at Florida Gateway College), the Internet, and its entire archive, books, and journal and reference publications. Turnitin generates a [similarity report](#), which can help you and your instructor determine whether you used sources fairly and ethically, cited correctly, and paraphrased effectively.

You are encouraged to submit your written work to Turnitin prior to assignment deadlines, whether through Canvas or [Draft Coach](#). If needed, that would allow you time to review the [library's research and help guides](#) or seek writing assistance from your instructor or a tutor in the Student Success Center.

Mission Statement

The mission of Florida Gateway College is to provide superior instruction, nurture individual development, foster career readiness, and enrich the diverse communities it serves through affordable, higher quality education programs and lifelong learning opportunities.