

BIOL 1311: General Botany

Class: 3 Semester Credit Hours
Biol 1311.101 Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 - 10:50

BIOL 1111: General Botany Lab

Lab: 1 Semester Credit Hours
Biol 1111.102 Thursday 1:00 - 3:20

Clarendon College
Division of Science and Health
Course Syllabus
Fall 2025

Instructor: Mrs. Rachel Randall

E-mail: rachel.randall@clarendoncollege.edu

Virtual Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 8:00-12:00 Contact me through email or Open LMS to set up zoom meetings
Childress Campus Office Hours: Monday 1:30-4:00pm Clarendon Campus: Tuesday and Thursday 8:00-9:30

The “Messages” feature within the online platform is the main method you should use to contact me. I will make every effort to check the course website every weekday and respond to your message requests within 24 hours on business days.

Instructor's Plan for Regular and Substantive Interaction

The student can expect timely and frequent interaction with the instructor throughout the course. Each assignment will have a due date on the calendar, syllabus link, or within the module. The instructor will communicate with the student using email, announcements, discussions, assignments, office hours, and/or virtual Zoom meetings. The student can expect instructor-initiated posts, replies, and/ or follow-up questions on discussion boards, individualized feedback on assignments, live Zoom discussions or meetings, and/or announcements focused on the course content. The instructor will respond to learner inquiries or requests for assistance within one business day and provide feedback on assignments within 7 days of the due date.

BIOL 1311 Course Description: Fundamental biological concepts relevant to plant physiology, life cycle, growth and development, structure and function, and cellular and molecular metabolism. The role of plants in the environment, evolution, and phylogeny of major plant groups, algae, and fungi. (This course is intended for science majors.)
Pre-/Co-requisite: BIOL 1111 General Botany Lab

BIOL 1111 Course Description: This laboratory-based course accompanies Biology 1311, General Botany. Laboratory activities will reinforce fundamental biological concepts relevant to plant physiology, life cycle, growth and development, structure and function, and cellular and molecular metabolism. The role of plants in the environment, evolution, and phylogeny of major plant groups, algae, and fungi. (This course is intended for science majors.) Pre-/Co-requisite: BIOL 1311 General Botany

Statement of Purpose: General Botany partially satisfies the requirements for the Associates Degree at Clarendon College and is designed for transfer to a senior college.

Required Instructional Materials Supplies: There are no required texts in this course. Material is posted in your Open LMS course and discussed in class and lab. It is essential that you attend both the class and lab regularly. If you wish to purchase a text for reference, I recommend Stern's Introductory Plant Biology 15th Edition by Bidlack, Jansky, and Stern, ISBN-13: 978-1260571042 and Laboratory Manual for Stern's Introductory Plant Biology, 15th Edition by Bidlack, ISBN-13: 978-1260488630.

Recommended Readings: • The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World by Michael Pollan. Topics in this book will be discussed in class lectures. ISBN-13: 978- 0375760396

Methods of Instruction: This course will utilize readings, PowerPoint presentations, forum discussions, audio-visual materials, and lab instruction.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: The full details of Student Rights and Responsibilities policies can be viewed on Clarendon College's website at: [www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA(LEGAL).pdf)

Course Objectives

In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, all life and physical science

courses at Clarendon College will address the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication Skills** – including effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** – including application of scientific and mathematical concepts.
- **Teamwork** – including the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Specific **Student Learning Outcomes** for the class and lab can be viewed from the THECB website at this link:

<https://reportcenter.highered.texas.gov/training-materials/lower-division-academic-course-guide-spring-21/>

Computer/Technology Requirement: This course uses a variety of web resources that require a good Internet connection and an up-to-date browser. The course will have its best appearance and functionality utilizing Mozilla Firefox. Note: If you use your iPad or iPhone to work in this course, download and use Mozilla Firefox to access the course instead of using Safari as your internet browser. Note: To use your **mobile device**, install the **Open LMS app**. Some activities cannot be completed on a mobile device.

You must have the following programs on your computer in order to use and complete these online courses:

- Adobe Reader (to view the PDF type of documents)
- Latest version of one of these internet browsers on your computer: **Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Microsoft Edge.**
- You must also have access to the **Microsoft Office** program that contains Microsoft Word to view some documents and PowerPoint to view some slideshows. (If you don't already have it on your computer, you can download the free Microsoft 365 available through Clarendon College. Click [these instructions](#) for help downloading it as well as accessing your Bulldogs email.)

Grading Policies: You will receive one letter grade for BIOL 1311 and one letter grade for BIOL 1111. Those grades come from the components described below.

BIOL 1311: General Botany Class

1. **Required Enrollment Verification Activity (Syllabus Quiz):** Required Enrollment Verification Activity This activity is a "Course Contract" that explains you understand and will abide by my class policies as explained in the syllabus. It is located in the Class Orientation section of your course.

Students who fail to complete the Syllabus Agreement EVA (Enrollment Verification Activity)- Syllabus Quiz by the official census date may not be able to continue in the course. This could result in an F for the course and forfeiture of Financial Aid. The census date for this term can be found on the Academic Calendar located at the Inside CC link on Clarendon College's home page.

2. **Class Notes count as 10%** of your final course grade. Class Notes count as 10% of your final course grade. Each chapter includes a set of guided notes, which you are expected to complete and submit. These notes support class discussions, help prepare you for quizzes, and serve as a study resource for exams. All note assignments are posted in Open LMS.
3. **Chapter quizzes and assignments will count as 45%** of your final course grade .Each chapter has at least one quiz. BEFORE you attempt the quiz:
 - a. Be sure to read the e-text chapter thoroughly.
 - b. Review the included PowerPoints as well as class notes that accompany the chapters.
 - c. Be certain to complete the discussion or activity for that chapter.
 - d. No quiz grades will be dropped.
4. **Class exams will count as 45%** of your final course grade.
 - a. The exams will utilize a variety of question formats (objective, matching, multiple choice, true/false, etc.)
 - b. You will only have one attempt for each exam. Once you begin the exam, you must complete it within the allotted time.
 - c. All class exams, including the final, will be weighted equally.
 - d. Each exam covers the material covered since the last exam (not comprehensive).
 - e. No exam grades will be dropped.
 - f.
5. **Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
 - a. Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of plants, algae, and fungi.
 - b. Describe the characteristics of life and the basic properties of substances needed for life.

- c. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
- d. Describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.
- e. Identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on plants, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.
- f. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins.
- g. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in photosynthesis and respiration.
- h. Describe the unity and diversity of plants and the evidence for evolution through natural selection.
- i. Compare different sexual and asexual life cycles noting their adaptive advantages.
- j. Describe the reasoning processes applied to scientific investigations and thinking.

BIOL 1111 General Botany Lab

1. Required Enrollment Verification Activity

This activity is a “Course Contract” that explains you understand and will abide by my class policies as explained in the syllabus. It is located in the Class Orientation section of your course.

Students who fail to complete the Syllabus Agreement EVA (Enrollment Verification Activity) by the official census date may not be able to continue in the course. This could result in an F for the course and forfeiture of Financial Aid. The census date for this term can be found on the Academic Calendar located at the Inside CC link on Clarendon College's home page.

2. Labs and assignments will count as 60% of your final lab grade.

- a. There will be **One Attempt** per quiz/assignment/lab.

3. Lab exams will count as 40% of your final lab grade.

- a. You will take a midterm and a final lab exam.
- b. These exams are equally weighted and non-comprehensive.
- c. You will only have **One Attempt** on the lab exams. **Neither one will be dropped.** They are closed book.

4. Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- a. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
- b. Use critical thinking and scientific problem solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
- c. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.
- d. Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of plants, algae, and fungi.
- e. Describe the characteristics of life and the basic properties of substances needed for life.
- f. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
- g. Describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.
- h. Identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on plants, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.
- i. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins.
- j. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in photosynthesis and respiration.
- k. Describe the unity and diversity of plants and the evidence for evolution through natural selection.
- l. Compare different sexual and asexual life cycles noting their adaptive advantages.
- m. Describe the reasoning processes applied to scientific investigations and thinking.

You will receive a separate letter grade for BIOL 1311 and BIOL 1111. This grade comes from the components described above. **Student grades and course averages are viewable in Open LMS by clicking on the “Course Dashboard” and then clicking on the “Gradebook” in Open LMS. All graded activities/discussions/quizzes/exams for BIOL 1311 and 1111 must be completed and/or submitted in the Open LMS learning platform..**

Grading Policies:

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog: 90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C
60- 69 = D 59 or Below = F

Your official final course grade will appear in your Student Portal.

Grades earned for each graded activity will be available in Open LMS. However, in your Open LMS gradebook, assume that any activity you did not complete is a zero, even if a hyphen appears beside the activity in the gradebook. The current course average shown in the Open LMS gradebook will not be correct until I have replaced the hyphens with zeroes.

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM ETHICS: Excerpt from Clarendon College's Student Handbook

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate

academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to:

1. obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; 2. discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; 3. observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; 4. using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment; 5. entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage; 6. taking an examination for another person; 7. completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; 8. altering grade records; 9. using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or, 10. plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the vice president, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to Vice President of Academic Affairs, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported, by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. If the Vice President of Academic Affairs observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Class Policies:

1. **Make-up work:** Late will not be accepted unless the missed assignment is due to an emergency (with documentation). Allowing a student to make up late work is solely at the discretion of the instructor. **A 10% deduction per day will be applied unless prior arrangements have been approved.**
2. **Final Exam:** The schedule of final exams times is published at the beginning of the semester. You can find the schedule for final exams at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/insideCC>. Do not make plans to leave school before your scheduled final exam. Faculty members cannot on their own authorize a student to take a final exam early. In exceptional circumstances if a student needs to take a final exam early, he/she may request early final exams by filling out the form at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Admin/Request%20for%20Early%20Final%20Exams.pdf>.
3. **Scholastic Honesty:** I adhere to a strict policy regarding academic honesty. Anyone who is dishonest in any way will receive a zero on that assignment or exam with no opportunity to make up the zero and may be dropped from the course with a grade of F.
4. **Grievance Policy:** If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.
5. **Accommodations:** REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable

accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

6. **Nondiscrimination Policy:** Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.
7. **Withdrawal:** Students desiring to make schedule changes after their initial registration each semester must do so during the designated "Drop and Add" period as scheduled in the College Catalog. Students will be required to pay tuition and fees applicable to any class(es) added to their schedule.

Official withdrawal from a course is initiated in the Office of the Registrar. However, each student should consult with his/her academic advisor or the Associate Dean of Enrollment before officially withdrawing from a course. A student who stops attending a class without officially dropping it may receive a grade of "F" for that class.

Biol 1311 and Lab - General Botany **Tentative Course Calendar and Outline – FALL 2025**

	Lecture Biol 1311	Lab Biol 1111
Week 1	Syllabus EVA Intro and Chemistry The Nature of Life	Syllabus EVA Lab Safety Microscopy
Week 2	Cells and Tissues	Microscope Exam Wet Prep-
Week 3	Roots, Soils and Stems	Mitosis / Roots
Week 4	Exam 1 Leaves	Leaf lab (stomata)
Week 5	Flowers, Fruits and Seeds	Setup for c-fern Alternation of Generations
Week 6	Plant Metabolism	Plant Chromatography
Week 7	Growth and Development (Mitosis)	Mitosis Lab (onion root)
Week 8	Meiosis and Alternation of Generations	Meiosis
Week 9	Genetics and Molecular Biology Exam 2	Genetics
Week 10	Photosynthesis, Growth and Development	Photosynthesis Lab
Week 11	Evolution Plant Names and Classification	Phylogeny & Classification
Week 12	Kingdom: Fungi	Mycota Lab
Week 13	Bryophytes Seedless Vascular Plants	Dichotomous Key
Week 14 Nov 26 - Nov 30 (Thanksgiving Break)	Gymnosperms Angiosperms	Scavenger Hunt
Week 15	Angiosperms continued from previous week	Angiosperm/Gymnosperm Classification
Week 16 FINALS Dec 8 - 10	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM PRACTICAL