



Biology Department/School of STEM

**BIO1001: Human Biology and Bioethics
Lecture (3) & Lab (1)**

4 Units
Spring 2026

LECTURE: BIO1001-1 (MWF 8:30 am – 9:25 am)

Meeting location (Starkey B-100)

LAB: BIO1001L-1A (Th 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm), BIO1001L-1B (T 4:45 pm - 7:15 pm)

Meeting location (Sator 105)

Final Exam: (Monday, 5/4/2026, 7:30 am – 10:00 am)

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

-Psalms 24:1

INFORMATION	SPECIFICS FOR THE COURSE
Instructor title and name:	Prof. Bella Cruz
Phone:	(619) 849-3207
Email:	jvasquez@pointloma.edu
Office location and hours:	Rohr Science 178; Mon & Wed 10:30-11:30am, by appointment or just email me with your available times.
Lab Instructor title and name:	Prof. J. Chris McGaugh
Email:	jcmcgaugh@pointloma.edu

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

General Education Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and culture.

Course Description

From the course catalog:

An exploration of assorted topics in human biology as they intersect with bioethical and sustainability issues of current interest in society. Topics include human physiology, health, reproduction, genetics, and ecology. This course examines the underlying scientific basis of specific examples and how they relate to everyday life. The approach for this course emphasizes the process of science, critical thinking, active learning, social relevancy, and building connections between case studies and general concepts of biology. Offered every year.

This course is designed to promote learning of key concepts in general biology with special emphasis on human biology and bioethics. The course lecture and lab activities will be designed to provide multiple opportunities for students to learn and to apply the major unifying ideas and to learn how scientific inquiry operates within the field of biology. When possible, students will be able to explore organisms and/or phenomena in the lab before hearing lecture material. Lecture sessions will consist of lectures interspersed with in-class activities to give students a chance to think about and to apply what they are learning. This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University. By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports an introduction to the natural and social sciences as tools for exploring the world, with emphasis on collecting and interpreting data.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

Students in this course will:

1. Describe and discuss the major unifying ideas in biology (as represented by SHADE):
 - S** Relationships between structure and function are seen in living organisms.
 - H** Living organisms and ecosystems have feedback systems that regulate biological systems at many levels to maintain homeostasis/stability.
 - A** Populations of living organisms may change over time (evolution/adaptation), and those changes are passed to future generations by DNA.
 - D** Living organisms are incredibly diverse, but they also show remarkable unity, especially at the cellular and molecular levels.
 - E** Living organisms obtain (by eating or by photosynthesis) and use energy.
2. Use the processes and tools of scientific inquiry (both hypothesis testing and discovery science) to test biological hypotheses and to skeptically evaluate scientific information.
3. Prepare and/or analyze graphs to interpret data and to draw valid conclusions.
4. Design and conduct at least one independent investigation.

5. Recognize biology as a problem-solving science based on past and continuing experimentation, and evaluate biology's role and impact on society.

General Education Learning Outcomes

- 1) Link to GE courses and assessment plan: [Assessment Plan](#)
- 2) Link to GELO's: [General Education < Point Loma Nazarene University](#)
- 3) GE Learning Outcome 1d. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to examine, critique, and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions.
- 4) Select questions on the final exam will be used to assess GE Learning Outcome 1d.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

Required textbooks/material:

- Simon, E. J. (2020). *Biology: The Core* (3rd ed.). Pearson. ISBN 9780135832646 (through [Lomabooks](#)) + Mastering Pearson access included.

Required supplemental material:

- [The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics pdf](#) (some assigned readings/assignments)
- [On being a scientist pdf](#) (some assigned readings/assignments)
- Additional reading may also be assigned.

Use of laptops in class

I discourage use of laptops in the lecture sessions; however, if you feel strongly that you take your best notes via computer, and that the use will not be distracting to yourself or others around you, you may do so. I will call on you more often than other students during class, just to make sure that you are on task. If computer use becomes a problem for some students, everyone will lose the privilege. In contrast, I will sometimes ask you to bring your laptop to lecture or lab so that you can look up information, work on lab reports, etc.

Assessment and Grading

Assignment or assessment	Description	Percentage
3 lecture exams (10% each)	Combination of multiple choice and short essay	30%
Final exam	Multiple choice (final comprehensive exam)	15%
13 Labs (can do 1 extra)	Pre-lab questions, lab quizzes, in-lab graphs, drawings, answers to questions, etc.	20%
1 lab report	Materials/methods, results, and conclusions	5%
Mastering Pearson Assignments; in-lecture oral Participation	A variety of tasks will be done in class, individual or with a partner/group;	15%
Lecture Quizzes & Group Activities/Presentations	Quizzes based on reading assignments, individual and group presentations	15%
	Total	100 %

Grades will be given on the basis of earned points as a percentage of total points possible.

Grading scale:

A	90%	
B	80%	A "+" will be assigned to the upper 2% in each range (except for A+ which can't be used), and a "-" will be assigned to the lowest 2% in each range.
C	70%	
D	60%	
F	50%	Examples: 91% = A- 69% = D+

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Content Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In BIO1001/BIO1001L, all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include issues related to the intersection of science and faith, evolution, climate change, and environmental stewardship. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can

manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of biology, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In BIO1001/BIO1001L, we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include issues related to the intersection of science and faith, evolution, climate change, and environmental stewardship. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of biology, and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All lecture assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the due dates listed on Canvas. *Unless otherwise specified, assignments turned in late will be graded as follows: 50% reduction, after 48 hrs, no credit.* This only applies to assignments. Exam policy will follow school guidelines.

There is no late work accepted for any of the lab quizzes, reports, or any other assignments for lab. Lab reports are due before midnight on the day of the lab.

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the [Office of Spiritual Life and Formation](#).

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation

within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.]

PLNU Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2533). Once a student's eligibility for an

accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. Professors are able to view a student's approved accommodations through Accommodate.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/nondiscrimination.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

Students are expected to take the exams on the days scheduled unless they have an excuse cleared by me no later than the Friday preceding the exam. If there is an approved conflict you will be expected to take the Exam prior to the scheduled time. If something unexpected happens, we will make appropriate arrangements at that time. Makeup exams may not be the same as the original and will generally be more difficult in nature. Un-excused misses will result in a zero grade. You will have two weeks from the time exams are handed back to discuss possible corrections, after which the grade becomes permanent.

Attending lab is mandatory and you will **not** be able to make up labs that are missed. Laboratory sections will meet on a weekly basis, see the schedule for details. Quizzes are weekly in lab at the very start of the lab. Be on time. There are no quiz make-ups. Furthermore, there are no allowed or excused absences except as approved in writing by the Provost for specific students participating in certain university-sanctioned activities (e.g. sports, band performances, etc.). If you must miss a lab for one of these reasons, then you must make arrangements to make up the assignments by sending an email to the Lab Instructor (jcmcgaugh@pointloma.edu), the week *before* the lab that you will miss. No other changes in lab schedules will be permitted. In the event of illness or unforeseen personal emergencies, the Lab instructor should be contacted along with the lecture professor. The mandatory zoo lab is scheduled to be on Thursday 4/23 or Saturday 4/25 depending on logistics from the Biology department. Please make arrangements to ensure attendance for this lab (the biology department will provide a free ticket for you).

Cell phones must be muted during class. Only in cases of emergency should you leave class to take a phone call, unless the lab is on a break. NO food or drinks are allowed in the lab rooms. You may bring/use a water bottle/drink in the lecture room, but NO food or other drinks are allowed in the lab.

In an effort to create the best learning environment possible, all students will be assigned to work in a group – whether in the lab or lecture. You may be surprised how much you can learn from one another, especially from people who you may not have chosen to work with. You are expected to show respect to your classmates and instructors by listening when others are speaking, refraining from discussing non-related issues during class, and not belittling the opinions of others, even when you disagree. Behavior

intended to embarrass or ridicule others will not be tolerated and will have serious consequences. Likewise, gossip has no place in the Christian classroom.

You will be working in teams throughout the semester so that you can work cooperatively. I hope that you will participate in class discussions through asking and answering questions, and be ready for some group quizzes and assignments/presentations.

Although you may discuss readings and lecture material among yourselves, I expect that you will each do your own work. Each assignment (in its entirety) must be written in your own words, and no electronic files should be exchanged. Another form of plagiarizing would be to copy and paste answers from a reading which involves using someone else's words as if they were your own (after all, this is an ethics class). Much of the learning process involves articulating the answer in your own words, and bypassing this step will almost guarantee an inadequate understanding of the material. It is also plagiarism if you use old homeworks, lab reports, exams, etc. (from previous BIO101/1001 courses) to get ideas for how to complete current homeworks, labs, and exams.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

- Appointment Calendar: <https://plnu.mywconline.com/>
- Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>
- Email: writingcenter@pointloma.edu

Important Dates

Last day to add the class.....01/23/2026
Last day to withdraw from the class.....03/27/2026
Tentative exam dates
Exam 1.....02/04/2026
Exam 2.....02/23/2026
Exam 3.....03/30/2026
BIO1001-1 Final.....05/04/2026, Monday, 7:30 am – 10:00 am

Lomabooks Instructions for Students:

*This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.*

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

*For more information about **LomaBooks**, please go: [HERE](#)*