



蘇州大學
Soochow University

BIO 140 The Diversity of Life

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of the unity and diversity of life on Earth, spanning from microscopic organisms to complex ecosystems. It focuses on biological diversity, evolution, the structure, function, and significance of animals, plants, and microbes, while also addressing how organisms adapt to their environments. Students will gain an understanding of the interconnectedness of life forms and the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the principles and concepts of biological diversity and its significance.
2. Explore the major taxonomic groups of life on Earth, their characteristics, and evolutionary relationships.
3. Investigate the role of ecological processes in shaping and maintaining biodiversity.
4. Discuss the importance of conservation efforts and the threats to biodiversity.
5. Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills related to biodiversity.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Assignments	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Cecie Starr, Ralph Taggart, Christine Evers, Lisa Starr, *Biology: Exploring the Diversity of Life*, 14th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2015.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Introduction to Biodiversity Topic 2: History of Life on Earth Topic 3: The Theory of Evolution Topic 4: Microorganisms and Protists Assessments: Quiz#1 Assignment#1



Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Bacteria and Archaea Topic 6: Protists: Algae and Protozoa Topic 7: Evolution and Diversity of Microorganisms Topic 8: Human Relevance and Applications Assessments: Quiz#2 Assignment#2
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Fungi: Diversity, Structure, and Reproduction Topic 10: Bryophytes, Seedless Vascular Plants, and Gymnosperms Topic 11: Angiosperms: Diversity and Importance Topic 12: Plant Adaptations and Life Histories Assessments: Midterm#1
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Intro to Animal Diversity and Invertebrates Topic 14: Invertebrates (Cont.) Topic 15: Vertebrates Topic 16: Vertebrates (Cont.) Assessments: Midterm#2
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Ecosystems and Ecology Topic 18: Conservation and Biodiversity Crisis Topic 19: Case Studies and Discussions Topic 20: Final Exam Review; Q&A Assessments: Final Exam

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.



2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION



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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.