



Governing Iowa's Public Universities

In accordance with [Board of Regents policy 3.20](#), the following required information is available below:

Fall 2026

**I. Course title and number as designated in the institutional course catalog:**

*BIOL 1015 Life: Continuity & Change Laboratory - All Sections*

**II. A course description including learning objectives that students are expected to achieve by the end of the course**

**A. Course Description:**

Activities illustrating the role of biology in our present society. Emphasis is placed on activities investigating life science concepts related to human concerns, including human genetics and variation. DNA and DNA fingerprinting, human disease and disease transmission, and basic cellular function. The laboratory will emphasize the process of science, and students will practice skills scientists use to answer questions about the processes of life. Lab, 2 periods. Declared biology majors cannot receive either university or elective credit for this course. Prerequisite(s) or co requisite(s): BIOL1014 or equivalent. (Fall and Spring)

**B. Course Level Learning Objectives:**

This lab will assist you in developing the following skills and meeting the following objectives/outcomes:

1. Use biological data to solve problems.
2. Execute processes of scientific inquiry through laboratory activities.
3. Apply course concepts to everyday life issues.

**III. A general outline of the topics to be covered throughout the course:**

Topics: Scientific Method; Cell Membrane Transport; Microscopy; Mitosis, Meiosis, and Aneuploidy; Genetics and Variation, Pedigrees; Inheritance Patterns; and DNA Fingerprinting.



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**IV. List of required textbooks, readings, and other materials necessary for the course**

Life: Continuity and Change 8th Edition, 2026. ISBN 978-1-7331989-2-9 by McDade et. al.

**V. General description of the types of assessments used in the course (e.g., exams, papers, projects, experiential learning):**

*This course uses the following types of assessments:*

1. Participation in weekly laboratory activities: Active participation in each activity is required to obtain a general understanding of topics and concepts covered each week.
2. Assignments: Consisting of short answer, multiple choice, fill-in the blank, true /false, mix and match style items. Purpose is to help students connect the weekly laboratory activities into the concepts discussed so they can apply this knowledge and “problem solve” and receive feedback so they are ready to take exams.
3. Exams: Consists of multiple choice, fill-in the blank, and true/false and short answer questions.