



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 1013 Life: Natural World Laboratory

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

A. Course Description:

This course provides activities illustrating the various types of organisms on this planet, as well as their interactions with other organisms and the environment. The laboratory will emphasize the process of science (methods for gathering information), and students will practice skills scientists use to answer questions about the natural world and communicating that information (e.g. making infographics). Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): [BIOL 1012](#).

B. Course Level Learning Objectives:

Natural World Lab Course Objectives:

- 1. Identify characteristics of scientific studies.*
- 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:

Tentative Topics: *Pond Water Organisms, Osmosis, Soil Characteristics, Prairie Life, Species Area Curve, Identification of Organisms, Bunny Traits, Flower Parts & Functions, Photosynthesis, Plants & Nutrients, Measuring Richness and Evenness in Environments.*

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

Textbook: Life in the Natural World: Investigating Life's Diversity (4th Edition). O'Kane & Cline-Brown. Kendall Hunt Publishing



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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) Weekly "Response Sheets" that summarizing lab project results and answers to application questions. These assist students getting helpful feedback and prepare for course exams.*
- 2) Unit Exams: include various different question styles such as short answer, mix and match, picture labeling, calculations/formulas, graphing, diagramming, fill in the blank and multiple-choice.*