



NORTHEAST TEXAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BIOL. 2289.01NIN (Acad Coop Biol Sci/Life Sciences)

Course Syllabus: Summer 2026

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Instructor: Dr. Chris T. McAllister (Ph.D., Univ. North Texas)

Office: UHS 163 (off campus in summer)

Phone: 903-434-8286

Email: cmcallister@ntcc.edu

Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	Email me
Tuesday	Email me
Wednesday	Email me
Thursday	Email me
Friday	Email me

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as necessary with full disclosure to the student. This syllabus and schedule are articulated as an expectation of class topics, learning activities, and expected student learning. However, the instructor reserves the right to make changes in this schedule at any time that, within his professional judgment, would result in enhanced or more effective learning on the part of the students. These modifications will not substantially change the intent or objectives of this course and will be done within the policies and procedures of NTCC. *This may include the test schedule or topics of discussion in either lecture or laboratory. Should that happen, the student will be notified.*

Course Description:

2 credit hours: An instructional program designed to integrate on-campus study with practical hands-on work experience in the biological sciences/life sciences. In conjunction with class seminars, the individual student will set specific goals and objectives in the study of living organisms and their systems.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Produce draft of manuscript for publication. Assist in producing oral and/or poster presentations at scientific meetings (local, regional only) if applicable.
2. Demonstrate ability to post to an online method (ex. PeerTrack) for review of mss. Put together a poster using appropriate method (PDF) and submit for printing.
3. Submit hard copy for review from pertinent journal articles from both regional (state academies), national, and international journals when applicable to research.
4. Take part in collecting data and processing living organisms using appropriate field and/or laboratory methods.
5. Prepare a journal of field and/or laboratory research.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
50%	Participation/Research Progress (50%)
25%	Class Journal (25%)
15%	*Attend Scientific Meetings (if applicable)-15% (if not, receive mentoring from non-NTCC faculty)
10%	Collaboration (10%)

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Required Instructional Materials:

No textbook. A field journal is required and it is a bound composition notebook (minimum of 50 sheets with 5 x 5 quads).

Optional Instructional Materials:

Lab Safety Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Approved safety glasses are available in the college store, and many safety glasses and safety goggles are also available from online retailers. Students who wear corrective-vision glasses must have elastic-strap safety goggles that cover the entire glasses and seal against the forehead. Always check with your instructor before purchasing eye protection from somewhere other than The NTCC College Store. Wading boots, and personal supplies are required on overnight field outings.

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Internet Access; Microsoft Office or Google Suite; Wireless Internet capable laptop computer or tablet (Chromebooks are not recommended). Access to printer if hard copies of travel items are desired

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

Blackboard Ultra; Microsoft Office or Google Suite Web browsing skills; ability to use Blackboard for access to course information; competent and professional emailing skills; functional use of MS Word and Excel; video conferencing capability using TEAMS through computer or mobile phone. Emails should have the following format in subject line: Last Name, First Name -Course ID
Example: McAllister, Chris - BIOL 2289.01NIN

Course Structure and Overview:

The course will be delivered over a 10-wk period and require overnight weekly travel to three research sites out of state.

Exams and Final Exam:

This course does not require exams of any kind.

Required Field Journal:

You will provide a **REQUIRED** field journal of your experience in this course during and after travel to field sites. It will include photographs and your analysis of each field trip. **The journal is due on Monday, Aug. 10th by midnite.** No late journals are accepted.

Communications:

NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college. The instructor will try to respond to student emails within 24 hrs of receipt (except on weekends). **You should NOT expect an immediate response from your instructor in reply to your email.** While I will try to respond in a timely fashion, I do not always have my phone on my person, and I do not have notifications set on my phone to alert me the moment an email arrives in my inbox. (On the weekends it may be up to 48 hrs after receipt of email). Feedback and grades on assignments and postings will be posted 48 to 72 hrs after due date/time of assignment. Email me at: cmcallister@ntcc.edu

Institutional/Course Policy:

Northeast Texas Community College is a “community of scholars.” Please remember that you and all of the students in this class are pursuing very important goals in your lives. All colleges and universities must remain diligent in their pursuit of assuring the academic integrity of their courses to maintain their accreditation status with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Your success can be maximized and your potential achieved by making the commitment to meet these expectations: Schedule and plan to complete all lecture and laboratory assignments and submit them when they are due. Be sure to print off the calendar to help you keep up with assignment due dates. Late work will not be accepted. Be sure to do all of your own work. Collusion and plagiarism are acts of academic dishonesty. Work that is copied and pasted directly from any website is not acceptable in any form on any assignment, lab or test. See the Student Handbook, p. 90 for definitions of collusion, plagiarism, and cheating. Infractions can result in severe grading penalties or failure.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC’s website

(<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to

whom the rights have transferred are considered “eligible students.” In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child’s college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as “directory information” may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student’s name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Withdrawal Date:

The last day to drop (withdraw from) the course with a grade of “W” is **Thursday, Aug. 6**. If circumstances require you to withdraw from this course, you must do so by that date. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate the withdrawal with the Registrar’s office. Failure to officially withdraw will result in your receiving a grade of F.

Eagle Assist:

At Northeast Texas Community College, we understand that students often need support that extends beyond the classroom. “Eagle Assist” is the place to start when looking for that type of assistance. Our support system is here to help you succeed in both your academic and personal growth. **Services provided at <https://www.ntcc.edu/student-services/eagle-assist>**

Mental Health Counseling (visit www.thevirtualcaregroup.com/ntcc to activate your account)

Classroom Accommodations

NTCC Care Center Food Pantry

NTCC Care Center Hygiene Closet

NTCC Care Center Cook Nook

Financial Literacy

Child Care Assistance

Emergency Aid Send us a message at eagleassist@ntcc.edu *Dual credit students please email jstewart@ntcc.edu if interested.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Students are expected to work in the lab and/or field each week working towards their research goals and recording data and observations in lab notebooks. Like all colleges, Northeast Texas Community College strives to be a “community of scholars.” Please remember that you and all of the students in this class are pursuing very important goals in your lives. As human beings and as scholars, I expect every student to be courteous and considerate toward other students throughout this course.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Three field outings are scheduled to conduct scientific research in Arkansas.

1. June 7-12, 2026: Ouachita Mountains Biological Station, Big Fork, AR.
2. July 13-18, 2026: South Fork Little Red River, Clinton, AR.
3. Dates: TBA-Prescott, AR.

Appendix of Additional Information:

Students are expected to be working in the lab and/or field. Students will schedule their time for outings with the professor at the beginning of the semester to ensure regular laboratory or fieldwork. Additional times may be added or times may be adjusted as needed. Attendance is mandatory for this course on all field outings. Points may be lost for attitude, lack of teamwork, and/or other interpersonal issues.