This interdisciplinary course explores the interaction between complex human perspectives and the technical and scientific aspects of biology. Issues with a biological basis such as human health, environmental safety, biodiversity, agriculture, and natural resources naturally lead to applied ethical, social, political, and economic questions. Students will explore the technical aspects of timely biological issues, breakthroughs, and technological applications in the context of their societal implications. Meets MnTC Goal 10.
8. Interpret episodes in biology from a historical, political, and economic framework
9. Logically argue for or against biological issues from an environmental, economic, or social value system

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 10 — People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
5. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
6. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

F. Learner Outcomes Assessment

As noted on course syllabus

G. Special Information

None noted