

# COURSE DETAIL

## PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

### Country

New Zealand

### Host Institution

University of Auckland

### Program(s)

University of Auckland

### UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

### UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Philosophy Biological Sciences

### UCEAP Course Number

163

### UCEAP Course Suffix

### UCEAP Official Title

PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

### UCEAP Transcript Title

PHILOSOPHY OF BIOL

### UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

### UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

## **Course Description**

This course examines philosophical and conceptual issues in the life sciences. Topics may include the units and levels of selection, adaptationism, the evolution of altruism, biology and ethics, sociobiology and evolutionary psychology, cultural evolution, evolution versus creationism, and the origin and nature of life. It addresses questions including: What is life? Why do living things inevitably die? Could artificial life (for example, synthetic cells made in a laboratory) ever be genuinely alive? How should we understand the role of our genes in shaping who we are? We're told that it's important to conserve biodiversity, but what exactly is biodiversity, and should it be the main target of conservation efforts? How do (and how should) social values relate to life scientists' study of human behavior, sexuality, and other topics? How does our increasing knowledge of microbial life, including the bacteria and other microorganisms living inside our own bodies, affect our understanding of the living world and of what it means to be human?

### **Language(s) of Instruction**

English

### **Host Institution Course Number**

PHIL 263

### **Host Institution Course Title**

PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY

### **Host Institution Course Details**

<https://courseoutline.auckland.ac.nz/dco/course/PHIL/263/1205>

### **Host Institution Campus**

Auckland

### **Host Institution Faculty**

Arts

### **Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**

**Course Last Reviewed**

2025-2026

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