



## Biology 1010: Principles of Biology (Spring 2019)

Instructor: Dr. Laurissa Hamilton  
Office: N257 (Naraghi Hall of Science)  
Office Hours: Monday noon – 2 pm and by appointment  
Contact: my office (*best*) or lhamilton@csustan.edu (*good, but check the syllabus first!*) or (209) 667-3489 (*worst*)  
Class Time/Place: TR; 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. in P167  
CRN & Section: 20139, Sec. 004  
Required Text: *Biology Now, 2nd Edition (without physiology) by Houtman et al. Either hardcopy or e-book are ok. The online homework software, SmartWork5, is required. You must access Smartwork5 through our class Blackboard website in order to receive credit for your work. \*Iclickers also are required\**

### **Course Introductory Material**

Welcome to Biology! Principles of Biology will introduce you to the basic principles and processes of biology. A key part of understanding biology is an understanding of the language used in describing these principles and processes. In this respect, biology is almost a foreign language. It is important that you become familiar with the language of biology. Relevant terms are highlighted in each chapter and at the end of the text is a glossary. Additionally, the BioNow2 website (<https://digital.wwnorton.com/bionow2>) provides a number of helpful resources (InQuizitive, animations, SmartWork5, etc) that you might find useful in reinforcing concepts and preparing for the exams.

Test questions will be derived from material presented in lectures, assigned chapters and, potentially, from the assigned online BioNow2 SmartWork5 questions. I would encourage you to read the text prior to each chapter being discussed. You should also bring your text to class since I may use images and figures from the text in lecture.

**Course Objectives:** This course is intended to:

1. Provide an overview of the issues, principles, methodologies, and perspectives of biology.
2. Offer opportunities to work in groups with other students to practice effective communication about concepts and issues in biology.
3. Provide a working background to critically evaluate biological issues and develop continuous inquiry and life-long learning.
4. Provide the framework to understand, examine critically and use information from various sources to answer questions relevant to biology.
5. Appreciate the relationships between the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, geology and the other sciences with an emphasis on how these fields are closely inter-related.
6. Appreciate the interdependence of humans on natural ecosystems and the diversity of life on earth.
7. Develop more informed and responsible citizens with respect to issues concerning the living world.

**Teaching philosophy:** You are in control of your learning experience. You must take responsibility for your coursework. Come to class EVERY time prepared to listen and think, do the readings, do the homework. I am here to guide you, to encourage you, and to assess your progress.

### **How to Study for Biology**

Attending class is the best way to succeed in Biology 1010. To gain the most from class time, you should read relevant text material beforehand and come prepared with questions. During lectures be attentive and interactive, take good notes, and fully participate in the in-class group assignments. Outside of class I recommend taking time after each class to review your notes and textbook. Learning takes time, is incremental, and is difficult to do all in one session before an exam. Form a study group that meets regularly

so you can talk about new concepts and review terminology with your colleagues. When studying for exams, focus primarily on lecture notes and concepts learned in in-class activities. Pay particular attention to diagrams and lists. Use your text's glossary and index. **For a detailed presentation of additional study tips, please review "Darley's Study Suggestions for Introductory Biology Courses." This material is posted on our blackboard.com website under "Information & Syllabus."**

Study guides will **not** be provided. As Dr. Darley emphasizes, "...rehearsal and self-testing are crucial steps in the active learning process." To most effectively learn and integrate the material it is crucial that **you** spend time with it in an **active** way – discussing it with your peers, making tables, charts, diagrams or outlines and describing concepts in your own words. This should be an ongoing process throughout the semester and should be done in conjunction with each week's lectures – in other words, you should make your own study guide, using the lecture notes as a foundation, as the term progresses.

If you need extra help or clarification, please ask questions during lecture, talk to me before or after class, contact me via email, or visit during office hours. I want you to do well in Biology!

### **Tutoring Center**

The tutoring center is located in the library building, room 112. These services are provided free of charge to CSU Stanislaus students on a "first come, first served" basis. If you need help, it is advisable to start early in the semester before you fall behind.

### **Components of the Grade**

**Exams (400 points)** — There will be four (4) exams, each worth 100 points. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false and matching questions (matching can include labeling diagrams). Exams 1-3 will be distributed at 12:30pm and you will have the entire regular class time. **The final exam will be on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:15 a.m. in P167.** If you are late to an exam (or quiz, if given), then you will have less time to complete the exam so plan your schedule accordingly. Traffic and/or car problems are not acceptable excuses for being late. Always bring a #2 pencil and Scantron form 882-E to the exams. During exams, **cell phones must be turned off and smartwatches and hats must be removed.** If your cell phone rings during an exam or you arrive more than 15 minutes late without a proper written and verifiable excuse, five (5) points will be deducted from your score. Students who arrive after the first exam of the day has been turned in will not be allowed to take the exam. No food, drinks, or headphones are allowed during the exam period. You must not leave the room during an exam/quiz without the instructor's permission.

**In-class Assignments (~40 – 80 points)** — There will be various in-class group assignments throughout the semester. Each assignment will be worth 10 points; one day's assignments will not total more than 20 points. **No makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their lowest assignment score.** These assignments are important because they provide opportunities for cooperative learning and give time for you to discuss new concepts and terminology with your peers. In addition to helping you learn new material and do better on tests, the in-class assignments **may** represent a substantial portion (potentially ~10%) of your final grade. Because of the weight given to these assignments, a student who earns an A on all of the tests but only comes to class on exam days could end up with a grade as low as a B-. On the positive side, a student averaging a C on their tests could earn a B if they are present for and earn high scores on all in-class group assignments. Students who are present generally do very well on in-class assignments.

### **iClickers**

You are required to purchase an iClicker remote for in-class participation. iClicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions posed during class, and you will be graded on those questions. Generally, each lecture will commence with at least one clicker question and there likely will be 2 - 3 graded iClicker questions per class.

**\*\*\*Daily iClicker points will begin accruing toward your grade beginning on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Students who register their clickers by NOON on Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> will receive 5 bonus points. Students who haven't registered their clickers by noon on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> will lose 20% of their**

overall iclicker total and those who haven't registered their clickers by noon on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> will lose 50% of the accumulated iclicker total.\*\*\*

iClicker grading: 1 pt. for participating in the entire day's session, 2 pts. for the correct answer, 1 pt. for incorrect answer. No makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their 3 lowest iclicker session scores.

**You can purchase a used iClicker and re-register it under your own name. Please do not pay extra to register a used clicker – we can do this for free after class, during office hours, or by email.**

Numerous studies have demonstrated that iClickers improve student learning. iClickers have been adopted within several departments on campus. So unless you are graduating you will probably use it again for several classes. But after the term ends you may sell your iClicker back to the bookstore or to another student. Using another student's iClicker or two remotes in class is considered cheating.

### **SmartWork5 Online Homework:**

You will be assigned online homework as each chapter is completed in lecture. This is to help you understand the material, discover if there is a topic that you don't fully understand, and to improve your grade by giving an opportunity to accrue points outside of the exams. Your end of the semester homework score will normalize each individual graded assignment so that each will constitute 10 points possible. (E.g. if 26 points within assignment #3 and your score = 22 points, normalized as  $22/26 = 0.8461$ . Then  $0.8461 \times 10 = 8.5$  points for that individual homework assignment.) Thus, all homework assignments will have equal weight. **No makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their 2 lowest homework scores.**

#### Lecture Grades

Exams (4 x 100 pts each)	400
Participation (iclicker)	~50 - 80
In-class Assignments	~40 - 80
Smartwork5 HW	140
Total	~630 - 700

### **Grade Calculations**

Grades will be based on the percentage of points earned from exams, iclicker questions, in-class assignments and online homework (above). Grades will be assigned as follows:

	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D	60-69%	
A	93-100%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	F	0-59%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%		

If you take the credit/no credit option: CR 70-100% NC 0-69%

### **Missed Exams or Assignments**

**The final exam must be taken during the scheduled time – please do not request to take the final exam early (e.g. due to vacations, graduations, work etc.); the final is scheduled for all enrolled students on May 21<sup>st</sup> – please plan accordingly.** Exams 1-3 should also be taken as scheduled, however, if a student has a valid, documented reason s/he cannot take an exam at the appointed time, the student **may** be able to take an exam early, however this exam may be different from the regular exam and may include essay and short answer questions. Requests for early exams must be submitted **in writing** to the instructor **at least one week prior to the scheduled exam**. No makeup exams will be given after an exam has been returned to the class; any unexcused missed exams without a proper written and verifiable excuse will be recorded as a zero.

If you miss an exam for a legitimate emergency it is your responsibility to notify the instructor immediately. **If provided, makeup exams will be different from regular exams, may include essay and short answer questions, and only will be allowed for a valid documented emergency absence (e.g. a note from a physician that was obtained and signed by the physician on the date of the absence).** These must be completed as soon as possible and **no later than within one week** of the originally scheduled day of the exam.

It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and make arrangements to take the test within the allowed time.

In-class assignments are supplemental activities so there are no make-ups on these assignments. Because these are **group** activities, **4 points will be deducted from groups consisting of more or less than 4 or 5 individuals**, unless prior approval has been arranged. One point will be deducted if group member names are not alphabetized by last name at the top of the handout. There are no forms of extra credit available for this class.

**The instructor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes if it becomes apparent that students are not keeping up with the material and/or there are an unacceptable number of absences.** If you happen to be absent that day or you fail to follow instructions, you will receive a grade of 0 for that quiz.

Following the return of any graded exam, assignment, or posting of scores, you have *seven (7) days* in which to dispute any grade discrepancies. To dispute the scoring of an exam / assignment, bring the exam / assignment and supporting information showing why you deserved a different grade to my office, where we can discuss the issue privately.

### ***Credit/No Credit and Adding/Dropping***

The last day to apply for the CR/NC option is Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. To do so you must contact me in person and have your form filled out and ready for me to sign. It is your responsibility to turn this form in to Enrollment Services. I will follow the grading option indicated on the final grade sheet supplied by Enrollment Services. **Consult with your advisor before making your decision.** Once you have selected the CR/NC option you cannot opt for a grade. **No grades will be changed once they have been submitted to the registrar. The last day to drop the class is Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.**

### ***LAB***

There is no laboratory requirement for this course, but BIOL 1020 is highly compatible with this course and it is strongly recommended that the courses be taken together if possible.

### ***Learning Environment and Citizenship***

**Student Conduct** — In such a large class it is essential that students maintain an environment conducive to learning and avoid distracting others. Please set your cell phones to vibrate and refrain from texting. Please don't engage in side conversations. **If you use a laptop computer in class it must be used only for purposes relevant to the course and you must sit in the first row.** Any violations will result in a "no electronics" policy for all students for the remainder of the semester. **Cell phones must be on silent and stored in a backpack, purse, or pocket, etc during class, unless you are requested to access them.**

**AudioVideo Recording:** Recording of lectures is not permitted without written consent from your instructor.

**Evolution** — Since evolution is the unifying theme of biology, the discussion of evolution is central to this course. Students should not feel threatened by evolution regardless of their personal beliefs. Please remember that your beliefs are but one of dozens. In class we will discuss scientific evidence for evolution. If you would like to talk about evolution in light of your personal beliefs, please set up a time to talk to me outside of class.

**Academic Dishonesty** — There is a zero tolerance policy for cheating / academic dishonesty. Any academic dishonesty will result in an F in the class and the matter will be turned over to the appropriate student disciplinary committee. Submitting an in-class assignment or a quiz for a student who is not present is cheating. Copying text (plagiarizing) off of websites to complete in-class assignments is also considered cheating. Submitting a quiz for another student and/or using another student's iClicker or two remotes, are also considered cheating. Taking out a cell phone during an exam is considered cheating, your exam will be confiscated, and you will receive a grade of F.

**Progress Reports** – Those who require progress reports (e.g. for athletics, campus activities, etc) must notify the instructor **in writing** at least **one meeting in advance**, so I can bring the necessary information to class.

### **Exam Dates** (Subject to Change)

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>	<b>Tentative Chapters</b>
<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Feb. 19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1-4</b>
<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5-8</b>
<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>April 18</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9-13</b>
<b>Exam 4 (Final Exam)</b>	<b>May 21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18-21</b>

The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

**Holidays – NO CLASS: March 18 -22 (Spring Break), April 1 (Cesar Chavez Day)**