

Biology 1150 Introduction to Biology II (Fall 2010)

I. General Information

Professor:	Dr. Stuart Wooley
Office Hours:	Monday 9-10; Wed 1-3;
Phone:	664-6926
Email:	wooley@biology.csustan.edu
Lecture:	TR 12:30-1:45 N 101
Lab	Manual: Available in the bookstore eventually.
Online:	Class Blackboard Page Posting assignments, news, grades, etc. Mastering Biology (eventual) Homework assignments,

Text

Biology N. Campbell, *et al.*, 9th ed. Bring your text to class because we will refer to figures and text during every class. The figures will be very helpful to you in understanding the content and details of this class. You will need to do read the assigned chapter and complete online homework assignments *before* class.

II. Course description

Biology 1150 lays a foundation for the study of biology. We will discuss life from the earliest cells to ecosystems. This course is important not only to fulfill your degree requirements, but you will learn a main reason that life (as we know it) exists on Earth you will learn about the diversity of life. The lab is an integrated component of the course.

Course information will be posted to the course Blackboard page, as needed. You will be responsible to obtain the items posted and use them as instructed (as noted on those assignments).

III. Learning Goals

1. You will complete the course understanding the main principles of biology.
2. You will improve your communication about concepts and issues in biology individually and in groups.
3. You will develop a framework for critical evaluation and use of information from reliable scientific sources to answer important biological questions.
4. You will understand the relationships between botany, zoology, chemistry, physics, and geology.
5. You will recognize the interdependence of life including humans.
6. You will be able to describe why plants are the foundation of life on earth.
7. You will be able to trace the evolutionary advances of life from unicellular to multicellular organisms.
8. You will become a more informed and responsible citizens with respect to issues concerning the living world.

IV. Course Requirements

You need to have taken Biology 1050 and passed. You may not concurrently enroll in both 1050 and 1150. Non-majors courses from other institutions do not count. You must take **both** Biology 1050 and Biology 1150 at CSU-Stanislaus or transfer the **complete, equivalent** two-course series from another institution.

To do well in Biology 1150, like other college courses, you will be required to participate both inside and outside of class. As a foundational class, it is also content heavy. You will have to master a new vocabulary, and be able to articulate how those new words are related to each other. A lot of memorization is required. Attendance is expected as is active participation in the learning process. Class will include regularly graded in-class activities, in particular group activities. These activities are designed to increase your learning and at the same time to improve your grade.

During lecture, take careful notes and review them frequently. The textbook is an important resource and I will refer to it often, as well using figures from the text in lecture.

V. Grading Assignments

Lecture Throughout the semester we will have several writing assignments designed to help you succeed. They are simple, but require thought and effort. Some writing assignments will be assigned long before they are due. You should consider the topic as we discuss it in class and as you read and watch the news. Other topics will be assigned in class and due at the end of class.

Regular assignments are due at the beginning of class on their due date. Assignments need to be turned in on time. You will have **4** class periods to turn in your assignments including the due date. Later assignments will receive 10% late penalty if they are not turned in on the due date. You will miss 10% for each class day missed beginning after the class is over on the due date. This means that you can miss only 4 class dates, before you receive a zero (0) on the assignment. Please turn assignments in on time. In addition, periodically we will have in-class activities. You must be present to earn points on those activities.

In-class Assignments Various in-class, group activities will be assigned during the course. Each assignment will be worth 5-20 points. No makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their lowest assignment score. These assignments are designed to provide opportunities for cooperative learning. In other words, you will be able to teach and learn from each other. In addition to helping you learn the material and do better on tests, the in-class assignments represent a portion of your final grade. Therefore, wisdom suggests you attend class. Students present generally do very well on in-class assignments.

Lab Like Biology 1050, your grade for Biology 1150 integrates your lab grade. Your grade for Biology 1150 is a combination of your scores from the **Lecture (70%)** and **Lab (30%)**.

Make up work: Make-up work for class is possible, with an excuse note from some reliable person (hospital, police, etc). You must make arrangements with the instructor to take care of any work needed to be made up. You will have **1 week** to make up any assignment/exam/etc.

Exams

Exams are an opportunity for you to convince me you know the material. Be sure you can articulate the answers to the questions posed in each lecture **before** the exam (*get in a study group!*)

Exam questions come directly from the lectures and text. Exams have some combination of multiple choice, matching, short answer, diagram and essay questions. For exams, bring a #2 pencil and a Scantron form **882-E** to class on exam day.

Three to four exams will cover the lecture and reading material. "Lecture material" includes **all** information we discussed in class, while "reading material" includes the text and additional assigned reading.

Textbook reading is **required**. In other words, you will be responsible for those chapters on the syllabus, but not covered in lecture. Certain topics will not be covered in class, but you will be assigned to read them in the text.

Rules You may not leave the room during an exam without the instructor's permission. You must turn off cell phones and remove your hats during exams. If your cell phone rings during an exam two (2) points will be deducted from your score. Cell phones must be put away during exams and accessing your cell phone during an exam is considered cheating. Your exam will be confiscated, and you will receive a grade of F for that exam. **If you arrive after someone has finished the exam and left the room, you will not be able to take the exam.**

Missing Exams You are responsible to notify the instructor **prior** to missing any exam. A valid excuse must be provided with the understanding that no extra credit nor makeup exams will be given. If an emergency suddenly arises causing you to miss an exam it is your responsibility to notify your instructor via phone or email as soon as practical. Failure to do so will result in a 0 for that exam.

Erasing answers on a Scantron If you have not completely erased an answer, the Scantron may code the answer to that question as incorrect, even if you have changed that answer to the correct choice. If you want to challenge the machine's accuracy, you have until the next class period to do so. You must circle the correct answer on the question sheet (i.e. the choice you already made) and turn in that sheet to the instructor. Challenges to the machine's accuracy will not be accepted if you did not do so.

Grade Calculations Grades are based on the percentage of points earned.

A	93-100%	A-	90-93%		
B+	87-90%	B	83-87%	B-	80-83%
C+	77-80%	C	73-77%	C-	70-73%
D+	67-70%	D	63-67%	D-	60-63%
F	0-60%				

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

Options: September 19 is the census date, and University policy states that is the last day to choose CR/NC. It is also the last day to drop the course. Instructors can extend the time. Therefore, **October 4** is the **last day** you may change your grading option (CR/NC) with me. I will strictly follow the grading option indicated on the final grade sheet supplied by Admissions and Records. Consult with your advisor before making your decision. Grades will **not** be

changed once they have been submitted. **In short, choose wisely, and if you choose CR, I won't change the grade to a NC.**

NOTE: Changing your grade in the last 4 weeks of the term is very difficult, so keep up on your grades so you can make adjustments as needed. I will try to grade material and hand it back to you so *you can calculate your own grade*. Make adjustments in your study to do better and/or come to office hours if you need help.

Extra Credit

I do not plan to offer extra credit. If I do come up with a great idea for extra credit, I will let you know. The best thing to do is to do well in class.

VI. Learning Environment and Citizenship

Teaching philosophy

Professor

I will come to class prepared to teach an informative lecture containing important information that you will be tested on later.

I will also strive to make lecture as interesting as possible, maybe even fun or humorous.

I will strive to help you prepare for your exams by giving you 'signposts' along the way to focus your study.

I will not purposely be sneaky on exams.

I will answer questions respectfully and will begin and end class on time.

I will set policy and strive to be fair to all students.

Students

I expect students to actively participate in class discussion, group activities, and peer-peer teaching.

I expect students to be prepared for class each day.

I expect that students respect the rights of others.

I expect students will not cheat, but if students do so, they will not be surprised by an automatic F for the assignment or a referral to the appropriate disciplinary committee. Cheating is "submitting an in-class assignment for a student who is not present or submitting work that is not your own, but claiming that it is your own original work." Lying is "communication with intent to deceive" and cheating falls into that category.

Laptops may be used, but students who use laptops in class have never earned an A in this class.

Turn off your phones and please don't text in class.

You may eat in class, but don't disturb others with your eating.

Study skills

Many class periods will begin with a quiz over the reading material. Lecture will focus on those areas that seem hard to understand, based on the quiz. These are graded quizzes, so you should do the reading to do well on the quizzes.

Each lecture will begin with a number of questions to answer during the lecture—look for the answers as the lecture progresses. Test questions will be based on these questions at the beginning of lecture.

The following suggestions will help you succeed in this and other classes. 1. Read the chapter before class and bring questions you have from the chapter to class. (2. Attend class. (3. Do all assignments and turn them in on time (4. Take notes in a way that is intuitive to you, even if you have to use a lot of paper. (5. **Join a study group** with likeminded individuals. (6. Study for the exams sooner than the night before or morning of the exam. (7. Go to bed early the night before and get up early the day of exams. (8. Learn how you learn and then stick with a style or process that is successful for you. (9. Receive from and give constructive feedback to the instructor about the class lecture, lab, and text. (10. Eat more cheese and drink less Red Bull.

Office Hours

Visit with me if you are struggling, but do it sooner than later. Students that come and ask questions at office hours tend to do better in the course, or at least tend to make improvements.

Date	Chapters
23-Aug	
25-Aug	25
30-Aug	26
1-Sep	27
6-Sep	28
8-Sep	29
13-Sep	30
15-Sep	Exam 1
20-Sep	35
22-Sep	38
27-Sep	36
29-Sep	37
4-Oct	39
6-Oct	39
13-Oct	52-53
18-Oct	54-55
20-Oct	55-56
25-Oct	Exam 2
27-Oct	31
1-Nov	32
3-Nov	33
8-Nov	34
10-Nov	40
15-Nov	41

Date	Chapters
17-Nov	42,44
22-Nov	43
29-Nov	45
1-Dec	48-49
6-Dec	50
8-Dec	46
15-Dec	Final exam 11:15-1:15

Letters of Recommendation

I don't mind writing letters of recommendation. Because they are a letter of *recommendation* I do like to be able to recommend the candidate. As such, I can't usually recommend students unless they achieve a B (3.0) or better in the class, without some other compelling reason. In addition, if you only take the class, do well and never come talk to me, I cannot recommend you either. What would I say? Writing only 2-3 sentences isn't a compelling letter! If you do think you will need a letter from a professor **get to know that professor**. Otherwise your letter will not be as strong.

VII. Schedule

The schedule is *subject to change* and will be updated as needs arise. I will inform you of those changes. Exam dates will (usually) remain fixed, with two exams, each worth up to 120 pts. The final exam is comprehensive and will test your mastery of key information from the entire semester. I am not planning on making it optional.