

**BIOL 1020-001  
CSU Stanislaus  
Course Syllabus**

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:00-1:00 PM, or by appt.

**Lab:** Tuesday 8-10:50 AM, 223 Naraghi Hall

**Text:** *World of Biology 1020 Laboratory Workbook, 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* by Stevens et al. (2012). Please bring this text to lab each week. Note also that the lecture textbook (from BIO 1010) will also be useful for labs.

**Announcements:** Check Blackboard on the My CSUSTAN page for updates, schedule changes, additional material, etc. I recommend checking it at least once a day to ensure you get everything you need on time.

**Contact:** E-mail is the most effective way to reach me. I check it several times a day and am fairly prompt in responding to questions.

**Course Description and Gen. Ed. Goals:** World of Biology is intended to provide students with laboratory and field experience in various biological contexts. We will explore topics that are covered in BIOL 1010 with the added luxury of actually performing some of the experiments discussed in lecture. Note that this class is graded separately from BIOL 1010. Many students find that the hands-on aspect of BIOL 1020 reinforces the concepts learned in lecture, as well as bolsters their intrigue for biology in everyday settings

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

1. Provide you with a conceptual framework of biological thinking and methods;
2. Provide you with an overview of current research in biology from molecular to ecological scales;
3. Provide you ample opportunity to work collaboratively and communicate effectively about biological topics;
4. Help you develop effective study strategies that will enable you to succeed in all your courses and encourage continuous inquiry and learning;
5. Demonstrate the relevance of all sub-disciplines of biology to each other and to other fields such as chemistry, physics, geology, anthropology, art, economics, etc.;
6. Demonstrate the dependence of humans on biological resources and biodiversity;
7. Enable you to live, work and play as an informed and responsible citizen of this planet.

**My teaching philosophy:** My hope is that you will complete this class with a new zest (or at least appreciation) for the mechanisms essential in sustaining life. I encourage you to ask questions and give feedback on how my teaching and your learning style can best act together (I'm not here to trick you, I'm here to help!).

**Lab Policies:** You are expected to arrive to class on time and ready to learn. You should expect to talk frequently in class and work productively both in groups and alone. You must demonstrate proper care and use of lab materials and supplies. Most importantly, please do not disrupt the learning environment, rights, and property of others. Of course, all cell phones/iPods/etc. should be turned off during class. Like any lab course, this one requires your active participation each week. As per university regulations, students with excessive tardies or absences will be dropped from the course. Note that, since the lab set-up changes each week, it

will not be possible to make up missed labs or quizzes. Unexcused absences will result in no points for the week.

Safety is paramount! Please work safely in lab all semester.

In most labs you will work in small groups of 2-6 people, but each student is required to hand in their own lab write-ups! These will be due at the beginning of the next lab meeting.

Any student wishing to record the class in any fashion (video, audio, transcriptions, etc.) must register with Disability Resource Services; in such a case recording the class is an approved accommodation and the student will be required to sign a "Recording Agreement" disallowing them from sharing the recording with others unless said individuals are also approved for recording by DRS.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** I will not tolerate cheating and plagiarism. You are paying hard-earned dollars to learn, not copy-paste. Work should reflect your own effort and words. Any verified instances of cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an automatic F in the course and referral to the appropriate student disciplinary committee.

**Grading:** Please allow one week for all materials to be graded and returned to you. Grades will be based on lab **write-ups**, **quizzes**, and the optional **final exam**. No other points will be available.

**Write-ups** will be graded based on completing all questions, data collection and careful presentation of graphs/diagrams. There are two components in most of the exercises; the *lab portion* and the *study questions*. You **MUST** complete the *lab portion* of the write-up in class, as it is the designated space for storing data and essential for tackling the *study questions*. The *study questions* (at the end of most assignments) may be completed after class, but must be turned in at the beginning of the following week's session. Write-ups will be graded based on completion and accuracy. I will assess accuracy by grading a random question(s) in the write-up. You will not know which question(s), so I suggest you answer all of them thoughtfully. Late work will not be accepted except in dire emergencies. All submitted work must be original; no photocopies will be accepted.

Expect weekly **quizzes** at the beginning of class (starting Tuesday Sept. 11). Quizzes will include material from both the previous week's lab and the lab for that day (so do the reading). Your best study source is the lab manual literature. Pay close attention to key concepts and bolded terms. I'm not trying to trick you, so expect to succeed by actively reading the material. Expect to fail if you walk into class ignorant of the day's experiment. You will take ten quizzes this semester (provided you are arriving on time and a conscientious student). Answer keys will be posted online after they are graded.

The **final exam** is optional! It will be comprehensive and structured similarly to lab quizzes and lab write-ups. If you are satisfied with your grade prior to the exam, you need not take it. However, if you feel you could use the extra points, the exam will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> during the regular lab session. Please arrive to class on this day regardless if you plan to take the exam or not (as you will need to check-out).

**Census Date:** Census Date is Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. This is the last day to add/drop the course or change your grading option without my signature. After this date, changing your grading option will require my signature; it is your responsibility to submit this form to Admissions and Records. I will adhere to the grading option indicated on the final grade sheet supplied by Admissions and Records. Grades will not be changed once they have been submitted.

Assignment	Points
9 quizzes x 10 pts. Each (lowest score dropped)	90
11 write-ups x 15 pts. each	165
Final exam, optional, comprehensive	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>255 or 355</b>

I will calculate grades/GPAs as follows:

4.0-3.8 = A	3.7-3.6 = A-	3.5-3.3 = B+	3.2-3.0 = B	2.9-2.6 = B-	2.5-2.3 = C+
2.2-2.0 = C	1.9-1.6 = C-	1.5-1.3 = D+	1.2-1.0 = D	0.9-below = F	

### Tentative Lab Schedule:

Week	Date (always WEDNESDAY)	Activity
1	28 Aug.	Attendance, Safety
2	4 Sept	Nature of Science
3	11 Sept.	Cells & Microscopes
4	18 Sept.	Transport
5	25 Sept.	Metabolism
6	2 Oct.	Cell Cycle & Mitosis
7	9 Oct.	NO CLASS
8	16 Oct.	Genetics & Meiosis
9	23 Oct.	Evolution (outside, bring calculator)
10	30 Oct.	Plants
11	6 Nov.	Animal Adaptations
12	13 Nov.	Population Parameters
13	20 Nov.	NO CLASS
14	27 Nov.	Central CA Ecology
15	4 Dec.	Last write-up due, optional Final Exam