

BIOL 1150-001
CSU Stanislaus
Course Syllabus

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Credits: 3 lecture units
Lecture: TuTh 12:30 – 1:45 PM; N-101
Office Hrs: TuTh 11:00–12:30 or by appt

Course (Catalog) Description: Introduction to the fundamental aspects of organismal biology: taxonomy, diversity, form and function. Prerequisites: BIOL 1050 lecture and laboratory. **Note:** You must have taken Biology 1050 and passed with a C- or better to remain in Biology 1150. You may not concurrently enroll in both 1050 and 1150.

Text: Campbell, Reece and Mitchell, Biology, Ninth edition, 2011.

Announcements: We will use Moodle as our learning management system. Create a Moodle account (code: biol1150001fa15) and check for lecture slides, case studies, references, etc. on a regular basis.

Objectives: After completing this course you should be able to (1) demonstrate your ability to think like a biologist and (2) speak/write coherently about biology with biologists and non-biologists alike.

Teaching Philosophy: My philosophy is that I want to share as much knowledge and understanding of the subject with students as possible. To see my students excel and become empowered with the newly acquired knowledge is what I feel teaching is all about.

iClickers: You will need to purchase/reuse/rent an iClicker remote. Register it on Moodle and at www.iclicker.com/support/registeryourclicker.

Exams: There will be four regular exams and a final **comprehensive** exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions only. You will need a scantron form for all exams (Form # 882-E). If you miss an exam, a valid excuse, along with official documentation, must be provided. **No makeup exams will be given after graded exams are discussed in class.**

Cheating and Plagiarism: Don't do it! Your work should reflect your own effort and words. Any verified instance of cheating and/or plagiarism will be unpleasant for all involved.

Assessment Methods and Grades: The best assessment measure for content-heavy courses is exams.

Assessment	Percentage	Grading Scale
Exam 1	10	A = 90% or higher (A- = 90-92, A = 93 and higher) B = 80 – 89% (B- = 80-82, B = 83-86, B+ = 87-89) C = 70 – 79% (C- = 70-72, C = 73-76, C+ = 77-79) D = 60 – 69% (D- = 60-62, D = 63-66, D+ = 67-69) F = below 60%
Exam 2	10	
Exam 3	10	
Exam 4	10	
Quizzes	10	
Final Exam	15	
Lab	33	
Participation	2	
Total	100%	Note: CR/NC is an option in this course.

Important Dates:

- Thursday (Sept 15): Last day to drop the course
- Thursday (Oct 13) : Non-Instructional Day – no classes; University offices/services are open
- Wednesday (Nov 11): Veteran’s Day holiday, University Closed (no classes)
- Thursday-Friday (Nov 26-27): Thanksgiving Holiday, University Closed (no classes)
- Thursday (Dec 10): Last day of classes
- Friday (Dec 11): Reading Day – no classes, no institutionally-scheduled final exams

Study Skills: The following suggestions may 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. **Take notes in class.**
3. **Study** for the exams sooner than the night before or morning of the exam.
4. **Go to bed early** the night before and get up early the day of exams.
5. **Learn how you learn** and then stick with a style or process that is successful for you.
6. **Join a study group** with likeminded individuals. Students who study in groups tend to do better than those that study alone. Learning takes time and is difficult (impossible?) to do in a single 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 emphasized in class.

Getting Help: There is help on campus for students struggling with biology! The Central Valley Math & Science Alliance, located in 124 Naraghi Hall, is a free walk-in science and math tutoring center that does not require appointments. With both student and faculty tutors available from 8am – 6pm daily, there should be someone available to answer your questions. The Biology Club is a group of students who have gone through general biology courses and they are willing to offer advice and help, especially if you buy them coffee or bring them cookies. Tutoring Services in the Writing Center on the ground floor of the CSUS Library (L-112) has drop-in tutoring for biology; check their office or website for their schedule. The Advising Resource Center, Student Support Services and the Program for Academic and Career Excellence (P.A.C.E.) in the MSR Building may be useful sources of aid for you. Of course, I will work hard to help you in class and out. Come to office hours, communicate with me and let me know your frustrations and I will respond.

Expectations of Students:

1. **Attend** all class meetings AND always be **punctual**. If you must miss a class meeting, it is your responsibility to make up any work missed and to obtain and learn all information you missed.
2. Evolution and natural selection are central tenets of biology and will be critical aspects of this course, openly discussed and referred to frequently.
3. Students are expected to take exams on days and times listed in the class schedule. If you have a legitimate excuse to miss a lecture exam, the instructor needs to know, before the beginning of

the exam time, and other arrangements need to be made prior to the exam time. You should be prepared to provide documentation (doctor's note, etc.) for missing a lecture exam.

4. Cheating in any form is unacceptable in all classes, including BIOL 1010. It is the policy of the Department of Biological Sciences that anyone caught cheating will receive a grade of F for the course. The instructor reserves the right to request any student even suspected of cheating to take a second, different, exam from the rest of the class.
5. Participate fully and in a positive manner in all class activities.
6. Talking, whispering, and giggling among students during lectures is disruptive for both classmates and the instructor. It is expected that students will refrain from these activities during lecture. If this becomes a problem, student(s) will be asked to leave the class.
7. Cell phones **must be** turned off while anyone is lecturing at any time during lecture. Texting devices, palms, earphones, etc. must be turned off and placed out of sight of any student in the class during lectures and exams. No caps or hats may be worn during exams. Potty breaks are not allowed during lecture exams.
8. People learn best when they take responsibility for their own learning. You need to accept that responsibility.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Week	Topics	Chapter
1	Course Introduction, Early Earth and the Origin of Life	Ch. 25
2	Phylogeny & Tree of Life	Ch. 26
3	Intro to Darwinian Evolution and Natural Selection	Ch. 22
4	The Evolution of Populations & Origin of Species	Ch. 23, 24
5	Quiz & Exam 1 – Evolution , Introduction to Microbes	Ch. 27
6	Protists, How Plants Colonized Land	Ch 28, 29
7	The Evolution of Seed Plants; Plant Structure & Function	Ch. 30, 35
8	Quiz & Exam 2 – Microbes and Plants , Fungi	Ch. 31
9	Animal Diversity, Tissues and Body Plans	Ch. 32
10	Invertebrates	Ch. 33
11	Vertebrates	Ch. 34
12	Quiz & Exam 3 – Animals ; Introduction to Ecology	Ch. 52
13	Population Ecology, Human Populations	Ch. 53
14	Community Ecology, Ecosystems	Ch. 54, 55
15	Quiz & Exam 4 – Ecology Course review Final (Comprehensive) Exam: Thursday, December 17: 11:15 – 1:15 pm	