



Biology 1010: Principles of Biology (Spring 2013)

Instructor: Dr. Laurissa Hamilton
Office: N252 (Naraghi Hall of Science)
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 09:15am – 10:45am and by appointment
Contact: my office (*best*) or lhamilton@csustan.edu (*good*) or (209) 667-3838 (*worst*)
Class Time/Place: MW; 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. in P167
CRN & Section: 20114, Sec. 004
Required Text: *Campbell Essential Biology*, 5th ed., by Simon, Dickey, & Reece
Iclickers and access to Masteringbiology.com 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 Masteringbiology.com website provides a number of helpful resources within the "Study Area" (flashcards, practice quizzes, 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 online pretest 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 "course documents."***

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 (450 points) — There will be four (4) exams – the first 3 exams will be worth 100 points; the final exam will be worth 150 points (2/3 from new material and 1/3 from prior chapters). 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 6:00 pm and you will have the entire regular class time. The final exam will be on Monday, May 20th from 6:00p.m. – 8:00 p.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 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 (50 –100 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 gets 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. In order to receive this credit, **you need to register your iClicker remote online by Tuesday, February 12, 2013** at: <http://www.iclicker.com/registration>. You must have come to class at least once and responded to at least one question in order to complete this registration properly. Complete the fields with your first name, last name, student ID, and remote ID. ***Enter your Blackboard username (e.g. this is the same as your email login, for example, in my case it would be "lhamilton") as the Student ID.*** The remote ID is the series of numbers and letters found on the bottom of the back of your iClicker remote. The remote ID number can be hard to read after normal wear and tear, so it is recommended that you write it down AND place a piece of scotch tape over the ID to preserve it. The iClickers will be used during most class meetings, and ***you are responsible for***

bringing your remote daily. *Beginning on Monday (2/11) you will not be eligible for potential points via the iclicker system if you have not registered your iclicker or on any occasions when you forget to bring your iclicker to class.*****

Generally, there will be 2 - 3 graded iClicker questions per class. **iClicker grading:** 1 pt. for participating in the entire day's session, 1 pt. for the correct answer, 0 for incorrect answer. **No makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their 4 lowest iclicker session scores.**

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.

Mastering Biology 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 homework assignment so that the overall homework component will constitute approximately 10-15% of your final grade. **No makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their 2 lowest homework scores.**

Before you can complete online course assignments you must join a Mastering course. Joining a course also lets you view any eText and/or Study Area resources, if available for the textbook associated with your course. To join our course, go to Masteringbiology.com, Select "Students" under the "Register" option and enter your access code (e.g. provided with your textbook or provided if you purchase the etext) . Additionally, when registering you will need to provide the course code for this section of Biology 1010.

Our COURSE CODE IS: **MBHAMILTON23210**. **You do NOT need access to the online virtual labs.**

Grade Calculations

Grades will be based on the percentage of points earned from exams, homework, iclicker questions, and assignments. Grades will be assigned as follows:

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

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. 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.** 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**

individuals, unless prior approval has been arranged. There are no other 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.

Credit/No Credit and Adding/Dropping

The last day to apply for the CR/NC option is Monday, May 13th. 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 Friday, February 22nd.

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.** A first time violation will result in a 10 point deduction from your grade. A second violation will result in 30 points deducted from your grade and you will no longer be allowed to use a laptop in the class. During in-class group assignments each member of a group should fully participate and contribute. In-class group assignments are important opportunities for learning.

Audio\Video 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)

	Date	Points Possible	Tentative Chapters
Exam 1	Feb. 20	100	1-4
Exam 2	March 18	100	5-8
Exam 3	April 15	100	9-13
Exam 4 (Final Exam)	May 20	150	14, 18-20

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

Holiday: Spring Break, April 1-4 (no class)