



Biology 1010: Principles of Biology (Spring 2020)

Instructor: Dr. Laurissa Hamilton
Office: N257 (Naraghi Hall of Science)
Office Hours: Monday 2:10 – 3:10pm, Tuesday 1-2pm, 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: MWF; 1p.m. – 1:50 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 software, InQuizitive, is required. You must access InQuizitive 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 InQuizitive 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.

Textbook

You have several options for purchasing the required textbook, *Biology Now, Core Edition* by Houtman et al. You can buy the loose leaf version in the CSU Stan bookstore (includes registration code, access to the InQuizitive homework system + interactive e-book for \$77 retail). You could choose to go all digital and buy the interactive e-book + IQ online homework for \$60 retail. You can also purchase a used book, in which case you'll only need to buy the InQuizitive homework system for \$25 retail.

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 "Documents and Content."***

Hardcopy study guides will **not** be provided. Rather, each class session is a chapter in the study guide that you prepare as you participate. Thus, it is crucial that you come to class on time and prepared (e.g. having skimmed the upcoming chapter and with any supplemental materials that are needed / recommended). Furthermore, 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, practicing with flashcards, 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 annex building, room LX14 (<https://www.csustan.edu/learning-commons/tutoring-center>). 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 1pm and you will have the entire regular class time. ***The final exam will be on Friday, May 15th at 1 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, car problems, and/or forgetting are not acceptable excuses for being late / missing an exam. ***Always bring a #2 pencil, a Scantron form 882-E and your photo ID 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 Monday, *February 3rd*. Students who register their clickers by 11:59PM on Sunday, March 1st will receive **5 bonus points**. Students who haven't registered their clickers by 11:59PM on Sunday, April 5th will lose 20% of their overall iclicker total and those who haven't registered their clickers by 11:59PM on Sunday, April 26th 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. Please first try to register your iclicker yourself, using the provided link on Blackboard (<https://www.iclicker.com/remote-registration-form-for-classic>). If you receive a message asking for payment, please screenshot that message and send it, plus your iclicker serial number (on the back of the clicker), to me and I can register for you.

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.

InQuizitive (IQ) Assignments:

If you buy the textbook new from the CSU Stan bookstore, it comes with access to the online practice platform called InQuizitive. Regardless of how you obtain your textbook, you must access IQ through our class Blackboard website or else your IQ grades will not be recorded in my gradebook. Be sure to create an IQ account as soon as possible as you will access it regularly throughout the semester. The goals of these IQ assignments are to: 1) help you understand the material, 2) discover if there is a topic that you don't fully understand, and 3) to improve your grade by giving an opportunity to accrue points outside of the exams. Your end of the semester IQ score will normalize each individual graded assignment so that each will constitute 10 points possible. (E.g. if you scored 100% on the chapter 1 IQ module, then your points earned will equal 10pts. If your percentage on the chapter 2 IQ module was 92%, then your points earned will equal 9.2. If you miss an assignment (computer problems, forgot the assignment, were ill, etc) **no makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their 2 lowest IQ scores.**

Course Grades

Exams (4 x 100 pts each)	400
Participation (iclicker)	~50 - 80
In-class Assignments	~40 - 80
<u>IQ Assignments</u>	<u>140</u>
Total	~630 - 700

Grade Calculations

The final course grade received will be determined based on the total accumulated points received as a percentage of the total possible points available for the course (from exams, iclicker questions, in-class assignments, IQ assignments), rounded to the nearest 0.1%. Grades will be assigned as follows:

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D	60-69%
A-	90-92%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	F	0-59%
		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 15th – 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, and with supporting documentation**, 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. Exceptions:

- **Death or imminent hospitalization** of an immediate family member or dependent on the day of the test. This requires proper documentation.
- Students who experience an **incapacitating illness or accident** on the day of the test. This requires a note from the student's physician (not a family member) or from the University Health Services. The documentation must explicitly show or state that the illness, injury, or incident occurred during the time of the class, or directly prevented the student from taking the test. Documentation must be provided within 7 days of the missed test.
- It is not uncommon for students to experience bouts of being **emotionally overwhelmed and extremely stressed** during their college career. If these feelings become incapacitating, the student is advised to seek help from a health professional. Make-ups will be allowed if the student provides a signed note from a physician or licensed clinical therapist. The note must explicitly list date range of incapacitation (past and/or future) and detail the limitations to the student's academic activities (i.e. cannot physically attend class, is incapable of completing mentally challenging tasks, etc). Your mental health is your business, so the note does need to give any diagnoses or confidential information.

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 Wednesday, 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 21st.**

LAB

There is no laboratory requirement for this course, but I highly recommend that you take BIOL 1020 this semester if possible! I am a firm believer in reinforcing concepts learned in lecture with activities in lab that illustrate these concepts. Data support the hypothesis that students in BIOL 1010 do better if they take BIOL 1020 in the same semester.

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.**

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. 17	100	1-4
Exam 2	March 16	100	5-8
Exam 3	April 20	100	9-13
Exam 4 (Final Exam)	May 15	100	18-21

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

Holidays – NO CLASS: March 23 -27 (Spring Break), March 31 (Cesar Chavez Day)