

Biology 100b Course Syllabus (Spring 2012)

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Office hours: M 12:00-1:30pm, TU 2:30-3:00 pm, and by appointment

Course Description:

Biology 100b is a general introductory course covering the form and function of major groups of organisms. We will examine biological topics at many levels, including, evolutionary, ecological, and organismal concepts. The format for this 5-unit course consists of 3 hours of lecture and 6 hours of laboratory/discussion each week. This course is designed for students planning to transfer to a four-year institution with a major in biological sciences. Prerequisites for this course include Biology 100a.

Required Texts/Software:

- *Principles of Life*. 2012. Hillis, Sadava, Heller and Price. Sinauer Associates, Inc.
- *Writing in Biology*. 2009. Karin Kinsley. Sinauer Associates, Inc.
- Symbiosis: Biology 100b Laboratory Manual.
- Simbiotic Software Packet for Dr. Traut (Ecobeaker Laboratories: Keystone Predator 101; Sickle-cell Alleles101)
- iClicker
- BioPortal (<http://courses.bfwpub.com/hillis1e.php>)--NOTE: do not go to "FALL Bioportal" page

Optional texts:

- *A Guide to Biology Lab*. Thomas Rust.
- *Dictionary of Word Roots & Combining Forms*. Donald Borror.

Attendance:

Students are required to attend and participate in all scheduled lectures and laboratories. Any student who misses more than 3 hours of lecture/lab may be dropped from the course by the instructor.

Lectures:

Lectures will be the primary source of information. Attendance is required. Please arrive on time, as lectures start promptly. Please do the assigned reading **before** attending lecture.

BioPortal:

Students will use this online resource to complete BioPortal assessments of topics covered in the reading and lecture. Additional readings and assignments will also be posted on BioPortal.

Laboratories:

The lab sections are the other major component of this course. They are designed to augment and reinforce principles and concepts discussed in lecture. Before attending lab, please read the lab activity. There will be regular lab quizzes covering material from the previous lab. Twice during the semester, we will collect your lab manual. Additionally, you will complete 3 lab reports. There will be 3 laboratory practicals covering material listed in the syllabus. Because of limited resources, make-up labs and tests will not be given.

Organism Report:

Students will each research and present a written and oral report on a favorite organism. At the beginning of the semester, students will submit an ordered list of 3 organisms that s/he would like to learn more about. The instructor will then assign a specific organism that the student will research—writing a written summary and presenting the information orally at the end of the semester. More information regarding this presentation will be given out during lab.

Exams:

There will be three 50-minute unit exams consisting of multiple-choice and/or short-answer questions. Throughout the lecture, you will be quizzed and will respond using the iClicker. You will be graded on these quizzes based on participation alone. At the end of the semester, there will be a cumulative 2-hour final exam. Students must take the exam during their registered lecture period. No make-up exams will be given. All testing accommodations must follow pre-approved DSPS guidelines and regulations. **NO** electronic devices or dictionaries are permitted (besides iClickers). No talking or engaging with other students is allowed during exams. All questions should be directed to the instructor. No bathroom breaks will be permitted.

Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated by performance on several tasks listed below. Assignments must be handed in on time. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless instructor has given consent. Final grades are based on points accumulated in lecture/lab and the following criteria: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F = <60%.

<u>Evaluation Procedures</u>	<u>% of Grade (total points)</u>
Lab quizzes	5% (15 at 2 point each)
Lab reports	7.5% (3 at 15 points each)
Lab notebook	8% (collected 2x for 24 points each)
Organism report	2% (6 points written, 6 points oral)
Lab practicals	20% (3 at 40 points each)
Lecture iClicker quizzes	2.5% (15 at 1 point each)
BioPortal Assignments	10% (30 at 2 points each)
Midterms	35% (3 at 70 points each)
Final	10% (1 worth 60 points)
Total	100% (600 points)

Study skills:

There is a lot of material covered in this course. I recommend that you review material before and after each lecture/lab. Learning biology is like learning a new language, so it is important to stay ahead of the material and to utilize memorization devices along the way. Once you understand the vocabulary, then you can really appreciate the concepts and processes of biological organisms. I also recommend using the resources available through your textbook. Another helpful method for mastering the material is to study with other students. Finally, please visit my office hours or email me with any questions regarding the material covered in lecture and/or lab.

Student Conduct:

You are expected to know and observe all of the rules of student conduct (CCSF catalogue). Students found cheating will be penalized and may be given a failing grade. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. In class, we will discuss plagiarism and your responsibility in preparing reports that avoid this unethical behavior. The use of any telephone or electronic devices is not allowed. It is the responsibility of each student to come to class ready to participate and learn. Please let me know promptly if there are constraints to your participation in this course (attendance, trouble with assignments, personal matters). Students at CCSF have the right to an environment in which there is freedom to learn. The College believes that each student has an earnest purpose and that he/she will adhere to acceptable standards of personal conduct. We believe students deserve a safe, civil and respectful environment that will enable them to reach their full potential. To this end we expect students to assist us in this mission. Promptly report any concerns or observations you have to your instructor or appropriate authorities. We value your assistance and take your concerns seriously. We will treat such matters as confidential to the fullest possible extent.