

Biology 40—Plants & Animals of California
Course Syllabus (Fall 2009)

Instructor: Bibit H. Traut, PhD.
Office S-317, Phone: 415-239-3809
E-mail: btraut@ccsf.edu, webpage: <http://fog.ccsf.edu/btraut>
Office hours: Monday 12:30-2:00, Thursday 5:00-5:30, and by appointment

Course Description:

Most of the state of California lies within a biodiversity hotspot, sharing this distinction with 33 other places in the entire world. Biodiversity hotspots are home to the highest diversity of endemics (plants and animals found nowhere else in the world). In this general introductory course, Biology 40, we will examine the basic concepts of ecology, geology, and evolution as they relate to the distribution of California's plants and animals. The format for this 3-unit course consists of 3 hours of lecture each week and additional field trips.

Required Texts:

A Natural History of California. Schoenherr, A. (University of California Press, Berkeley)

Atlas of the Biodiversity of California (California Department of Fish & Game)

Attendance:

Students are required to attend and participate in all scheduled lectures and field trips. Any student who misses more than 3 hours of lecture 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.

Field Trips:

Field trips are a required component of this course. They provide us the opportunity to directly observe the diversity of organisms found in California. You are required to do the independent field trip and then have the option of attending 2 of the other 3 field trips: Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, SF Botanical Garden, Glen Canyon Park (if you attend all 3 of the group field trips, one will count as extra credit). I will have a sign-up the second week of class for field trip attendance, so please check your calendar and commit to field trips now.

We will go on four field trips (see schedule for dates/times):

- Group field trip to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve rocky intertidal area
- Group field trip to the SF Botanical Garden
- Group field trip to Glen Canyon Park
- Independent field trip (as fits within your own schedule) to the California Academy of Sciences.

Exams:

There will be a written midterm exam and a written final exam consisting of short-answer questions. At the beginning of most classes, a quiz will be given that covers material from the previous lecture. Students must take exams during their registered lecture period. No make-up exams will be given. All testing accommodations will follow pre-approved DSPS guidelines and regulations. **NO** electronic devices or dictionaries are permitted. 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.

Impact Report:

Each student will write a paper discussing human impact on one of the natural regions of California. Students will submit topic requests for approval by the instructor. More information and guidance for writing this report will be presented early in the semester.

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>
Quizzes	10% (10 for 2 point each)
Field trips	15% (3 for 10 points each)
Impact Report	15% (1 for 30 points)
Midterm	30% (1 for 60 points)
Final	30% (1 for 60 points)
Total	100% (200 points)

Study Skills:

There is a lot of material covered in this course. I recommend that you review material before and after each lecture, using the review sheets to test your knowledge and focus your attention. Please visit my office hours or email me with any questions regarding the material covered in lecture.

Student Conduct:

You are expected to know and observe all rules of student conduct (CCSF catalogue). Students found cheating will be penalized and may be given a failing grade. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and student work that is plagiarized will not be accepted. 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 learn and participate. Please let me know promptly if there are constraints to your participation in this course (attendance, trouble with assignments, personal matters). Students at City College of San Francisco 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.