

BIOLOGY 100: General Biology Fall 2009 Syllabus

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Office Hrs: 1100-1150 Monday through Thursday or by appointment

If my scheduled office hours are not convenient for you, please make an appointment. **The best way to reach me is by e-mail**, but feel free to talk with me after class or phone me at my office. If you are having problems in class, please see me as soon as possible. I will do everything I can to help you with your problems, but don't wait until mid-semester or immediately before exams to contact me.

COURSE FORMAT

General Biology (Biology 100) is an introductory biology course for non-majors. The class meets for 75 minutes twice a week (1230-1345 TTh) in ENS-280. Lectures will be supplemented with readings from the text. Four lecture periods have been set aside for exams and you can expect unannounced, in-class quizzes throughout the semester. A tentative lecture and examination schedule are provided below.

STATE BUDGET CUTS CAUSE FACULTY FURLOUGHS

The devastating California state budget cuts prohibit faculty and staff at SDSU from working on two days per month during the 2009/10 academic year.

The faculty furlough prohibits faculty members from teaching, being on campus, doing research, and consulting with students on two days per month. Faculty furlough days vary from faculty to faculty. My furlough days are the following: Sept. 4, 30; Oct. 9, 12; Nov. 10, 24; Dec. 4, 7. **On those days, office hours are cancelled and telephone and e-mail messages will not be answered. Class will cancelled on Nov. 10 and Nov. 24.**

The staff furlough causes most University, College, and Department Offices to close on the following days: Sept. 11, 18; Oct. 2, 16; Nov. 13, 25; Dec. 21, 22, 23, 24.

To avoid faculty and staff furloughs at SDSU in the future, you may want to contact your legislators in Sacramento so that they better understand how cutting the state budget for higher education affects your education and your future.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are to provide students with a working knowledge and an understanding of

- 1) How energy is used and transformed in cells, organisms and ecosystems.
- 2) Basic patterns of Mendelian inheritance and modern biotechnology protocols.
- 3) The principle of evolution and the evolutionary history of the major groups of living organisms.
- 4) Basic ecological principles and their application to human impacts on the environment.

COURSE MATERIALS

Blackboard (<http://blackboard.sdsu.edu/>) will be used for electronic posting of course announcements, lecture slides, grades, and other materials.

Text Book (required)

Starr, C., Evers, C.A. and L. Starr. 2008. *General Biology: Custom Edition for San Diego State*. 7th Edition. Cengage Learning . The publisher also provides a website for students who wish to purchase individual chapters of the text: http://sdsbio.ichaptersbuy.com/ichapters/micro/?cluster_id=3138.

Scantrons (required)

These testing forms are available at the Aztec bookstore. **NOTE: You must have the correct forms.** You'll need one scantron form (#882-ES) and #2 pencils and a **good** eraser for each exam (4 scantrons total). Small scantron forms (#815 or #815-E) are required for in-class quizzes. **The #815 forms come in packs of 15; bring them to each class meeting starting the second week of class.**

POWERPOINT SLIDES

I will post the Powerpoint slides for each lecture in Powerpoint and PDF format on the Blackboard website 24 hours before class. I am providing these as a note-taking aid. **NOTE: These slides are not the total lecture but are topic outlines to be used as an aid in note taking during lecture. They do NOT take the place of coming to class.**

EXAMINATIONS, QUIZZES, AND GRADING

Your grade will be determined by your performance on examinations and in-class quizzes. Exams will be multiple-choice and will consist of questions taken from my lecture notes. You will **not** be tested on material from the book unless it has been discussed in lecture. Four lecture exams have been scheduled. These four exams are of equal weight (100 points each). Each exam will be graded on a curve based on overall class performance. Exam keys will be put on the class Blackboard site immediately after each exam. The scantron grading machine sometimes makes errors. If you believe there were errors made in the grading of your exam, you may request that it be re-graded by hand. **You have ONE WEEK after the scores for the exam have been posted on Blackboard to request a re-grade of your scantron.**

Here is the examination schedule for the semester:

Exam 1: September 24

Exam 2: October 20

Exam 3: November 19

Exam 4: December 17 (Note: This exam begins at 1300)

If illness or other serious problems beyond your control prevent you from taking an exam, you are expected to provide some kind of verification of the reason, such as a note from Student Health Services. **Make-up exams (upon verified excused absence) will consist of essay and short-answer questions. You must contact me no later than one day after the regular exam with a valid excuse to be accorded the privilege of taking a make-up exam.**

In addition to exams, in-class quizzes will also be given and will make up about 15% of your grade. There will be 8 **unannounced** quizzes and each quiz will be worth 10 points. **Your lowest quiz score will be dropped. There are no makeup quizzes regardless of your reason for missing the quiz.**

Your semester grade will be based upon the **total number of points** that you accumulate on exams and your best 7 quizzes. A total of 470 points are possible for the semester. Straight letter grades (no +/-) will be assigned at the end of the semester.

I may give the entire class an opportunity to earn "extra credit" from time to time. **However, there's no such thing as "extra credit" on an individual basis.**

ADDING AND DROPPING THE CLASS

September 14 is the last day to drop this or any other class, while **September 16** is the last day to add classes. Make sure you take care of **all** of your adding and dropping by these dates.

Crashers must **legibly** write their name and Red ID numbers on "crash cards" provided on the first day of class. Crash cards will not be accepted after the first day of lecture (**Tuesday, September 1**). Crash cards will be drawn at random as space becomes available through drops during the add/drop period. Students whose names have been drawn will be announced at the beginning of each class period and they can obtain their Regline add code after class. The last day for adding crashers will be **Tuesday, September 15**. **Note: You must be present on the day your name is called or your add code will be given to another student.**

CHEATING

It is hoped that cheating will not be a problem in this course. Nevertheless, to avoid any possibility of you not recognizing what the consequences are, this is my policy: **If you are caught cheating on an exam or quiz, you will receive a zero on the exam or quiz. In addition, the event may be reported to campus judicial authorities, which may lead to additional actions by the University. NOTE: turning in work for other students in their absence from class IS CHEATING and will be dealt with as such.**

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BIOLOGY 100

1. **Make coming to class a habit.** Scientific studies show that students who come to class get better grades than those who do not. **NOTE:** Simply obtaining the lecture slides from the class's Blackboard site is **NOT** a substitute for coming to class!
2. **Make use of my office hours to get help if you need it.** If you are not free during my office hours, make an appointment with me for some time that is convenient for both of us.
3. **Be on time to class.** Class runs from 1230 to 1345. Be ready to begin **promptly** at 1230 and don't plan on leaving before 1345.
4. **Be attentive in class.** Please sit quietly, pay attention and take notes. Turn off your cell phones and remove your iPod earbuds. Distractions and disruptions during lecture will not be tolerated; **I will ask you to leave if, in my judgment, you are being disruptive.**
5. **Ask questions.** If something in lecture isn't clear, don't be afraid to ask questions. Undoubtedly, someone else has the same question.
6. **Be organized.** Use a binder or folder to keep your notes, handouts, scantrons and any other course materials together all in one place. Bring your binder to class.
7. **Be prepared.** Read the assigned readings from the text and download the lecture slides **BEFORE** class.

BIOLOGY 100 LECTURE SCHEDULE – FALL 2009

Date	Topic	Text Chapter (pgs.)
Sept. 1	Lecture 1: Introduction to Bio 100; Invitation to Biology	1 (1-11)
3	Lecture 2: Life's Chemical Basis	2
8	Lecture 3: Molecules of Life	3
10	Lecture 4: Cell Structure and Function	4
15	Lecture 5: Ground Rules for Metabolism	5
17	Lecture 6: Where It Starts -- Photosynthesis	6
22	Lecture 7: How Cells Release Chemical Energy	7
24	EXAM 1	--
29	Lecture 8: How Cells Reproduce	8
Oct. 1	Lecture 9: Meiosis and Sexual Reproduction	9
6	Lecture 10: Observing Patterns in Inherited Traits	10
8	Lecture 11: Chromosomes and Human Inheritance	11 (168-179)
13	Lecture 12: DNA Structure and Function; From DNA to Protein	12, 13
15	Lecture 13: Studying and Manipulating Genomes	15
20	EXAM 2	--
22	Lecture 14: Evidence of Evolution	16
27	Lecture 15: Processes of Evolution – Part 1	17 (264-277)
29	Lecture 16: Processes of Evolution – Part 1	17 (278-287)
Nov. 3	Lecture 17: Prokaryotes; Protists – The Simplest Eukaryotes	19, 20
5	Lecture 18: Plant Evolution; Fungi	21, 22
10	FURLOUGH DAY – NO CLASS	
12	Lecture 19: Animal Evolution – The Invertebrates	23
17	Lecture 20: Animal Evolution – The Vertebrates	24
19	EXAM 3	
24	FURLOUGH DAY – NO CLASS	26
26	THANKSGIVING VACATION – NO CLASS	
Dec. 1	Lecture 21: Population Ecology	
3	Lecture 22: Community Structure and Biodiversity	27
8	Lecture 23: Ecosystems	28
10	Lecture 24: The Biosphere	29
17	EXAM 4 (1300 - 1500)	