Biology 100 is a blended course (in-class and web-based) which gives you, the student, more flexibility but also requires more of you. This course requires students to become masters of their own learning. Each week you have E-modules or "chapters" to read and associated questions to answer. These exercises prepare you for the E-tests, which in turn prime you for the in-class Paper Tests. The final exam is cumulative.
Blended Course

The course will not require a workbook or traditional textbook. Everything is in a web-based presentation called BioEspresso, located at www.he2.bioespresso.com. The combination of the web-based component along with lectures is a blended course. The web-based course gives the student more flexibility, but also requires more responsibility.

The decision to not require a physical book was made in response to the following inputs:
1) Student feedback
2) Greening the course: Let's do something for the environment!
3) Everything is online

However, if there is a pressing need for a printed version of the BioEspresso modules, the print function is built-in to each module and you can print them out at-will.

University Readers
University Readers Inc. is the sole publisher of BioEspresso and responsible for its nationwide distribution. Questions concerning payment, delivery, etc., should be directed specifically to Seidy Cruz at scruz@universityreaders.com

Office Hours
Live! Dr. Pozos' Office hours are MWF from 12-1 in North Life Sciences 130.
Listen up! If your schedule conflicts with these office hours: Please contact me to arrange an alternative time to meet.
Each Post-doctoral fellow will be available by e-mail. Each e-module taught by a post-doctoral fellow will include their e-mail address. If you have any questions about a particular topic you can contact the appropriate instructor directly.

Use BioEspresso Calendar
All scheduled modules, quizzes and exams, both electronic and paper, are listed in the calendar in BioEspresso. Consult the calendar on a regular basis. Do not believe rumors.

News in BioEspresso
Read “Announcements” in BioEspresso for latest information about course assignment, etc. BioEspresso announcements are also on Facebook (find us under the name “Bio Espresso”).

Post Doctoral Lecturers
During the course, ten post-doctoral fellows from UCSD will present a series of 3 lectures each. Their material will be included in E-modules and exams. You will evaluate them at the end of their teaching block.

E-modules, E-tests and Paper Exams
Evaluation of your mastery of information is important. To facilitate this evaluation, I believe that the more practice you have taking tests, the better you will become in mastering the material and minimizing test anxiety. During the semester you will take three E-tests, three Paper Tests, and one Final Exam.
Paper exams will be administered in the classroom and will last approximately 50 minutes. The paper final will last two hours. The Final exam is cumulative. The final exam will include material from all e-modules, e-tests and paper tests, and will have 200 questions. All exams require the ParScore scantron form number F-289-PAR-L (the “skinny red” one).

Paper Test 1 is on Wednesday, September 30th
Paper Test 2 is on Monday, October 26th
Paper Test 3 is on Monday, November 23rd

The Final Exam for the 1pm class only is on Monday, December 14th from 1pm to 3pm

The Final Exam for the 9am class only is on Wednesday, December 16th from 8:00am to 10:00am

Review Sessions
Review Sessions for each Paper Test will be held before each test. Review Sessions are driven by students; there will be no general overview of the material presented by faculty. Come prepared with your questions about the material. These sessions are typically held on the Sunday evening before the exam and generally last between one and two hours.
Module 1: How to Succeed in Biology 100

Due MWF before class

Have questions

E-Modules

E-Tests

Paper Tests & E-tests

Curving

Scored & occur on-line the weekend before the Paper Test

Timed and given once

Paper Tests & Final only
E-modules

You have readings and 10-15 questions in BioEspresso that assess your knowledge of the module. E-modules will be assigned every MWF. Each E-module has associated questions, which must be answered every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday before class. Each lecture has 1-2 E-modules associated with it. These assignments can be taken only three times, of which the highest score counts and is automatically inserted into your grade book. You must complete each e-module **before class** on the due date.

**Study Advice from a Former Student** (adapted from a student's bulletin-board post)

*Everything you need to know about e-modules:*

1. Work in study groups, 3-4 is an ideal number. If you work in a group you can achieve 95% and up with ease (on the e-modules).
2. Open up multiple tabs in browser with previous scores from that e-module for quick reference to double check when answering.
3. The search function is an extremely useful and time saving tool. Be careful as many questions are not asking for definitions, you have to think them through!
4. Read questions thoroughly because many questions are similarly phrased.
5. Wikipedia, it covers almost every term in the e-modules.
6. If studying in a group, when you have a perfect score on your first or second try, you can use the extra tests as a reference for any unknown questions that other group members have. Remember that the questions are scrambled and each set of questions is different.
7. Don't stress out about the e-modules. Yes they are time consuming and annoying, but they are easier once you get the hang of them. Do not try and do them in 10 minutes -- they require time!

8. When e-modules have the same due date, some of the info in each overlaps. Reading both modules first helps a lot. (Ex: There was a question with DNP as the answer in the oxidative phosphorylation module, yet it didn't appear in the module text until loss of oxidative phosphorylation module.)

Hopefully, this information will help some of you that are disappointed with your E-module scores. Remember that the final exam is cumulative -- so you can't just forget about the e-modules after you're done taking them!

**How to Study**

For this course, you will be presented with information from two major sources:
- Class lectures
- E-modules in BioEspresso.

The most efficient way to study is to check the calendar in BioEspresso and see which e-modules are assigned for each day: Read that E-module, answer the questions in BioEspresso and attend class.

**Note!** The value of class lectures is that they give you a unique perspective of the material. This context is more important than memorizing facts. It is the overall approach to biology that you will remember long after you have forgotten various facts.
Keep in mind that when you are taking the E-modules and E-tests, you are preparing yourself to take major paper exams in the classroom. Many students find that printing out all the modules is helpful. The paper exams will be administered in class and will not be open book.

**Exam Philosophy**
This course will administer both electronic and in-class evaluations. For electronic tests, you may take the exams by yourself or with one other. Use the electronic test material to prepare for the classroom exams. If you simply copy the answers from a friend, you will not do well on the written exams.

**Curving**
There will be no curving for the E-modules since you can take them three times and the computer takes the highest score. Only Paper Tests & the Final Exam are curved.

**Can I drop a test?**
All tests count. None are dropped. If you do not take the final, you get an F for the course.

**Problems with Exams?**
If you have a problem or question about your exam or the grade you received, please see me ASAP. All scantrons will be destroyed one week after the date of the exam.
Concept 9

Grades
Grades will be determined on the following basis:
A = 93%-100%
A- = 90%-92%
B+ = 87%-89%
B = 83%-86%
B- = 80%-82%
C+ = 77%-79%
C = 73%-76%
C- = 70%-72%
D+ = 67%-69%
D = 63%-66%
D- = 60%-62%
F = Below 60%

In previous classes, most students pass with an A, B or C. Those that do not pass are those who do not do the assignments or attend class. The grades of students who attend class are 10% higher on average than those who do not attend class.

One month after the end of the course, all grades are final. If you have an issue with your grade, etc., please see me before this time. I am aware that mistakes occur and special circumstances arise. I encourage you to come and talk to me.
Can I make up a missed assignment?
If you let me know that there is a problem I can help you. Otherwise, you will receive a zero. Reasons have to be serious. Excuses such as going to help a friend move or forgetting the assignment is due are not acceptable excuses. University sponsored events in which you directly participate and health-crises are acceptable reasons.

Modules will **NOT** be reopened for you if:
- You notify me longer than 24 hours after the situation
- Modules are opened for you and you fail to take them

If you miss an e-test, paper test, or the final: contact Dr. Pozos or see him in his office immediately.

**Programmatic/Technical issues**
For any technical issues you may experience contact drpozos@gmail.com. I will respond within 24 hrs. or come visit my office at North Life Sciences 130 and discuss your problem with myself or my outstanding and receptive staff!

**PC and Macs**
BioEspresso works on PCs and Macs. BioEspresso is supported by Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, and Safari. Do not attempt to do any BioEspresso work on your wireless computer if the computer is running slow. Keep this in mind and give yourself enough time to take the e-modules, e-tests, etc.
Extra Credit -Due December 11, 2009

Extra Credit is available. This is a demanding assignment and is not simply presenting facts, but it is well-worth your time. For extra credit to count you may choose any topic in Biology. **Consult me for approval of topic.** The format should be similar to a module with associated questions. In addition to text presentation of your module, **you need to present a major concept from your paper in the form of a feedback system.** A LOM (Learning Objective Map) and Illustrations are also required. A minimum of 5 type-written pages in Microsoft Word, along with 5 references (e.g. articles, not something from People Magazine) are required.

If your paper does not present a feedback approach to your topic, you will not receive any credit. **Your paper must include a feedback loop and a LOM in order to receive credit.** In addition, the paper should demonstrate your ability to critically analyze the topic you are discussing. The extra credit may increase your final grade by 2% points. Notice the word "percentage". If you have 89% overall and receive full credit for the extra credit, your score may be raised to 91%. All extra credit must be submitted electronically on CD as well as paper copy. I want a paper and electronic version. I will not accept email attachments, floppy discs, or portable USB drives (aka “flash drives,” “thumb drives,” etc.)

Please confirm with me what topic you want to do for extra credit no later than December 1, 2009 (the sooner the better). If your topic is not approved by December 1st it will not be accepted since it takes time to do this paper well.

**Plagiarism**

Any extra credit assignment or special assignment given to you must be your own work. A person caught plagiarizing will fail the course. Plagiarism is commonly defined as “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.” In plain English: plagiarism is “cutting and pasting” from somewhere and claiming it as your own work. We have sophisticated programs that we use to check for plagiarism. If you have questions about this, please see me.
Cheating/Classroom and BioEspresso Etiquette

Cheating on the paper tests is prohibited. Anyone found cheating during the paper exams will receive an F in the course and reported to the University.

In the classroom, you may use your laptops to access BioEspresso. Do not use your laptop during class to see movies, do other homework, etc. Use of Laptops or other electronic equipment that is disruptive to other students in the classroom will result in the disruptive students being asked to leave the classroom. Frequent (2 or more!) violations of this rule will result in the student receiving an F grade and being reported to the University for disciplinary action.

BioEspresso will allow you to create chat groups. Do not use this media for any kind of inappropriate, lewd, sexist, or socially unacceptable comments. Anyone conducting this kind of behavior will meet with the full sanctions of the University e.g. an F in the class, expulsion from the University, etc.

Professorial Absence

In the case of my absence from class, the class will have another professor teach the course and/or will have a web assignment.

Final Note

The students who succeed in this course 1) do the e-modules, 2) attend class, and 3) see Dr. Pozos in a timely fashion about any issues. Students who have problems and fail to notify Dr. Pozos do not do well in the course. In short, please be persistent. If I do not answer an e-mail in 48 hours, please contact me again, or come see me. Good luck, see you in class!

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