

BIOLOGY 210 - Laboratory course description - Spring 2008

Web Site: <http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/classes/biology/bio210/lab/demers/>

SAFETY: The laboratory exercises will use chemicals and living microorganisms, both of which could be harmful or infectious if handled improperly. You will be taught how to work in the laboratory properly. **Please follow the instructions that the laboratory instructors provide.** Also, if you have an allergy to fungi or certain chemicals, if you are pregnant, or if you have a compromised immune system, please contact the professor.

LAB ASSIGNMENTS: The lab manual is to be used as a workbook and students are required to **complete all of the laboratory exercises** in the lab manual. This includes the "Evaluation of Results" section (Purpose, Data, Conclusions and Discussions), and the questions, as well as the **Case Histories** in the appendix. The student should use lecture notes, lab notes, the textbook, lab manual and other texts to find the answers to the questions and to work on the Case Histories. Additional questions will be added as needed. The lab quizzes will test your knowledge of all of the material. The **manual** will be checked periodically by the TA. Pop quizzes will be given throughout the semester to assure that students are coming to class prepared. Each student will be required to give an **oral presentation (5-10 minutes, with visual materials) on a topic in microbiology, to be decided by the student and TA. A general outline of the presentation must be handed in before the day of the oral, and a detailed outline is due on the day of the presentation.** Students are required to **write two lab reports, following scientific format, on unknown microorganisms. Students are required to turn in both a hard copy and an electronic copy of both lab reports and both outlines for the orals.** If plagiarism is discovered, students are liable to be expelled, suspended or placed on probation, according to Section 41301 of the California Code of Regulations. **Plagiarism is formal work publicly misrepresented as original; it is any activity wherein one person knowingly, directly, and for lucre, status, recognition, or any public gain resorts to the published or unpublished work of another in order to represent it as one's own** (Lindley, Alexander. Plagiarism and Originality, 1952).

EXAMINATIONS: There will be five lab quizzes, worth 40 points each, spread over the 15 week semester. They might include practical lab questions. These will be given during the laboratory portion of the course to individual sections, on the dates listed in the syllabus. The lowest quiz grade will be discarded and **there will be no makeup's.** A missed quiz will count as the lowest grade to be dropped. Please do not discuss the quiz material with other sections of the class, this will only lower your grade.

GRADING:

Based on a total of 300 points:

160	Lab quizzes; 5 (40 pt. each), drop one	20	TA evaluation
5	Unknown take home	20	Lab Manual
15	Lab Report # 1 (First Unknown)	15	Case Histories (5 x 3 points each)
30	Lab Report # 2 (Second Unknown)	15	Pop quizzes; (3 X 5 points each)
20	Oral report		

ATTENDANCE: Laboratory attendance is mandatory. If you are absent or late, or leave before the assigned work is completed, you are letting your lab partners down and compromising your own grade, by losing TA evaluation points. . You **WILL NOT PASS** the course if you miss more than 2 periods without a valid medical excuse. Arriving late consistently (more than 2) or leaving early before the lab work is completed will be counted as an unexcused absence.

REPORTS: take home quizzes, written reports, etc.: All written reports are due on the dates listed in the syllabus. The oral reports are due on the date decided between you and your TA. Points will be lost for handing in late work. The penalty for late work will be 10% per lab day.

LAB PERFORMANCE: This grade is determined by attendance, ability to master the technical skills, preparation before coming to class, professionalism, your ability to accept responsibility and work well with your partners, and your attitude and cooperation in class. Lab checks (pop quizzes) will be instituted to enforce your preparation before lab.

RELATION TO LECTURE: An independent letter grade will be assigned for both lecture and lab. You must achieve a passing score in each. These will be averaged and turned into the registrar. Students are expected to keep up in lecture and it is assumed that the student is absorbing the lecture theory. Lecture also assumes a satisfactory performance in lab.