# BIOLOGY 101 COURSE SYLLABUS

### Spring 2013

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This one-unit (3 hour) General Biology Lab is intended to be

taken concurrently with the 3-unit Principles of Biology Lecture class. It has been designed to be both a demonstration of concepts discussed in the lecture class, and as an experience of the investigation process used in science.

**LAB TEXT:**  *Laboratory Investigations*, by Michael Clark and Michael Riddle, 2012.

The official course objectives can be obtained from the course outline in the Math/Science office.

Specific and detailed objectives for each weekly lab are given during the course.

**GRADE EVALUATION PROCEDURE:**

**Open Book Tests:** Most of the course points are earned on open lab book exams. These tests thoroughly cover what you have done during the lab. It is very important that you complete *all* lab work, check the accuracy of your answers, and write-in any notes that would clarify experimental procedures or concepts. You will be able to use anything that you have written in the lab book. It is imperative that you bring your lab with you each lab and refer to it during the open book tests.

**Skill and Memory Tests:** These two tests must be taken in order to have a chance for the A grade. You will be told exactly which skills could be on the test. It is very important that you actually do the procedures during the lab so that you will be prepared for skill tests. Don’t depend on observing your lab partner instead of doing things yourself. Some of the skill questions will involve calculations or memorized facts, and all of those requirements will be listed on the study guide for each test.

**Missed Exams:** Only the open-book part of one exam can be made-up. This will be at the end of the semester during finals week (to be arranged). There is a penalty of 10% unless arrangements are made with the instructor before the exam date.

**Out of Class Assignments:** There are none for this class unless we have a scheduled field trip. Any information related to a field trip will be provided in a separate handout.

**GRADES:** The biology lecture and lab classes are graded separately. However, there is a correlation of topics covered in both courses, which means that lab can help lecture and vice versa. Unsatisfactory performance in the lecture class is usually related to an overload of units or work outside of school. If you are having a very difficult time in lecture, it is very important that you decide early in the semester (first month) whether you should cut back on your unit load. If you drop lecture early in the semester, then also drop the lab class.

***You can choose among three approaches to the grade in this lab class.***

***Method 1:*** All lab book exercises completed and checked off before leaving each lab. Grade = C

***Method 2:*** Grade is based only on Open Book Exams (must not have missed more than two labs during the semester).

A is not possible using Open Book Exams only.

80% = B

70% = C

60% = D

***Method 3:*** This is the only method to get an A in the course.

The % on Open Book Exams must average 90%.

and

The % on the Memory & Skill questions must average 50% or better.

**ATTENDANCE:** You will be dropped if you miss three (3) lab meetings. Thirty-minute tardiness could be counted as a missed lab unless previously notifying instructor.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** Be on time, do all work, be cooperative, and don’t copy work of fellow students. Please don’t use a cell phone in class, or any other personal electronic equipment without talking to me first. There is a college policy on classroom behavior that you can read in the college catalog that pertains to all rights and responsibilities of students including all procedures in effect at SWC.

**LAB SAFETY:** Hazardous materials will sometimes be used in the lab. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) containing information about these hazardous materials are available upon request. No eating or drinking is allowed in the lab.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** I will create a seating chart at the second class meeting. Talk with me if you have hearing or vision problems that I should consider, or if you have any other special needs related to classroom instruction. Contact the Disability Support Services (x5301) for further information.

**OFFICE HOURS:** ROOM 320H

**Monday** 4:00 – 5:15

**Tuesday** 5:00 – 5:50

**Wednesday** 4:00 – 4:50

**Thursday** 5:00 – 6:15

An easy way to give me information is by note, which you can do by going to my mailbox at the Math/Science School Office. Or even better, you can see me in any of my labs. (Tue. 2-5 in Rm. 314, or Tue. 6-9 and Th. 6:30 in Rm. 311) Otherwise, you can email me or phone the college (office voice mail), but I usually do not return calls.

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

1. **“W” GRADE ON TRANSCRIPTS:** There is a deadline each semester for withdrawing from a course without a “W” grade officially placed in your records (February 11).
2. **A, B, C, D, F GRADES ON TRANSCRIPT:** There is a deadline date each semester beyond which you cannot drop a class without receiving an A, B, C, D, or F grade on your official college records (April 15).

**SPECIAL NOTE ON DROPPING THIS CLASS:** If you find it necessary to drop this class you must do so officially at the Admissions Office. If you do not officially drop classes at Southwestern College, the Admissions Office will give you an “F” grade.

**BIOLOGY 101 LAB GRADE CALCULATION**

***PERCENTAGE (%) COMPUTATION:*** *The following general formula can be used at any*

*time during the semester.*

(Points Earned **÷** Points Possible) X 100 = Percentage (%)

Example: If you earned 250 points out of a possible 300, then…

250 **÷** 300 = 0.83 X 100 = 83%

***GRADE SCALE:*** After computing your percentage, go to the grade scale for your current

grade. In our example, 83% is a “B”.

***POINTS:*** The following is provided for you to keep track of the points you’ve earned.

**Your Score Your % so far**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Test #1** (Measurement – Microscope)  Open Book (100pts) |  |  |
| **Test #2** (Cells – Respiration)  Open Book (200pts)  Skill & Memory (50pts) |  |  |
| **Test #3** – Final Exam (Cell Division – Human Evolution)  Open Book (200pts)  Skill & Memory (50pts) |  |  |

**Biology 101 Lab Schedule**

**Week Of Topic**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **January 17** | **Introduction** |
| **24** | **Measurement** |
|  |  |
| **31** | **Microscope** |
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| **February 7** | **Cells *TEST #1*** |
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| **14** | **Chemistry of Water** |
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| **21** | **Senses and Perception (Night Labs)**  **Field Trip - Rice Canyon (Day Labs)** |
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| **28** | **Enzymes** |
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| **March 7** | **Photosynthesis** |
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| **14** | **Respiration** |
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| **21** | ***Easter Break*** |
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| **28** | **The Heart (no Thursday Lab)** |
| **April 4** | **Sameness and Variety**  ***TEST #2*** |
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| **11** | **Genetics** |
|  |  |
| **18** | **Surrounded by Microbes** |
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| **25** | **Mosses and Ferns** |
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| **May 2** | **Dry Land Plants** |
|  |  |
| **9** | **Survey of Animals** |
|  |  |
| **16**  **23** | **Human Evolution**  ***Final Exams for Lab*  *TEST #3*** |