

Biology 2150 Section 021

Fundamentals of Life Science I

Summer II 2011

TIME: MTWRF 9:50-11:30, BO 1053

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Scott Leisner
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OFFICE HOURS: 2:00-4:00 M, T, W
Other times by appointment only, but more time will be made available if necessary.
There may be times that I cannot hold the above hours.

REQUIRED TEXT: Sadava et al. Life the Science of Biology. Ninth Ed.
Sinauer and Freeman (2011)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Biology 2150 is an introductory course covering the science of Biology and is intended primarily for science majors. Non-science majors who desire to gain greater knowledge of Biology than they can get from a general education survey course also take Biology 2150.

Regardless of your motivations for taking the course, it is expected that you are taking the course because you truly want to learn. It is most helpful to you to read the text, attend the lectures. Working the study questions (in either the text or the website) is encouraged but not required. It is helpful for you to read the text before attending lecture and when you come to class, it is expected that the focus of your attention will be on the material that is discussed in class, not the newspaper or your cell phone. Talking during class, other than during class discussions is not permitted nor are class disruptions. Following one warning, people continuing to talk during class or disrupting the class will be asked to leave and given the grade of F for the course.

I encourage you to attend the lectures as I will illustrate the course materials and provide you with the opportunity to ask questions. This is important for me, to assess what course materials you are having most of your difficulties with, so I can clarify these topics. If the course material is confusing or unclear, you should ask questions, either during class, or my office hours. It is better to ask questions about what is unclear to you sooner rather than later. Remember, this course is normally taught over a 16-week span during a normal semester, while it is covered in 6 weeks during the summer. Because of this, it is very easy to fall behind in summer classes, which is something that I do not want to happen to you. After all, my goal in teaching the course is to help you succeed in learning and understanding the materials.

Biology 2150 will examine the organization, diversity and functioning of living organisms, especially animals. We will cover the ways in which animals respond to and interact with their external environment, while maintaining an internal environment that permits life to survive and thrive. However, we will also cover plants and will briefly discuss how they interact with their internal and external environments.

It is expected that all students will attend each lecture. Examination questions may be derived from both the lectures and the text assignments, so students are also required to read the appropriate chapters of the book. However, exam questions will come more likely from lecture materials than from that are not covered in lecture. The textbook for this class is required for Biology 2150 because it may help to clarify materials that students may have found unclear in the lectures. Because the textbook contains a great deal of information, it may be difficult for students to focus on the key concepts.

All lectures will be given at the specified time. I usually make myself available for asking questions for a **SHORT** time following the lectures. In addition, I will set aside up to **15 minutes before** each mid-term examination on Fridays to answer questions. Finally, please take advantage of my office hours to ask questions. I will answer specific questions but **PLEASE** do not ask me to review an entire lecture. It is better to ask specific questions as they come up in the course of the lectures rather than wait until the last minute. This will reduce the time that you need to wait in line on the day before the examination. Please obtain notes from someone in the class if you miss a lecture because I am not able to provide copies of my lecture notes to students.

COURSE ORGANIZATION:

This course meets Monday through Friday from 9:50-11:30 in Bowman-Oddy room 1053. Remember, I will be covering a significant amount of material in this course and it usually works best to keep up with it rather than fall behind and try to catch up the night before the examination.

GRADING:

I will be administering 4 midterm examinations and 1 final examination for this class. Your final grade will be based on your 3 best midterm examination scores (You may drop your lowest midterm examination grade) and on your final examination score. **You Must Take The Final Examination!!** The three midterm examinations will make up 60% of your final grade (each examination is worth 20% of your grade) and the final examination will make up 40% of the final grade. Each examination's grade distribution will be announced in class. Final grades will be assigned using The University of Toledo's twelve point grading scale: A, A-, B+, B., B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. The range of scores corresponding to each of these various categories may vary slightly from examination to examination. Please note that I am not required to give a specified number of any grade (from A's to F's), your grade is based upon your total performance in class on the three examinations.

Tentative Grading Scale (percentages):

A :	100-90	C+:	75-73	F:	<50
A-:	89-86	C:	72-62		
		C-:	61-60		
B+:	85-84	D+:	59-57		
B:	83-78	D:	56-52		
B-:	77-76	D-:	51-50		

EXAMINATIONS:

Examinations will consist of four 1-hour midterm examinations and one comprehensive final examination for two hours. Examinations will be based on lecture material and material from the textbook appropriate for the lecture materials. It is best not to memorize old examinations and it is my policy to **not** provide students with old examinations.

Midterm examinations will usually consist of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions. However, it may be more appropriate for some topics to reduce the number of multiple-choice questions and replace them with short answer, solutions to problems, or essay questions, so I reserve the right to replace multiple-choice questions with these other types of questions. Multiple-choice questions will be computer scored, while I will evaluate answers to any written questions. The four midterm examinations will be at the times given on page 5 of this syllabus and will cover all of the material from just after the prior examination to the day before the examination.

The final examination will consist of approximately 100 multiple-choice questions, with the provision that I may reduce the number of questions and replace them with other types of questions. The final examination will be comprehensive: 50 % of the final will be over the material from lecture and textbook chapters covered by the four prior examinations. The remaining 50% of the examination will cover the material discussed following examination 4. The final examination will be given on the last day of class, August 6, 2004 and will be for 2 hours.

Basic Examination Rules:

1. All examinations must be taken at the scheduled time with the section for which you are officially registered.
2. Examinations will start and end at the specified times. Students arriving more than 10 minutes after the examination has begun will not be admitted **under any circumstances!**
3. Be sure to bring at least two number 2 (#2) pencils and your valid UT student ID card to each examination.
4. **QUIET** is to be maintained **AT ALL TIMES** while an examination is being taken! Please be considerate of your fellow students. If you need to talk about something please do it outside of the room where the examination is being taken. Violators of this rule will have their examinations confiscated and they will receive a grade of F for the examination.
5. I do not give make-up mid-term examinations. If you miss an examination due to illness, family crisis, etc, then that will be the examination that you drop. If you miss more than one mid-term examination, you will receive the grade of F in the course.
6. If you miss the final examination, you must supply me with a written excuse and obtain permission to take the make-up examination. Notification must be made within 48 hours of the missed examination. Make-up examinations are arranged by appointment with Dr. Leisner. The make-up examination will completely consist of essay questions and it must be completed by the end of final exam week during the academic quarter during which the course was taken.
7. If you feel that an error in grading your examination has occurred, you must respond within one week of receiving the examination back from me. Otherwise, I will assume that there is no problem and the grade will be recorded as it stands.

GRADES AND WITHDRAWALS

I do not assign grades of DR (drop). You may withdraw from the course if you want to but to do this you must fill out a withdrawal slip and process it through official University channels by the posted deadline. Grades of I (incomplete) will only be assigned if the final examination is not taken and I am supplied with a written verifiable excuse for your absence, and notified in writing prior to the last day of final exam week of your intention to make it up. Missing more than one mid-term examination or skipping the final examination will result in a grade of F.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR DOING WELL IN THE CLASS

1. If something is unclear to you, ask.
2. Attend all lectures, I may cover some things not in the book.
3. Keep up with the readings and class material—if you fall behind will be hard to catch up.
4. Study the material as you go, don't try to cram it all in the night before the exam!
5. Look or (better) copy over your notes after class to identify the important points.
6. Do this as soon after class as possible, while the material is still fresh in your mind.
7. Ask questions right away if something does not make sense to you, otherwise you may forget to ask before it is too late.
8. Make sure that you understand the material—memorization without understanding is usually not very helpful to you.
9. Test yourself—try the self quizzes and challenge questions at the end of each chapter and/or the web site
10. Study in a group, this is important to help you make your notes more complete and to have someone take notes for you if you are unable to attend class.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Department of Biological Sciences

Academic dishonesty by students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses and programs offered by the Department of Biological Sciences will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining assistance from another individual during an examination.
2. Giving assistance to another individual during an examination.
3. The unauthorized use of study material or textbooks during an examination.
4. Changing answers on an examination after it has been returned and then submitting it for regrading.
5. Plagiarizing written assignments. Plagiarizing includes but is not limited to: a) Copying laboratory reports from previous years, b) copying or paraphrasing reports, term papers, or theses prepared by other students, c) unauthorized collaboration in the preparation of reports, term papers, or theses, and d) use of another author's materials without appropriate acknowledgment through quotation and citation.
6. Attempting to bribe or otherwise induce an instructor to alter either a grade or examination score.
7. Obtaining or attempting to obtain a copy of an examination prior to its administration.

In accordance with policies presented in The Student Handbook and The University Catalog, Instructors have the responsibility and right to report cases of alleged dishonesty to departmental, college, and university administrative units. Students involved in academic dishonesty may expect to receive a grade of F on specific assignments as well as in the course where the assignment was made. In addition, disciplinary action may be recommended through appropriate college and university disciplinary committees. Please consult your instructor for instructions on the implementation of this policy.

Tentative Syllabus For Biology 2150 (Summer I)

		<u>Chapters</u>
Week 1	May 16-20	1, 22, 31, 32, 33, 44
Week 2	May 23-27	40, 41, 43
	Exam I May 27	
Week 3	May 30-June 3	45, 46, 47
	Exam II July 16	
Week 4	June 6-10	48, 49, 50
	Exam III June 10	
Week 5	June 13-17	51, 52, 53
	Exam IV June 17	
Week 6	June 20-24	34, 35, 37, 38
	Final Exam June 24	