Exploring Biology BCOR 012A, Spring 2015

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
BCOR 12 will cover topics in evolution, organismal diversity, physiology, and ecology of plants and animals. All readings referred to here are chapters within the assigned text which is Campbell Biology, ed. 9. Other readings may be assigned and will be posted on the Web. We strongly recommend that you read the assigned material before coming to lecture and there will be homework assignments related to the readings.

REQUIRED TEXTS
• Reece, Urry, Cain, Wasserman, Minorsky, and Jackson (2011) Campbell Biology, ed. 9th. Benjamin Cummings, California.
• Online access to Mastering Biology, Pearson (www.masteringbiology.com) This is included with new textbook purchases. Our course section is called UVMBCOR12SPRING2015AB.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY
• Blackboard: There is a Blackboard site for our lecture section, as well as a site for your individual lab section. We will use the Blackboard site to post announcements, Powerpoint slides, and review materials, as well as for weekly exam-preparation question sets. Please make sure you can find and access blackboard right away in case you encounter problems: if you do, let your instructor know right away and we’ll work on finding a solution.
• PowerPoint slides will NOT be available before the class in which the material is covered. In general, they will be posted on Fridays and all will be available before the exam on which the material will be tested. However, neither of us includes a lot of text on our PowerPoint slides, thus we strongly urge you to come to class or the figures on PowerPoint slides may not make much sense.
• iClickers: We will be using the iClicker system for interactive questions throughout the semester. iClickers can be purchased at the bookstore if you do not already have one. To use your iClicker, you will need to REGISTER your iClicker ID (the number under the barcode on the back) within Blackboard (there is a remote registration link on the left sidebar of the lecture site). You cannot receive points for your participation until you have registered!

**GRADING**

There will be three midterm exams and a cumulative final exam in this course. The point breakdown is as follows:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hourly exams (3 exams @ 100 pts each, the lowest exam will be dropped)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Final</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mastering Biology Assignments</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>iClicker questions</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Weekly question sets</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>700</strong></td>
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**IMPORTANT NOTE:** To pass this course, you must achieve a passing grade in BOTH the lecture and laboratory portions of the class. Please don’t use high performance in one part to justify less effort in the other!

No electronic devices are allowed during exams (including calculators).

The final exam will be cumulative, however approximately one half of the final will be weighted toward material covered the last quarter of the semester. Dates for the midterm exams and the final can be found on the lecture schedule. **Do not make travel arrangements to leave campus before the date of the final exam!**

Barring extraordinary circumstances, **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** and exams will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel plans during the semester. The only legitimate excuse for rescheduling an exam is if you have three exams on one day, you have a **documented** medical condition or other emergency, or you must be off-campus for a university sponsored event or religious holiday. In such cases you may take the exam early, but not late. Discuss such exam conflicts with your instructor as soon as possible!
HOMEWORK
Homework assignments will be completed online using “Mastering Biology”. It is available through the publisher’s website, http://www.masteringbio.com. The access code comes with the purchase of your textbook. If you have purchased a used book, you will need to purchase access to the website separately. Register as a new student (or just join the course if you’ve already registered with masteringbio for another course) under the Course ID "UVMBCOR12SPRING2015AB." If you have purchased a used book, you will need to purchase access to the website separately. In addition to homework, the Mastering Biology website also has numerous tutorials, animations, and practice tests in the “study area” section. The online homework will total 100 points of your grade. It is *highly recommended* that you complete the homework before the exam in which that material will be covered.

WEEKLY QUESTION SETS
Mastering multiple-choice testing is challenging, particularly if you do not know the writing style of your instructor. To give you some practice with the types of questions you will see on exams, and to help you stay current with your reading and content review, there will be a weekly short assignment consisting of a mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions over material already covered. The assignments will be posted on Blackboard. These will be due online on Wednesdays by midnight.

STRATEGIES FOR GETTING A HIGH GRADE IN THIS COURSE

Again, NOTE: To pass this course, you must achieve a passing grade in BOTH the lecture and laboratory portions of the class. Please don’t use high performance in one part to justify less effort in the other!

COME TO CLASS. We often hear students say they don’t come to class because "it's all in the book." This is not true! Instructors draw from their own knowledge and expertise when preparing teaching materials, so we often cover topics and examples that you will not find in the book. You also have no way of knowing what material we emphasized or how, without coming to class. Most students cannot skip class regularly and still do well in this course. Plus, you can’t get iClicker points without being there to participate.

KEEP UP. There is a lot of material covered in this course, do not expect to learn it the night before the exam! And it is VERY helpful to have read the material before you come to class.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HELP. If you are having difficulty, or simply need clarification of some of the material, see either your laboratory Teaching Fellow or one of the instructors. We all hold office hours and intend for that time to be used helping students. But if you don't seek us out, there's no way for us to know that you're struggling. And remember... Academic honesty is expected of all students. If you are caught cheating on an exam, you will receive a zero for that exam. That score cannot be
the one you drop. All laboratory reports MUST be written individually unless specifically assigned as a group report. Free tutoring is also available. Look into the following opportunities:

The Learning CO-OP (http://www.uvm.edu/~leanco) offers a variety of academic support including study skills, time management, and test-taking tips.

Tri-Beta Society: Tutoring TBA will be posted on Blackboard.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Academic honesty is expected of all students. The University of Vermont has a very strict policy concerning academic honesty and plagiarism. Please see the statement on academic honesty http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/acadintegrity.pdf.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism constitutes a violation of Academic Honesty and warrants failure on an assignment and/or failure in the course. Plagiarism of ANY sort - e.g., copying part or all of a fellow student's report, copying from original references, texts, or websites - will NOT be tolerated. The consequences of plagiarism or cheating range from a score of zero on the assignment or exam, to filing a complaint with the University's Coordinator for Academic Honesty which can result in expulsion from UVM.

COURSE CONTENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE INSTRUCTOR.
Consistent with the University’s policy on intellectual property rights, all teaching and curricular materials (including but not limited to classroom lectures, class notes, exams, handouts, and presentations) are the property of the instructor. Therefore, electronic recording and/or transmission of classes or class notes is prohibited without the express written permission of the instructor. Such permission is to be considered unique to the needs of an individual student (e.g. ADA compliance), and not a license for permanent retention or electronic dissemination to others. For more information, please see the UVM policy on Intellectual Property, sections 2.1.3 and 2.4.1

CLASSROOM RESPECT
It is import to maintain a respectful environment in class, and we expect this from all of you as you should expect this from us. You are here to learn and we are here to help you learn with mutual respect. Please arrive on time and do not leave early without permission. When you come to lecture and lab, please turn off your cell phone. We will not tolerate phone conversations or texting or email during lecture or lab. Come prepared to dedicate your full attention to your instructor and TA during lecture and lab.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE: Communicating by electronic mail has become commonplace. Your Instructors and Teaching Fellows will make every effort to answer your emails promptly. Please return the courtesy by responding. Also, please address your queries respectfully. “Hey” does not fall in this category, and any such messages risk being ignored (perhaps the best litmus test is to ask the following: “if you were looking for a
job, would you greet your prospective new employer in that manner?”). Also it is important to properly identify yourself and the particular course you are inquiring about. Instructors often have multiple “Biology” courses and multiple students with the same first name.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** Students should submit in writing to their instructors by the end of the second full week of classes their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester. Students who miss work for the purpose of religious observance will be allowed to make up this work.