

California State University, Sacramento
2021 Summer Program
BIOL 101 Introduction to Biology with Lab
Course Outline

Course Code: BIOL 101

Instructor: Dr. Aleksandar Jeremic

Home Institution: The George Washington University

Office Hours: by appointment

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Credit: 3

Course Description

Introduction to Biology will provide students with an overview of the current trends and body of knowledge in Biology, including basics of the scientific method and of the analysis of scientific data.

Course Objectives

The main course goal is to allow students to reach a comprehensive understanding of the issues and method in Biology, in order to decide whether to pursue studies in the field. In the process of reaching this goal, our objectives are that each student will:

- Become familiar with current scientific theories and research in the major topic areas of Biology.
- Discover the personal relevance of course material in their everyday and professional lives, in order to make fully informed decisions.
- Develop the skills necessary to evaluate and think critically about information concerning biological phenomena obtained from research, the general public, and the media.
- Be well prepared for advanced courses in Biology.

Required Textbooks

-*Concepts of Biology*, by Fowler, Roush and Wise.

Download for free at: <https://openstax.org/details/books/concepts-biology>.

Publisher: OpenStax

Publish Date: May 18, 2016

Print: ISBN-10: 1938168119 ISBN-13: 978-1-938168-11-6

Digital: ISBN-10: 1-947172-03-4 ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-03-6

Several readings will be required throughout the course, either to prepare for class or to complete an assignment. All materials will be posted online to provide a free and easy access to everyone.

Grading & Evaluation

Lab (20%) – Midterm exam (40%) – Final exam (40%)

Grade Grade Points

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Intermediary assignments will be posted throughout the course, to help students assess their needs and to ensure that all the important topics are well understood. Assignments and labs are also an opportunity for students to ask questions concerning unclear notions, as the main objective are not to grade but to help everyone reach an optimal level of comprehension. Midterm and final exams will target all topics previously covered in class. Lecture notes, labs and assignments are important to succeed in the midterm and final exams, yet some questions will be specifically intended to stimulate students' critical thinking.

Attendance is extremely important for success in this class. It is expected that each student will commit fully to the assignments and readings required. Exams will cover the required texts as well as material presented or discussed in class.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

Lecture 1: Course Introduction –Biological Molecules and Chemistry of Life

Lecture 2: Principles of cellular organization in Animals and Plants

Lecture 3: The Cellular Energetics: Cellular Respiration

Lecture 4: The Cellular Energetics: Photosynthesis

LAB 1: Principles of Microscopy; Microscopic analysis of a cell

Week 2:

Lecture 5: Structure/Function of DNA and DNA replication

Lecture 6: Gene expression and control: Transcription and Translation

Lecture 7: The Cell cycle

Lecture 8: Practice problems / Review session I

LAB 2: Overview of molecular biology methods: PCR, RT-QPCR, primers design

Week 3:

Lecture 9: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Lecture 10: The Cellular Basis of Inheritance: Sexual reproduction and Meiosis

Lecture 11: Mandel's experiments and Laws of inheritance

Lecture 12: Theory of Evolution and Diversity of Life

LAB 3: Overview of biochemical methods and tools in biological research

Week 4:

Lecture 13: Development and Organogenesis

Lecture 14: Systems biology: The Neuro-endocrine system and diseases

Lecture 15: Practice problems / Review session II

Lecture 16: **FINAL EXAM**

LAB 5: Data Analysis