Principles of Biology (BIOL 1020) – Spring 2009

Lecture: MWF at 1:00 p.m. in CHEM 134.
Laboratory: Room SCL 205 (check schedule for day and hour). All the information required for the laboratory associated with this course can be reached at the following website: http://www.auburn.edu/biol1021 and following the instructions (please note to use lowercase, not BIOL1021). It is important that you access this website as soon possible. The laboratory counts for 25% of the final course grade.

Instructor: Dr. Dute, Rouse Life Sciences Bldg. (LSB), Room 030.
Phone: 844-1646
e-mail: duterol@auburn.edu
Office Hours: MWF 2:30-3:30 p.m. in 030 LSB or by appointment.

Text: Biology (7th edition) by Campbell and Reese (with CourseCompass website access).
InterWrite PRS RF remote (“clicker”)
Practice exam questions from the lectures are available on my website at http://www.auburn.edu/biol1020. Also available are many of the images used in lecture. When you open this address, click on my name. The site is password protected, and I shall give you the password in lecture.

Course Description: Introduction to the physical, chemical, and biological principles common to all organisms. These principles are explained through study of the scientific method, cell structure and function, cellular reproduction, basic biochemistry, cell energetics, Mendelian and molecular genetics, and population and ecosystem dynamics.

Course Objectives: To understand basic cellular and organismal biology. Upon successfully completing the course, the student will be able to 1) relate biological chemistry, macromolecules, and cell structure and function to each other, 2) understand the basic energy-processing mechanisms of life, 3) relate cell division mechanisms to asexual and sexual reproduction, 4) understand the hereditary basis for life, its duplication and transmission during reproduction, and human abilities to alter genes, and 5) understand basic principles of population and ecosystem-level biology.

General Policy and Procedures: You should retain this schedule of lecture topics, reading assignments, test days, and relevant instructions for reference throughout the semester. You are responsible for learning the material that will be covered in the examinations, for preparing for lectures by reading assignments beforehand, and for being present on test dates without further notice or additional reminders.

You are required to bring a #2 pencil to each examination.

NOTE: Laboratory entrance quizzes are given beginning with the first laboratory.
Grading for the lecture:

Lecture exam #1…………………………………..80 points
Lecture exam #2…………………………………..80 points
Lecture exam #3…………………………………..80 points
Lecture exam #4…………………………………..80 points
Lecture final…………..(COMPREHENSIVE)…100 points

420 points

Note: The laboratory portion of the course is worth 140 points for a grand total of 560 points in the entire course. The grading in my course relative to the other lecture instructors will be explained in more detail in an e-mail to be sent to the entire class in the next couple days.

Grades: A=90-100% - 504-560 points; B=80-89% - 448-503 points; C=70-79% - 392-447 points; D=60-69% - 336-391 points; F = below 60% - below 336 points

Course grades are determined solely on the basis of total points; there are no extra-credit or bonus options. Your score can be determined at any time during the semester by calculating a percent value.


Attendance Policy: Lecture attendance is optional. Nevertheless, past experience shows that a correlation exists between class-cutting and poor grades.

Laboratory attendance is required AND ATTENDANCE FOR ALL TESTS IS REQUIRED. Valid reasons for absences are: 1) severe illness, 2) documented personal or family emergencies, 3) official University excuses. Illness will necessitate a note from the doctor or infirmary (as will a family emergency). Official University excuses will likewise require documentation (see Tiger Cub). Preferably, advise me beforehand as to absences on a test day. If that is not possible but you have a valid excuse, you must notify me within 48 hours of the exam that you have missed, or you will receive a grade of 0 for that exam.

Special Request: With the advance of technology, cell phones, pagers, etc. have become commonplace. As a courtesy measure, please turn off these devices (and remove the plugs from your ears) for the duration of the lecture.

Special Accommodations: Students who need special accommodations please bring me your memo from the Program for Students with Disabilities (1232 Haley Center, 844-2096) as soon as possible.