Course Description

My name is Mark Cooper and I will be the instructor for this course. Your study of biology will be an exciting and rewarding experience. We will cover a variety of topics that can be both interesting and useful in improving your life. My goal in this class is to make it possible for you to make educated decisions in the future on biological topics such as your health, the environment, and future political choices to just name a few. My teaching philosophy is to make the class entertaining and fun. However, do not make the mistake of taking your studying in this course too lightly. Although this course is only 6 weeks, it is equivalent to our full 16 week course. Nothing is left out!!! For you to succeed in this course you must attend class regularly, study often and effectively, and live a life that is conducive to learning (for example, you need to sleep, eat, work, etc. within your means!).

Failure to meet these basic requirements will make success difficult for most. Again, Biology is an exciting but challenging course. DO NOT just memorize your notes. I expect you to understand biology. To understand biology, you need to ask questions, think, and analyze the material I give you. I suggest you read ahead in the textbook. I will be lecturing daily on what I feel is important, but having an awareness of the topic before lecture is extremely helpful. Also, reviewing your notes before class will also be very helpful. I am here to help you succeed. Do not hesitate to ask about topics you don’t understand. Some of the best help can actually come from other students. Forming study groups is often a beneficial method of attack, but only if your groups is serious about studying!

Supplies Needed


Required Extras:
6 - Form # 882 Scantrons
1 - Form # 884 Scantron
14 - Form # 815 Scantrons

These scantrons are to be brought in by 1/10/13. Failure to do so will result in you not being able to take quizzes and tests until they are received.

Pencils and pens for notes, tests and quizzes
Paper for notes
Calculator for labs, tests, quizzes
Enthusiasm
Thirst for Knowledge
Lunch

American Bison in Yellowstone National Park
Lecture Schedule

1) Jan 8th (T) - Ch. 1-3. Science as a Way of Learning, and the Fundamental Building Blocks and Life’s Components
2) Jan 9th (W) - Ch. 31, Ch. 4 Digestion, Nutrition and Elimination and Life’s Home
3) Jan 10th (Th) - Ch. 5 - 6 Life’s Borders and Life’s Mainspring
4) Jan 15th (T) - Ch. 7 Vital Harvest
5) Jan 16th (W) - Ch. 8, Ch. 25 The Green World’s Gift and a Bountiful that Feeds us All
6) Jan 17th (Th) - Midterm I
7) Jan 22nd (T) - Ch. 13 - 14 Passing on Life’s Information and How Proteins are Made
8) Jan 23rd (W) - Ch. 9 - 10 Cell Division and the Preparation for Sexual Reproduction
9) Jan 24th (Th) - Ch. 11, Ch. 12, The First Geneticist and Units of Heredity
10) Jan 29th (T) - Midterm II
11) Jan 30th (W) - Ch. 16 - 20 An Introduction to Evolution. The Means of Evolution and The Outcomes of Evolution and A Slow Unfolding
12) Jan 31st (Th) - Ch. 35 – 36 Community Ecology, and Biomes
13) Feb 5th (T) - Midterm III, Ch. 34 Population Ecology
14) Feb 6th (W) - Ch. 29 The Blood and Breath
15) Feb 7th (Th) - Ch. 27 The Nervous System
16) Feb 12th (T) - Midterm IV, Ch. 29, Ch. 32-33, The Immune System, Reproduction and Development
17) Feb 13th (W) Ch. 21-24 Biodiversity and Extinction
18) Feb 14th (Th) - Lecture Final

Important Due Dates

Test Dates
Jan 17th—Exam 1
Jan 29th—Exam 2
Feb 5th—Exam 3
Feb 12th—Exam 4
Feb 14th—Lecture Final

Lab Test Dates
Jan 24th—Lab Midterm
Feb 13th—Lab Final

Current Event Due Dates
Jan 16th—Assignment I
Jan 27th—Assignment II
Feb 6th—Assignment III
Feb 13th—Assignment IV

Attitude and Success

This is a college level biology course and it is a difficult course. The study of biology, even at a general level, is very complex. I teach this class at a college level and I expect that you will study and prepare at a college level. I will not lower my standards just to make the class easy for you. If you have the attitude that this class (or the professor) is “not fair” or it is “too hard” then your negative attitude will probably prevent you from passing this class. I also believe, if you always work hard, show up every day, come to my office hours if you need help, etc. that you will pass this class without much of a problem. Remember, if nobody is passing the class, then it is probably my fault. But if YOU are not passing (but a lot of other people are) then it is probably your fault!

“We all learn best in our own ways. Some people do better studying one subject at a time, while some do better studying three things at once. Some people do best studying in structured, linear way, while others do best jumping around, “surrounding” a subject rather than traversing it. Some people prefer to learn by manipulating models, and others by reading.

Bill Gates
Lab Schedule

1) Jan 9th (W) - Tools of Biology
2) Jan 10th (Th) - You are What You Eat!
3) Jan 15th (T) - The Cell and the Metric System
4) Jan 16th (W) - How Things Move
5) Jan 17th (Th) - Cellular Respiration and Metabolic Rates
6) Jan 22nd (T) - Plants and Photosynthesis
7) Jan 23rd (W) - Biodiversity and Taxonomy
8) Jan 24th (Th) - Lab Midterm
9) Jan 29th (T) - Genetics
10) Jan 30th (W) - Homologous Structures in Vertebrates
11) Jan 31st (Th) - Interactions between Plants, Animals and Their Environment
12) Feb 5th (T) - Population Growth and Disease
13) Feb 6th (W) - Cardiovascular and Respiration
14) Feb 7th (Th) - Human Senses
15) Feb 12th (T) - Wildlife Sanctuary
16) Feb 13th (W) - Lab Final

Current Event Article

The goal of the current event assignments is for you to become familiar with how applicable biology is to your daily life. You are required to turn in four current event assignments (15 pts. each), related to a topic we have previously covered since the last current event assignment.

You will complete four current event assignments by finding and reading or listening to a news article or audio segment (no earlier than the year 2011) from a news website (e.g. npr.org, latimes.com, ocregister.com, nytimes.com, cnn.com, sciencedaily.com, scientificamerican.com, etc.) that discusses your topic. You must then write (it must be typed) about what is listed in the number format later in this paragraph.

Your write-up will include the following. Label each section.

1. Summary of article/audio segment: Using your own words, summarize the key points (address the five W’s: what, where, when, who and why) of the article/audio segment discussion so that the reader has a clear understanding as to the scope of the article/segment. Do not just copy word for word from your article, this is plagiarism! (7 pts.)

2. What biology topic does this article/audio segment reference? The article/segment that you have chosen should correspond with a topic that we have covered since the last assignment. Clearly state how your article/segment is related to the topic. (2 pts.)

3. How does this article/audio segment affect you personally? All events affect us in some way. Be creative and open your thoughts as to how current events are related to you (e.g. socially, ethically, emotionally, economically, etc.) (3 pts.)

4. How will this current news affect future generations? Make a prediction about how lives will be affected 20 - 30 years from now by this current event. (3 pts.)

For 18 years I have resisted talking about current events. I am not going to start now.

George H. W. Bush
Policy on Attendance

Since many of the questions on the quizzes and tests come directly from the lecture material, it is critical that you attend all class meetings. We will have quizzes or assignments due everyday and you will lose points if you are late or absent. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class and points will be taken off for late work. (See last page) If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a fellow student. If your number of absences exceeds the number of hours the class meets in 3 days, you will be dropped from the class. Poor attendance in lecture or lab will lower your grade. After January 30th, you cannot officially be dropped from the course. This is the last day you can receive a “W” (Withdrawal). After this date, you must be given a grade in the course and there are enough points left in the semester, it would be impossible to get a passing grade. Walking into class late is disruptive to me and other students. I know there are times when things happen that are beyond your control. However, if you are habitually late I will ask you to drop this class and take a class at a time that works better with your schedule. Once class begins, it is also disruptive to me and other students when an individual wanders in and out of the classroom. This is a classroom not a movie theater. If you have to leave class while it is in session, leave permanently for that class period. I will not allow you to reenter the room. If you know you will have to leave, notify me ahead of time.

Policy on Academic Integrity

Cheating and Plagiarism are violations of the college’s policy and are considered serious offenses. The Department of Biological Sciences takes all incidences of academic dishonesty seriously and acts accordingly. I reserve the right to give an “F” for the assignment, test and/or class and the matter will be brought up to the Director of Student Affairs as stated in the school’s current College Catalog. This policy states:

1. No dictionaries, reference materials, or notes, may be used during any exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor.
2. No electronic devices, of any type, may be used during any exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor.
3. No talking, signaling, sharing of note cards, calculators or other materials is allowed during any exam or quiz, unless authorized by the professor.
4. Only the materials required or authorized for an exam or quiz should be out. All other materials should be put away as instructed.
5. Students may not leave the classroom during an exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor. If a student leaves the room without permission, the test or quiz will be forfeited at that time.

Biology Cheating Policy

WHAT IS CHEATING?

Some examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

a. Plagiarism, which is the use of materials authored by another person or obtained from a commercial source or the use of passages without proper acknowledgment.

b. Having or using unauthorized materials during any exam or quiz

c. Notes concealed in or written on clothing, hats, or skin (as examples).

d. Looking at another student’s work during any exam or quiz.

e. Changing answers on a returned exam in order to claim there had been a grading error.

f. Sharing any content of exams or quizzes with individuals who have not yet taken it.

g. Removing an exam or quiz from the classroom without the professor’s approval.

h. Taking photos of exams, quizzes, completed ScanTrons®, or exam keys.

i. Turning in work that was generated by other individuals or by the same individual but in a prior semester, including but not limited to: lab report data, lab report or homework questions, homework assignments, and extra credit assignments.
Policy on Cell Phone Use

Cell phones and cell phone etiquette has become a problem in the last several years. I am aware of different policies by different professors at this college, but I am informing you now that this is one policy in class I am adamant about. Ringing or vibrating cell phones in class have become a major distraction to your fellow students and to me. Texting or using apps in class is also a distraction and shows a lack of respect for me and your fellow students. I am now imposing a policy where if your cell phone goes off, you are found texting, or using apps during class, you will be asked to leave the room and will not be allowed to return until the next class break. If you must leave it on for emergency situations, you need to inform me before class. I will give you breaks during class. You may use your phone at that time. I expect your cell phones to be in your pocket, purse, or backpack at all other times. You are not allowed to have your cell phone out on the test especially during a test. You must put it in your backpack, purse, or on my front desk. If I see you with a cell phone on you during a test you will receive an F on that test.

TURN OFF YOUR

Education seems to be in America the only commodity of which the customer tries to get as little as he can for his money

Max Forman

Grading

Final Grades:

A = 832 points and above (90-100%)
B = 740 - 831 points (80-89%)
C = 647 - 739 points (70-79%)
D = 555 - 646 points (60-69%)
F = 554 points and below (0-59%)

Grades will be determined by a straight percentage of your final score. The point totals are a combination of both your lecture and lab scores.

GRADING: The semester grade will be determined by several factors: Midterm exams, quizzes, homework, article assignments and a comprehensive final exam. There will be one grade for both lecture and laboratory.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS! Students who miss an exam will have that exam score replaced by the score on the final. Students who fail to take two exams will be dropped from the course.

Point Values

Lecture Portion

- 4 Exams = 400 pts (100 pts each)
- 1 Final Exam. = 150 pts
- Lecture Quizzes = 20 pts (varies)
- Homework = 25 pts (varies)
- Current Events = 60 pts (15 pts each)

Total Lecture Points = 655 pts

Laboratory Portion

- 15 Labs = 65 pts (5 pts each)
- 15 Lab Quizzes = 130 pts (10 pts each)
- 1 Lab Midterm = 35 pts
- 1 Lab Final—40 pts

Total Lab points = 270 pts

*Class Total = 925 pts

*The total is approximate and can be changed if necessary.

You will be taking 4 lecture exams. The lowest exam can be replaced by the final. If you miss an exam that will be the grade replaced. The final is a comprehensive final and must be taken. I will drop the two lowest labs and the two lowest lab quiz scores. Any missed labs or quizzes will be among the dropped scores.
IMPORTANT DROP DATES AND HOLIDAYS

- January 15th—Last day to drop without a W
- January 21st—Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- January 30—Last day to drop with a W
- February 15th—Lincoln’s Birthday

Accommodations

If you feel that you have a disability that may prevent you from succeeding in this class please contact the DSP&S office. The office is located in the Student Services Building (9B). http://www.mtsac.edu/dsps/

Late Assignments

I have been having an issue with students coming to class late and students turning in late work. I have found a need to develop a policy that is consistent and fair to all my students including those that get to class on time and those who turn in their work on time. A nonfunctioning printer is not an excuse. Work on your assignment early enough so if problems arise, you have time to deal with them. See the table to the right for my policy on assignments that are turned in after the beginning of the class the assignment is due.

On Time: Turned in at the beginning of class 100% - any missed questions

Turned in 5 minutes after class starts 80% - any missed questions

Turned in the day due but after class ends 70% - any missed questions

Turned in next class meeting 50% - any missed questions

"It is a Poor Student Who Doesn’t Surpass his Teacher"