

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR BIOG 1102 – SPRING 2009

PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF COURSE

The goal of this course is to continue to convey the basic principles and conceptual framework of contemporary biological science started in BioG 1101. You should come away from the course with an understanding of the concepts that integrate modern biology and the ability to think critically about the application of biological information. The course is intended primarily for students who plan to specialize in biology, but is also appropriate for students who want to obtain a strong introduction to biology as part of their general education. It is recommended that you review the information on “Study Tips for Success in Biology 1101” from last semester.

LECTURES

General. BioG 1102 meets MWF at 9:05 and 10:10 AM. You may attend either lecture, although the 10:10 AM lecture is often more crowded. All lectures will be held in Bailey Hall 101 (**PLEASE NOTE: FOODS AND DRINKS ARE PROHIBITED**). The schedule of lectures is attached to the end of this document and is posted on the course website. You are expected to be in lecture. If you arrive late to class, please enter at the rear of the hall and do not disturb fellow students who arrived on time.

There are no make-up lectures. If you miss a lecture, you should consult one of your fellow students to obtain a copy of the notes taken in lecture. Do not expect the professors or TAs to lend you their notes. PowerPoint files as well as audio recordings of all lectures will be posted on the course website for your reference, but this is not a substitute for attending lecture. The classroom lectures and readings in the text are complementary materials; neither alone is sufficient for the course. **Do not assume that attending lecture is a substitute for the assigned readings in the text or vice versa.**

Any questions associated with lecture materials should be directed to Dr. Turgeon or the Post-Doc Lecture Assistant, Dr. Mark Sarvary. Please keep in mind that the time immediately before or after lecture is relatively constrained. Questions are best addressed during office hours (listed below and on the course website) or via e-mail to the course (biology_1101@cornell.edu). See the section on getting help below for additional resources that are available to students who need assistance.

Lecture Materials. The schedule of lecture topics for the semester is given on the BioG 1102-1104 schedule that is attached at the end of this handout. On the course website (see below) there will be a page that lists all of the lecture topics and provides links to materials that are relevant to each lecture. Check the list periodically throughout the semester.

Lecture Format. Lectures will include traditional presentations of concepts and examples. We will include use of a wireless Personal Response Systems (iClickers) that are available for purchase in the Campus Store. We intend to ask ‘clicker questions’ in lectures based on the previous lecture, preparation of the study questions included in the lecture outlines, or attention in class. Bring your clicker to class!

REQUIRED TEXTS AND CLICKERS

The textbook for both the first and second semester courses: **Campbell, N.A. et al. *Biology*, 8th edition.** San Francisco, CA: Pearson-Benjamin/Cummings 2008. Bundled with the text will be the rebate for the clickers that students will use to answer questions in lecture. In addition, an optional study guide is also available: **Taylor, M.R. *Students Study Guide for Biology*, 8th edition.** San Francisco, CA: Pearson-Benjamin/Cummings 2008. Use of the study guide is at the student's discretion. The bundled text, study guide and clicker may be purchased at the Cornell Campus Bookstore and at other bookstores in college town.

Extensive reading assignments are made in the text; most of the book will have been read by the end of the second semester. Questions for examinations are based mainly on the concepts derived from application of factual material from the texts and lectures to relevant problems in biology.

Clicker. Students should also purchase a personal response system (a clicker) that will be used for in-lecture polling and quizzes. The system that we use is the iClicker, which is available through the campus store and a rebate is available for students who purchase new textbooks. Because each clicker carries a unique identification code, each student will need to use his/her own unit in order to receive credit for in-class quiz questions. The iClicker will also be used in Chemistry 207 this year. Thus, students need purchase only one clicker. You will be given instructions in lecture for how to register your clicker.

The clicker questions will count for 5% of the final grade. Because a student may occasionally forget to bring his or her clicker to class, or the batteries suddenly die, we will not count toward the clicker grade, three days with the lowest scores on clicker questions, e.g., zero, if you forget your clicker. Using more than one clicker in class, e.g., for your roommate who is sleeping in that day, is cheating and will not be tolerated.

HANDOUTS

Any lecture handouts will be placed on chairs near the rear doors of the lecture hall. Please limit yourself to one copy. All handouts are also available on the course Website at:

<http://courses.cit.cornell.edu/biog1102/>

Hard copies of most handouts can also be obtained from the box in the hallway across from the course office (1140 Comstock Hall). Your laboratory section will also meet on the first floor in Comstock Hall, so it will not be difficult to pick up handouts.

COURSE WEBSITE

The WWW site for our course is <http://courses.cit.cornell.edu/biog1102>. Use this site to download lecture materials and exam information, to review handouts, web-based reference materials and supplemental information. Students should be aware of the resources available on the website and consult them for each lecture. Our web-based quizzes will also be accessed through the course website. Instructions for accessing password-protected parts of the site will be provided in lecture.

GRADES

Similar to BioG 1101, grades in BioG 1102 will be based on each student's performance on the two prelim (midterm) examinations and the final exam, web-based quizzes, in-lecture quiz questions using the 'clickers', and participation in the Explorations Program. Each is described in more detail in this handout. The mid-semester lecture grade, required by some colleges, will be determined entirely by the first prelim exam.

The percentage of the final grade assigned to each of these is as follows:

Exam 4	11 lectures	22%
Exam 5	10 lectures	22%
Exam 6	11 lectures	22%
Exam 6	Comprehensive	10%
Web quizzes		15%
Clicker Questions		5%
Explorations participation		4%
Total		100%

Only numerical grades (% correct) will be given for the examinations and quizzes; letter grades will only be assigned after the final averages for all students have been calculated at the end of the semester. Do not ask us during the semester to convert numerical grades to letter grades. Cornell guidelines suggest cutoffs of 90%, 80%, and 70% for A's, B's, and C's, etc, but these are only guidelines. You will be informed of the grade distribution (mean and standard deviation) for each exam and you can estimate your standing relative to the guideline and to the rest of the class.

In previous years, the median grade in this course has been a B-. We expect a similar performance this year. We will not curve the class letter grade downward if the mean is higher than a B-, but we reserve the right to curve the grades upward if we find that exam questions are too hard or if we do not adequately cover the material in lectures.

EXAMINATIONS

All exams are multiple-choice in format. Questions are intended to test concepts, reasoning, and broad factual areas of biology. Although you will obviously need to know some factual detail, exams will not focus on factual details that you can look up in any biology textbook. Instead, we will focus more on important concepts. To give you an idea of the type of question we will ask on the exams, we provide weekly web quizzes that are based on previous year's exams. We will also post copies of previous exams, which can be effectively used as study guides because the lectures were similar in subject and in scope.

IMPORTANT DATES TO RESERVE

EXAM DATES

The examinations are scheduled for the Spring 2009 as follows:

Exam 4: Thursday, 19 February 2009, 7:30-9:00 PM (Rooms TBA)

Exam 4 Makeup: Tuesday, 24 February 2009, 7:30-9:00 PM (Warren 245)

Exam 5: Tuesday, 31 March 2009, 7:30-9:00 PM (Rooms TBA)

Exam 5 Makeup: Tuesday, 7 April 2009, 7:30-9:00 PM (Warren 245)

Exam 6 (Final Exam): 7 May 2009, 2:00-4:30 PM (Rooms TBA)

Exam 6 Makeup (Final Exam Makeup): 11 May 2009, 9:00-11:30 AM (Rooms TBA)

Prior to each exam, a handout providing detailed information about the exam will be distributed in lecture (also available on the course website). Students must consult this handout to determine where they must go to take the exam.

Following each examination, constructive comments on the exam questions are welcomed in written form; they can be handed in at the course office (Comstock 1140) or e-mailed to biology_1101@cornell.edu. In addition, an oral comment session will also be scheduled after each exam. All comments are taken into account before exam grades are assigned.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS

Make-up exams will be given only to those persons having legitimate excuses **IN ADVANCE** of the exam; the course Administrative Assistants (Comstock 1140) or the Lecture Assistant, Dr. Sarvary, must be contacted in advance of, and not after, the time of the regular exams. Refer to the handout distributed in lecture prior to each exam for the deadline to request a makeup exam. Do not simply skip an exam and assume that we will automatically accept your excuse. Persons having a prolonged illness who wish to take the make-up exam must obtain a note from their doctor or sign a release authorization form at Gannett Clinic and have copies of their "Office Notes" either mailed or hand-carried to our course office. The form that Gannett Clinic gives patients, which says "This is not an excuse" is not sufficient to document an illness. Other legitimate excuses are family emergencies, conflicts with other exams or Cornell-sponsored events. In all cases, appropriate documentation of your absence is absolutely required before you will be admitted to a make-up exam. This and a few other policies are necessary in order to be fair and equitable to all students. We want to help you do your best on the exams, so please come to us in advance if you see a difficulty with the scheduled exam time. Make-up exams are like regular lecture exams in content and format; the grading of them is suitably adjusted so that scores correspond to those on the regular exams. They are administered only once at a pre-set date and time (see syllabus), usually 5-8 days after the regular exam.

WEB QUIZZES

Each week, starting on the second full week of classes, there will be a web-based quiz covering the subject matter of the previous week's lecture material. Web quizzes will be administered through a *special page* on the course website. Each quiz will consist of about 10 questions randomly selected from a pool of about 30 in multiple-choice format similar to those used in the exams. Taking quizzes will be excellent preparation for the prelim exams, because the questions

are all drawn from exams given in previous years in this course. A schedule for the quizzes appears at the end of this handout. Each quiz will cover the subject matter from several lectures listed on the quiz schedule. To receive credit for a web quiz, a student must complete the quiz by the designated deadline (Sunday midnight). The deadline dates and times are listed on the handout. After the deadline for completion, the quiz will remain accessible on the website for study purposes only. For every question, each possible answer (correct or incorrect) will have a comment, which will help explain why the answer is correct or incorrect and provide pointers for additional help. Only the first answer selected for each question will count towards the quiz grade, but after the first answer is selected, you may review all possible answers and comments if you desire - this may be an effective study technique for many students. Scores on each question will be reported to you when the question is completed. You may log out and close an incomplete quiz, then return to it anytime before the deadline. Web quizzes may be done "open book" or in study groups of several students. However they provide the most useful preparation for exams if you complete them by yourself with the book closed, as that situation is most similar to the exams.

Like homework assignments which are collected and graded, the primary intent of the quizzes is to encourage keeping pace with the assigned reading and study of lecture materials. They are also a means of self-evaluation for each topic. We encourage you to use good study habits to prepare for and complete each quiz on time. You may use the text as a reference while taking a quiz, but the questions will usually require synthesis of an entire chapter, not simply looking up a definition or fact. You may wish to discuss questions and alternative answers with a study group with other students in this course, but you should be aware that students who simply receive answers from others without understanding the concept or reasoning behind the question will be unprepared for the course examinations.

The average of your lecture quiz scores will count for 15% of the final grade in the course.

EXPLORATIONS

All students must sign-up for and attend one Exploration each semester. The Explorations program is described in the booklet that you received in the Fall semester. A Spring Explorations schedule will be handed out in lecture on Friday, 30 January. On-time registration for, attending, and submitting an acceptable evaluation form for your Exploration will contribute a total of 4% of the points in your final grade this semester. We cannot emphasize how important it is for you to register for Explorations on time! You will be informed of your Exploration assignment in laboratory the week of 9 February. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Mark Sarvary (MAS245@cornell.edu).

POLICY CONCERNING S/U GRADES AND INCOMPLETES

It is advisable to enroll in this course for a letter grade. No one for whom this course constitutes a College or Major requirement may opt for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grades. By University policy, we cannot sign grade change slips for students wishing to change from one grading system to another after 6 February (or other college-designated date).

For those who choose to be graded S/U, a course average equivalent to a letter grade of C- or higher will result in a grade of S. Averages equivalent to a letter grade of D+ or lower will result in U. Students should be forewarned that in Cornell's S/U system, point averages in the D range will result in the student receiving no credit for the course. Moreover, students with such

an average may not change back to the letter grade system at the end of the semester in an effort to salvage credit. Similarly, students registered in the S/U system who discover late in the semester that they have an average grade that would have earned an A or B may not change in order to receive such a grade.

An Incomplete grade (I) is ordinarily given only for persons having a prolonged illness that prevents them from completing the course. According to University policy, an Incomplete is possible only when the student is in good academic standing. Any person desiring an incomplete for a grade must contact Dr. Turgeon before 1 May.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity [<http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>]. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit must be the student's own work. Web quizzes, as discussed above, may be addressed by study groups, but are more valuable when taken individually. You, and only you, are responsible for answering your clicker questions in class. Do not enter answers in someone else's clicker. Violations of the Code of Academic Integrity are taken very seriously and can result in a failing grade in the course or worse.

LOST AND FOUND

Any personal belongings left behind after lecture will be taken to the Introductory Biology course office in Comstock 1140. Contact Dr. Sarvary [MAS245@cornell.edu] to see if we found your cell phone, clicker, etc. Personal belongings left in lab may also be picked up at the Introductory Biology course office in Comstock 1140.

GETTING HELP

For many students, BioG 1102 will be a challenging class. Your success in this class depends upon your ability to understand the conceptual framework that integrates the materials presented in the lecture and text, not simply to memorize details and facts of biology. If you are having difficulty with any of the materials covered, or need assistance in improving your study skills, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the many opportunities for assistance provided by the Introductory Biology course staff.

Regularly scheduled office hours are as follows:

- **Dr. Robert Turgeon (Professor):** My office hours will be W 11:15 AM-12:15 PM and Friday 12:20-1:20 PM, 1122 Comstock Hall.
- **Dr. Mark Sarvary (Post-Doc Lecture Assistant):** W F, 1:00-2:00 PM, or by appointment (mas245@cornell.edu), 1136 Comstock Hall.
- **Introductory Biology 1101-1104 Course Office** (Louise Lattin) in 1140 Comstock Hall, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM, 1:00-3:30 PM. E-mail: biology_1101@cornell.edu.
- **Dr. Lindsay Goodloe (Senior Lecturer)** coordinates two different resources that are intended for students who desire additional help in BioG 1102. Dr. Goodloe runs the Biology Learning Skills course, BioG 1001-1002, which meets weekly on Tuesday at 4:20-5:35 PM (G1 Stimson), Wednesday at 7:30-8:45 PM (3330 Tatkon Center on North Campus), and Friday 1:25-2:40 PM (G1 Stimson). Students may register on-line for the

"00" class or attend without registering at any time they would like help. Dr. Goodloe also supervises the Biology Learning Strategies Center (G24 Stimson). The center has student tutors who are available M-F 1:00-5:00 PM and SU-R 7:00-9:30 PM. Finally, Dr. Goodloe also holds office hours on M-W 1:00-4:00 PM and R 3:15-4:15 PM.

- **Dr. Scott Meissner** has been a participant of both lab and lecture courses for many years and has recently coordinated the lectures for BioG 1107-1108 (Summer Session). This semester he will be available for questions about biology lecture or lab in room 1122 Comstock Hall Mondays, 11:15 AM-1:30 PM. He may be contacted with questions at stm4@cornell.edu.
- **The Behrman Biology Center and Reserve Desk** (216 Stimson) is open M-F 8:00 AM-4:30 PM.
- Undergraduate-organized and staffed **M.A.R.K.S.** program offers tutoring in BioG 1102 and in chemistry. More information on this program will be given out in class.

Robert Turgeon and the BioG 1102 Course Staff

January, 2009