

Syllabus for Biology 11A: General Biology

Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Yves Tan

Section: 60372 and 60373 (4 units)

Times: Lecture TTh 2:30-4:00 pm

Lab F 9:30am-12:40 pm **or** F 12:40-3:50 pm

Location: 612 (Lab 627)

Email: yvtan@cabrillo.edu

Website: www.cabrillo.edu/~ytan

Phone: 479-6457

Office Hours: M 2:30-4pm, T 4-5:45pm, W 2:30-2:55pm, Th 4-5:45pm, F 3:50-4:15pm

Office Location: 622

Corequisite: Biology 201 (okay if taken previously)

Required Texts:

1. Campbell N, Reece J, Mitchell L, Taylor MR. Biology: Concepts and Connections 6th ed. Benjamin/Cummings. 2009.
2. Bio11A Laboratory Manual. (Available for **free** at my website)

Welcome! In this course, you will discover the amazing world of living things. It is my goal to provide you with a solid foundation that will enable you to understand biological concepts as you encounter them throughout your lives. I hope that by the end of this class you will be prepared to explore the wonders of biology on your own.

Course Objectives and Outcomes: By the end of this course you should be able to: 1) Explain how living things function on the molecular, cellular, genetic, and organismal level and how they interact with each other and the environment. 2) Use methods of scientific inquiry to address fundamental questions in biology 3) Design and perform experiments that address fundamental questions in biology. 4) Relate biological concepts to your everyday lives and the world around you. 5) Critically analyze and present topics on human health and disease. 6) Intelligently discuss ethical and social implications of human activities on biological systems.

Assessment: Your grade will be determined by a straight percentage or on a curve, which ever is in your favor. You are guaranteed at least the percentage scale shown below. If a curve is used, *averages* (ave) and *standard deviations* (SD) will be used to determine grade cutoffs. My curving system will be explained thoroughly in class.

<u>Straight percentage</u>	<u>Curve (will be explained in class!)</u>
A > 90%	A > ave + SD
B = 80-89%	B = ave to (ave + SD)
C = 70-79%	C = (ave - SD) to ave
D = 60-69%	D = (ave - SD) to (ave - 2SD)
F < 60%	F < ave - 2SD

The lecture portion of this course will constitute about 3/4 (550 pts) of your grade, while the lab portion will account for about 1/4 (210 pts). Most labs will be performed in room 627 with the exception of a field lab and an online lab (see assignments for details). If you must miss a lab, you may arrange to attend the other section to make up the work. You may be excused from a test only if there is an emergency and you provide written documentation for your excuse. In such a case, your grade will be determined by the rest of your coursework. Only under

extenuating circumstances and advanced notice will make-up tests be given. There will be **no** make up extra credit essays, quizzes, or lab reports/exercises. Late assignments are **not** accepted.

Tests:	5 x 100 pts =	500 pts
Presentation:	1 x 50 pts =	50 pts
Lab reports/quizzes:	14 periods x 15 pts =	210 pts
Total:		760 pts

There will be five tests of 100 pts each covering the preceding lecture material in that section only. There will be no comprehensive final! (It will be Test 5). Tests will be all multiple choice/matching using *Scantron 882* forms, so make sure you purchase five. The presentation (50 pts) will involve research on a topic and an oral powerpoint presentation to the class. This will be done in groups to foster teamwork (see assignment for details). The laboratory (15 pts each) will be graded by written reports and/or quizzes. I will let you know at the beginning of class whether you will have a lab quiz or report due the following week. Be sure to complete the Pre-Lab Exercises **before** each lab meeting. They will be collected at the beginning of lab. You will work in groups in the laboratory. This will help build teamwork and make lab even more fun! Although you will be performing laboratory work in teams, all exercises and reports must be completed individually by **each** student. And remember, the quizzes will be performed entirely individually (see lab manual for more details). For **extra credit**, you may earn up to 10 pts for writing an essay on an article you found in the popular press (see assignment for details). These points are purely extra and will not affect the curve or the grades of your classmates.

Computer Proficiency: Students are expected to have a moderate level of computer proficiency. Students will be required to access and download materials off my website, use software: Microsoft Word and Powerpoint, and use the internet to research topics. The library has plenty of resources for help in computer use.

Classroom Etiquette: My class will be conducted in a safe and respectful environment. Students are expected to behave in a courteous manner with one another, and with all faculty and staff. Any disrespectful or unsafe behavior can be grounds for dismissal. During lectures, be attentive and quite and **silence all cell phones!** Three words on cheating: Don't Do It! Cheating is not worth the risk of receiving a failing grade, getting kicked out of Cabrillo, and having your friends and family hear about it. Remember, anytime you take credit for someone else's work, you are cheating. This includes plagiarism and peeking during tests and quizzes.

Attendance: Attendance is critical to your education! It will be extremely difficult to learn the required material if you are frequently absent from class. According to Cabrillo policy, a student may be dropped from a course if he/she is absent for more than 2 weeks-worth of classes. If you plan to withdraw from this class, please do so officially. Don't just stop attending class because I may not end up dropping you and you may receive a grade. If you are very sick, or know you are going to miss classes ahead of time, let me know so that you will not get dropped.

Tips for success: 1) Attend class and do all assignments. 2) Keep up with the lecture and lab material and readings. You should visit my website often to find the latest course materials and study guides. 3) Do the problems in the back of each chapter. 4) Study *both* alone and with other students. 5) Ask for help if you are having problems with the material (see office hours). **Rosie Bernhard** will be the teaching assistant for this course. She will be able to help answer questions during the lab periods. Do not wait until the last test to get help! 6) Students that require accommodations through DSPS should identify themselves to me within the first week of class.