Instructor: Denise Due-Goodwin, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: 3275 Biological Sciences Building (BSB)/MRB III  
T  10:00 – 11:30 AM  
W  1:30 – 2:30 PM  
or by appointment; (office hours subject to change)  

Class Meeting Times  
Lecture  
M W F  9:10 - 10:00 AM, Room 1220, BSB/ MRB III  
Lab  
All sections meet in Room 3278, BSB/ MRB III  
First labs meet the week of Jan. 17  
Section 01  M  1:10 - 4:00 PM  
Section 02  T  9:35 AM - 12:25 PM  
Section 03  W  1:10 – 4:00 PM  
Section 04  T  1:10 – 4:00 PM  
Section 05  R  1:10 – 4:00 PM  

Required Materials  
1. Textbook - available in the VU Bookstore  
   Textbook website:  www.essentialbiology.com  
2. BSCI 100 Laboratory Manual - available at Campus Copy  
3. Outside readings will be provided or you will be expected to obtain referenced readings from a library or other sources.  

On-Line Course Information  
Course information, lecture outlines, links or references for readings, announcements, grades, etc. can be accessed on Blackboard (use OAK link on VU home page). This site is under construction for the course. Information will be added on a regular basis, so check it often.  

Use of Blackboard will be briefly discussed in the first class meeting. If you have questions about site use or problems with the site, please contact me.
**Goals of the Course**
The primary goal of this course is to provide you with a broad overview and understanding of many significant biological concepts, the historical development of major theories in biology, and the “evolution connection”—the unifying theme of biology. An understanding of basic biological processes and of our relationships to other organisms and to our environment is important in making informed personal and political decisions about our health, diet, the community, the safety and use of modern technologies, and various other everyday concerns that have a biological basis. This course is designed to provide enough background in the biological sciences to provide a starting point (a way of thinking, a vocabulary, and a basic knowledge) for you to be able to think about and apply biological principles in your life.

**Course Format**
**Lecture:**
- The lecture portion of this class will present much of the foundation for the course. A few topics covered in lecture may not be covered in the text. Sometimes material in the text will be supplemented and updated with outside readings. Special attention will be given to certain topics that are frequently encountered in the current news headlines or that apply to your everyday life in a most direct way.

- The textbook provides the basic concepts, vocabulary, and important details on which lecture material will be based. You are encouraged to read each assignment prior to coming to class; time will be devoted during lecture periods as needed to address questions from the assigned reading and previous lecture. When appropriate, more of the lecture time will be spent examining specific topics and/or examples that provide a meaningful context for the concepts presented in the text. You will be responsible for information in the assigned readings, regardless of the extent to which it is discussed in class.

- Outside readings from a variety of sources (newspaper or journal articles, excerpts from books, etc.) will be assigned throughout the semester. These readings will be discussed in class and your participation in these “discussions” is expected. In- or out-of-class writings will accompany some of these discussion topics. Discussion material will be covered on exams.

- Other take-home or in-class assignments will serve as an indication to both the student and instructor of how well lecture material is being presented and understood.

- You will be expected to complete one independent written project during the course of the semester. The project will address a specific biological topic, selected by you from a broad range of recommended subjects, that you find particularly interesting. The project will require the use or incorporation of multiple resources; emphasis will be placed on writing skills as well as demonstration of conceptual understanding. More details of project expectations will be provided on a separate handout.

* Project due date: Monday, April 11, 2005
Lab:

The laboratory is where you receive first hand observations and experiences with a variety of biological topics. Although an effort has been made to do so, each lab will not necessarily coincide with the lecture material. The lab is not considered a time to reiterate and demonstrate lecture topics (however, this may be the case sometime). The lab is an additional, and very important, learning experience. We are often able to examine topics differently in the laboratory, which allows us to better grasp concepts that do not lend themselves as well to the lecture setting.

*Lab policies and more detail of the laboratory component will be discussed by your TA in the first lab meeting.
*All lab sections are full; you cannot attend a lab section other than the one in which you are enrolled.

Grading Format

Lecture: 75% of the overall course grade

3 exams (2 @ 15% each; 1 @ 10%)  40%
Final exam (comprehensive)  15%
In/Out-of-Class Assignments  10%
Individual Project  10%

Exams will be various combinations of objective questions (multiple-choice, matching, true-false, fill in the blank) and short answer, problem-based, or calculation questions. You should be able to apply your knowledge to new situations, not just those mentioned in class. Memorizing is not the same as learning.

Lab: 25% of the overall course grade

The introduction in your lab manual describes the breakdown of this grade and it will be discussed more fully by your TA.

Other important notes

- Attendance/Late Assignment Policy/Mak-up exams: You are expected to attend all lectures and labs, and it is in your best interest to do so. It is your responsibility to complete all reading and written assignments and obtain any materials distributed during lecture or lab. However, it is understood that situations may arise which cause you to miss a class meeting. If you do not attend a lecture or lab, you are responsible for finding out what work you missed, getting class notes, etc. Written assignments are due on the date designated by your instructor or TA. Assignments turned in late will receive a grade reduction of one letter grade (10 pts.). Assignments will not be accepted after one week beyond the due date, and a zero will be recorded for that grade. Of course, in cases of excusable absences (e.g., serious illness, family emergencies, etc.) with proper documentation, you will not be penalized for late assignments. In these cases, please communicate with me in a timely manner; i.e., preferably before you are going to be absent, or certainly as soon as possible after an absence. Make-up exams will not be given except in the cases of excusable absences as outlined above and may require approval from the Dean. Oversleeping, not enough time to study, another exam, etc. do
not warrant a make-up exam. When feasible, please notify me prior to missing an exam that you will need a make-up. Lab work cannot be made up, and if you miss a lab you should make every effort to learn from your classmates or TA about the material covered.

- All work you do for this course must be your own. Vanderbilt’s Honor Code applies in this course to all assignments, projects, and exams which are submitted for a grade.

- However, asking questions of the instructor, interacting with classmates when appropriate in class and when studying--this is encouraged and should provide help when you are having difficulties.