

Bio 102 Syllabus Spring 2011 Foundations of Biology II 6 hrs, 4 cr Dr. RF Rockwell

Hours: Lectures Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:45 in NA-1214 Labs at various scheduled times during the week. You must take the lecture and lab together.

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00-9:30. Other hours by email appointment are available on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:45-12:00. My sole email for this course is rfrockwell@gmail.com. **MAKE SURE THE SUBJECT LINE READS: BIO 102.** I will not reply to email sent to my other addresses nor will I respond to any email message that is not written out fully and correctly in standard American prose. My phone number is 212 769-5793.

Text and web connections: The text is selected chapters of a larger book, **Biology 9th Ed** by Raven, Johnson, Losos, Mason and Singer. You can't pass this course without studying the book! You also will need to acquire access to McGraw-Hill's **Connect** and **Tegrity** web-based products. The former is your conduit to required quizzes (see below) and on-line learning aids while the latter provides limited access to video versions of my lectures.

You have 2 options for acquiring the text and web-based products. **The first option** is to go to the web site:

http://www.mhprofessional.com/mhhe_product.php?isbn=0077484967&cat=108

and purchase electronic access to the book (electronic form only) as well as the 2 web products. The cost for this is approximately \$60. Additional instructions can be found at [here](#). You will receive a code that you then use at the website:

http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/r_rockwell_section_1

To gain access to the electronic version of the book and the web products Connect and Tegrity that are required for this course.

The second option is to purchase a hard copy of the book and to purchase access to the web-based products at the CCNY bookstore. The cost for that is approximately \$140 and you will be provided a code to register at for the course and the web-based products at:

http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/r_rockwell_section_1

In either case you must register at the website for access to Connect (quizzes and learning aids) and Tegrity (lectures).

There are tutorials on the website explaining how to get access either by purchasing the entire electronic package or by using the code supplied with your purchase from the CCNY bookstore.

If you have problems, contact McGraw-Hill **technical support** at <http://www.mhhe.com/support> or **1(800)331-5094** for help. Do not contact me since I have no way of addressing any problems you may be having with their website.

Communication: Course schedule and other pertinent information will be posted on my website <http://research.amnh.org/users/rfr/bio102>. Additional announcements and quiz assignments (see below) will be posted on the text book website http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/r_rockwell_section_1. Both sites must be checked regularly for updates. They will not necessarily contain the same information!

Attendance: Attendance in lab and lecture is mandatory. If you miss more than two laboratories, you will be dropped from the course with a grade of WU. Fieldtrips count as labs. Don't bet that you can skip the lecture and make up the material by reading the book, watching video lectures and other folks' notes. If you miss all or part of a lecture, get the notes from another student. I will not repeat myself to cover your absences.

Lecture videos: These are available through Tegrity, accessed through the McGraw-Hill website. I will post my lectures in a format that can not be downloaded or copied for 1 week. If you miss a class, get notes from someone as there may be information given in lecture that is not on the videos. **If you have problems, contact McGraw-Hill technical support at <http://www.mhhe.com/support> or 1(800)331-5094 for help.**

Quiz assignments: There will be an online quiz for each lecture at http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/r_rockwell_section_1. These quizzes are really study exercises but they also comprise 8% of your course grade. The questions on these quizzes are drawn from the same question bank as I draw the lecture exam questions (~20% overlap). Quizzes are available from the start of the course but each has a due date listed on the website. They must be completed by that date for credit. You get 2 chances at each and the system sends me your average performance (over the 2 trials) for each quiz. If you fail to complete a quiz by the deadline, the system sends me a 0 as your score for that assignment. The average of all the quiz scores (including any 0's) counts as 8% of your final grade.

You must register for Connect at http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/r_rockwell_section_1 to take the quizzes. Failure to register costs you 8% of your final grade. **If you have problems, contact McGraw-Hill technical support at <http://www.mhhe.com/support> or 1(800)331-5094 for help.**

Lecture exams: The 3 lecture exams are not cumulative and each emphasizes materials that are covered in both lecture and your readings. However, I do ask some questions that are only covered in lecture and other ones only covered in the book. You can't do well in this course by memorization alone. You have to grasp the underlying principles. There is no final exam as such.

The three lecture exams are each comprised of 50 multiple choice questions that are answered on computer-readable answer sheets. To reduce any temptation for cheating, we distribute 4 fully-randomized versions of the same questions. **You must make sure to indicate the version of the exam (A, B, C, D) you are taking on your answer sheet. Since they are graded by computer, failure to do that will guarantee you a grade of ~20% on that exam.**

You must print your name on the exam question booklet and return it at the end of the exam. Any answer sheet not matched by name by an exam booklet will result in a 0 for that exam. I do not return the exams but will post a copy of version A in the glass case across from the Biology office for your edification.

Lab exams are made up by the lab instructors. They are short answer, fill-ins, problems and short essays, as well as lab practical.

Grades: The grade in the course is based on 42% of the average score of the 3 lecture exams, 8% on the average scores of your online quizzes and 50% on the lab grades (30% from the results on three lab exams, 10% for the fish lab report, 2.5% each for the two short lab reports and 5% on class participation). **There are no make-up exams in either the lab or the lecture unless you have a note from a doctor, a mortician or a member of the clergy!** Other than such "excused exam absences" any missed exam will be assigned a 0 that will be averaged as part of your grade.

Your lab reports count for 15% of the course. Pieces of the reports are graded and handed back for you to revise and assemble into a final coherent report. We do not accept emailed lab reports. A lab report (or piece of one) that is one day late is counted down by 10%. We do not accept lab reports that are later than one day. You will get a zero for the exercise.

You cannot raise your grade by doing extra work. No favorites or favors. I do not give ABS or INC grades.

Study Suggestions

- a. Get to lecture on time! I begin talking at the start of the period and rarely stop until it ends
- b. Read the lecture textbook assignment prior to coming to lecture. This will help familiarize you with the material discussed in class, and will help fill in gaps in your notes.
- c. Study your notes weekly. There is too much material to learn in one night or weekend cram session.
- d. Take the quizzes and learn from your mistakes - you get 2 chances on each and I use the average score. Remember, the average score of the quizzes is 8% of your final grade. Also, Students in 2010 found a high positive correlation between performance on quizzes and exams.

Course Objectives: This course is meant to follow Bio 101 and will cover organisms, physiology and ecosystems. Evolution is the framework of Biology and will be discussed throughout the course. In order to link concepts, the course also emphasizes control and feedback systems that regulate all Biology processes. In detail:

1. Understanding the importance of Evolution as an organizing principle in Biology.
2. Understanding the importance of control and feedback systems that regulate Biology processes.
3. Compare and contrast inherent differences between plants and animals.
4. Being able to analyze data and extrapolate the results to the organismic and ecosystem levels.