

**Bio 102 Syllabus Spring 2010 Foundations of Biology II 6 hrs, 4 cr Dr. RF Rockwell**

**Hours:** Lectures Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:45 in NA-0201 Labs at various scheduled times during the week. You must take the lecture and lab together.

**Office hours:** Thursday 10:45-12:00. Other hours by appointment are available Tuesday through Thursday. I can be reached at [rfrockwell@gmail.com](mailto:rfrockwell@gmail.com). **MAKE SURE THE SUBJECT LINE READS: BIO 102.** My phone number is 212 769-5793.

**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://www.aris.mhhe.com>. You are required to register on the text book website for course BC7-BF-87D. Both sites must be checked regularly for updates. They do not necessarily contain the same information! I do not post my lectures as audio, video or powerpoint files. If you miss a class, get notes from someone.

**Text:** The text is selected chapters of a larger book, **Biology 8<sup>th</sup> Ed** by Raven, Johnson, Losos, Mason and Singer. You can't pass this course without studying the book! Although we have copies on reserve in the Science and Engineering library, you will do better if you have your own copy. Used copies are plentiful online and at the bookstore.

**Assignments:** There will be an online quiz for each lecture on the <http://www.aris.mhhe.com> website. 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. 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 on the <http://www.aris.mhhe.com> website. The code for the course is BC7-BF-87D. Just follow the instructions when you log in as a student. If you have trouble signing onto the website, consult the course website <http://research.amnh.org/users/rfr/bio102> for more information. Failure to register costs you 8% of your final grade.

**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 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.

**Grades:** The grade in the course is based on 42% of the scores of the 3 lecture exams, 8% on the average scores of your online homework and 50% on the lab grades (30% from the results on three lab exams, 15% from a lab report, and 5% on class participation). **There are no make-up exams in either the lab or the lecture unless you have a doctor's note! I do not give ABS or INC grades.** Your lab report counts for 15% of the course. Pieces of the report 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.

### **Study Suggestions**

- a. Get to lecture on time! I begin talking at the start of the period and rarely stop.
- 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.

**Tests:** The tests emphasize the materials that are covered in both lecture and your readings. However, I do ask questions that are only in lecture or only in the book. You can't do well in this course by memorization alone. You have to grasp the underlying principles. The three lecture exams are each comprised of 50 multiple choice questions. They are not cumulative. I do not return the multiple choice exams, but you may come to my office during office hours to look at the exam and take notes. I change my exams every semester, but I don't give the exams back because I do not want you to try to memorize questions.

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

**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.