Recent Announcements

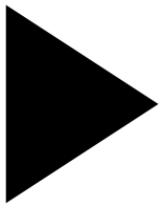
Welcome to BIO 001: Contemporary Biology!
(https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/discussion_topics/231529)
Hello Fall 2021 BIO 001 Students, Welcome to our bio1 community! On be…

Posted on: Aug 23, 2021 at 4:43pm

Welcome to BIO 001!

This four-credit course is designed to prepare life sciences majors for advanced studies in biology, including the topics of cells, genetics, evolution, plant and animal form and function, and ecology by engaging students in both problem-based and team-based, cooperative learning.

Click on each of the icons below to access the four introductory modules:



(https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23793)

Getting Started

(https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23794)

Zoom

(https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23795)

Syllabus

(https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23796)

Schedule & Due Dates

Click on each of the links below to access the 16 weekly modules:

Week 1 - Aug. 25 (No Classes) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23797)	Week 5 - Sept. 20 (Evolution of Populations and Phylogeny I - Kranzfelder) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23801)	Week 9 - Oct. 18 (Plant Form and Function I - Findlater) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23805)
Week 2 - Aug. 30 (Study of Life and Cells - Team) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23798)	Week 6 - Sept. 27 (Phylogeny II and Animal Diversity - Kranzfelder & Beaster-Jones) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23804)	Week 10 - Oct. 25 (Plant Form and Function III - Findlater) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23806)
Week 3 - Sept. 6 (Cells and Genetics - Findlater) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23799)	Week 7 - Oct. 4 (Animal Form and Function I - Beaster-Jones) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23805)	Week 11 - Nov. 1 (Ecology and the Biosphere - Kranzfelder) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23807)
Week 4 - Sept. 13 (Genetics and Evolution - Findlater &	Week 8 - Oct. 11 (Animal Form and Function II - Beaster-	Week 12 - Nov. 8 (Population and Community Ecology -

Kranzfelder) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23800)	Jones & Sami) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23806)	Kranzfelder & Beaster-Jones) (https://catcourses.ucmerced.edu/courses/21789/modules/23808)

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Teaching and Learning during the Pandemic

Requirement for masks in all UC Merced buildings

Masks are required for everyone inside all UC Merced buildings, including our classroom. As a member of our Bio 1 community, we ask that you follow this directive at all times. Please remember that the classmate sitting next to you may have an unseen immune deficiency, or head home to someone who is unable to be vaccinated. We want to support the health and wellbeing of all members of our community and ask you to do the same.

Where can I find supplies (i.e., face coverings, sanitation, etc.)?

On campus, you may be wondering where supplies are located for face coverings and sanitization. Hand sanitizer, sanitization wipes, and face coverings will be available for personal use at no cost. Vending machines will have supplies, too.
This (https://doyourpart.ucmerced.edu/sites/doyourpart.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/fastenal_vending_machines_and_mask_distribution_points_map.pdf) is a map of distribution locations, and there will be some expansion points during the semester, too (e.g., the library).

Syllabus subject to change

If we have learned one lesson in the past 18 months, it is that planning is good, but does not always work out the way we envision. We will do our best to follow the dates, topics, and assignments listed here but we recognize that small or large revisions could occur due to our ever-changing environment. We will adapt, and we will always inform you of any changes via email, CatCourse announcements, in-class announcements, and/or university-wide notifications.

Course Overview, Course Learning Outcomes, and Roles & Expectations

Course Overview:

This four-credit course is designed to prepare life sciences majors for advanced studies in biology, including the topics of cells, genetics, evolution, plant and animal form and function, and ecology by engaging students in both problem-based and team-based, cooperative learning. The course includes a *required* discussion section and is accompanied by a separate laboratory class (BIO 001L) to reinforce and supplement lecture topics.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

Core Competencies and Skills:

1. **Understanding the Process of Science:** Develop observational strategies and compose testable hypotheses.
2. **Quantitative Reasoning:** Interpret graphs and charts and use mathematical relationships to understand biological processes.
3. **Modeling and Simulations:** Recognize the important roles that scientific models play in predicting and communicating biological phenomena, make inferences and solve problems using models and simulations, and build and evaluate models of biology systems.
4. **Interdisciplinary Nature of Science:** Integrate concepts across STEM disciplines and consider interdisciplinary solutions to real-world problems.
5. **Communicate and Collaborate with others:** Explain scientific concepts to their peers and write about their understanding of biological connections.
6. **Relationship between Science and Society:** Explain the value of science to society and the responsibility of scientists to tackle global challenges.

Core Concepts:

1. **Evolution:** Describe the evidence for and the mechanisms of evolution, and the role of evolution in generating the diversity of life on earth.
2. **Structure and function:** Explain how physiological systems use various levels of organization from molecules to organism to maintain overall homeostasis.
3. **Information flow, exchange and storage:** Distinguish the relationship between genotype and

phenotype.

4. **Energy & Matter:** Examine how energy and matter cannot be created or destroyed but can be changes from one form to another, energy captured by primary producers is necessary to support the maintenance, growth, and reproduction of organism, and natural selection leads to the evolution of efficient use of resources within constraints.
5. **Systems:** Diagram how nutrients and energy flow in ecosystems. Students will be able to explain the relationships all organisms (including humans) have with other members of their species, other species, and their abiotic environment.

Roles and Expectations:

What can you expect from us?

- Provide knowledge and resources to help students achieve learning outcomes.
- Serve as a facilitator of student learning rather than transmitter (lecturer) of disciplinary content.
- Utilize a variety of research-based educational approaches and strategies aimed at your success.
- Provide opportunities to consider timely and engaging questions relevant to biology.
- Be committed to creating a learning environment that supports diversity of thought, perspective, experience, and identities.

What can we expect from you?

- Arrive on time, prepare for each class session, and stay for the duration of the class.
- Be attentive during class, ask questions if you do not understand something, and respond when called on.
- Participate in active learning experiences and interact with the course content.
- Listen respectfully to other students and me when they are speaking.

Land Acknowledgement

English: Local indigenous people, including the Yokuts and Miwuk who understand the earth as a place for everyone, first inhabited the land where UC Merced is located. When we address diversity on this campus, we do so boldly, daring to look forward and backward, imagining diversity's demand for the 21st century and the importance of diversity in addressing past wrongs, reaffirming humanity, and ensuring a reconciliatory path of redress for the future. The most prominent path on our campus is called Scholars Lane. By day, you can see, hear and witness the embodiment of our diversity through campus community members making their way across campus framed by the slopes and peaks of the Sierra Nevada.

Spanish: Las personas indígenas locales, incluyendo los Yokuts y los Miwuk, quienes comprenden que la tierra es un sitio para todas las personas, inicialmente habitaron las tierras en donde UC Merced está ubicada. Cuando hablamos sobre diversidad en el campus, lo hacemos con firmeza, viendo hacia adelante y hacia atrás, imaginando la demanda de diversidad para el siglo 21 y la importancia de la diversidad para corregir los errores del pasado, reformando la humanidad y asegurando un camino de reconciliación para el futuro. El camino más prominente en nuestro campus se conoce como el Camino de los eruditos. Durante el día, se puede ver, escuchar y observar nuestra diversidad en todo el campus y en los miembros de su comunidad, quienes caminan a través del campus enmarcado por los picos y las pendientes de la Sierra Nevada.

Hmong: COV NEEG TXUM TIM, XWS LI HAIV NEEG YOKUTS THIAB MIWUK UAS YOG COV XUB THAWJ LOS UA TSWV

NYOB RAU THAJ CHAW NTAWM NO UAS YOG UC MERCED POM TIAS LUB NTIAJ TEB YOG IB QHO CHAW RAU

SAWVDAWS TAU NYOB. PEB LUB HOM PHIAJ YOG LOS UA KOM PEB LUB TSEV KAWM NTAWV YOG IB QHO

CHAW UAS TSIS XAIV NTSEJ XAIV MUAG THIAB UA NPAJ TOS RAU TIAM 21, TXAUS SIAB KHO TEJ UAS UA TSIS

YOG YAV TAG LOS, HLUB TIBNEEG, THIAB TXHIM KHO RAU YAV TOM NTEJ. TXOJ KEV TAUG UAS MUAJ KOOB

NPE TSHAJ HAUV PEB LUB TSEV KAWM NTAWM YOG HU UA SCHOLARS LANE. TXHUA

HNUB KOJ YEEJ POM

THIAB HNOV HAUV PEB LUB TSEV KAWM MUAJ NTAU HAIV NEEG SIB XYAW UA KE TAUG KEV MUS MUS LOS

LOS TXOJ KAB NCE NQES THIAB COV NCOV ROOB SIERRA NEVADA.

Diversity Statement (Declaración sobre la Diversidad)

At UC Merced we steadfastly uphold the concepts expressed in the **University of California Diversity Statement** (https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/4400.html) including, "the variety of personal experiences, values, and worldviews that arise from differences of culture and circumstance. Such differences include race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, language, abilities/disabilities, neurodiversity, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geographic region, and more."

We affirm that a diverse campus furthers our mission to create, interpret, and disseminate knowledge and values. The manifold diversity of our community encourages each of us to reflect on intellectual and cultural orthodoxies, and thus stimulates the creativity at the heart of our academic mission as a research university. We take pride in serving a large population of first-generation college students, including the broad representation of background on our campus as a Hispanic (HSI), Minority (MSI) and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPISI) serving institution. As a common goal, we will work together to ensure all members of our academic community reflect the multiplicity of identities in our region.

Our commitment to diversity will foster our ability to thrive in a complex world.

Approved March 15, 2019, by the Chancellor's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion (CCCI) at UC Merced.

En UC Merced mantenemos firmemente los conceptos expresados en la Declaración de la Universidad en relación a la Diversidad, incluyendo "la variedad de las experiencias personales, los valores y las visiones del mundo que emanan de las diferentes culturas y circunstancias. Dichas diferencias incluyen raza, etnia, género, edad, religión, lenguaje, habilidades/incapacidades, neuro diversidad, orientación sexual, identidad de género, nivel socioeconómico, región geográfica y más".

Afirmamos que un campus diverso lleva nuestra misión hacia adelante para crear, interpretar y diseminar conocimiento y valores. La amplia diversidad de nuestra comunidad, nos alienta a cada uno a reflexionar sobre las ortodoxias intelectuales y culturales y, por lo tanto, estimula la creatividad en el corazón de nuestra misión académica como una universidad de investigación. Nos sentimos orgullosos de servir a una vasta población de estudiantes universitarios de primera

generación, incluyendo la amplia representación de antecedentes en nuestro campus como una institución que sirve a los Hispanos (HSI) y Minorías (MSI) y Asiático-Americanos y Nativos de las Islas del Pacífico (AANAPISI) . Tenemos como meta común el trabajar en conjunto para asegurar que todos los miembros de nuestra comunidad académica reflejen la multiplicidad de las identidades en nuestra región.

Nuestro compromiso con la diversidad nos dará la habilidad para tener éxito en un mundo complejo.

Aprobada el 15 de Marzo de 2019 por el Consejo de Asesores sobre el clima del campus, la cultura y la inclusión (CCCI) en UC Merced.

Meeting Times (Lectures and Discussions)

Lectures:

You are responsible for all material presented in lecture. Lectures will often include individual and group activities which require active participation individually and in small groups. **Your attendance is strongly encouraged.**

Course #:	**Days"**	**Time:**	**Bldg/Rm:**	**Instructors:**
BIO-001-01	MWF	2:30-3:20pm	COB1 -102	Beaster-Jones, Laura | Findlater, Melinda | Kranzfelder, Petra
BIO-001-20	MWF	1:30-2:20pm	COB1 -102	Beaster-Jones, Laura | Findlater, Melinda | Kranzfelder, Petra

Discussions:

Students are **required** to be prepared for, attend and participate in their discussion sections. Attendance and participation in discussions are an important part of the grade for this course. **Discussions begin promptly at the scheduled time, and students must attend the discussion section in which they are officially enrolled. No "discussion hopping" is allowed.** Discussions will be led by a teaching assistant and the content, format and organization are controlled by these teaching assistants.

Course #:	**Days:**	**Times:**	**Bldg/Rm:**	**Instructor:**
BIO-001-02D	F	3:30-4:20pm	COB1 274	Ambarish Varadan
BIO-001-03D	F	4:30-5:20pm	COB1 274	Ambarish Varadan
BIO-001-04D	T	12:30-1:20pm	ADMIN 365	Pedro Perez

BIO-001-05D	T	3:30-4:20pm	GLCR 140	Pedro Perez
BIO-001-06D	T	4:30-5:20pm	GLCR 160	Pedro Perez
BIO-001-07D	W	1:30-2:20pm	GLCR 165	Ambarish Varadan
BIO-001-08D	T	9:00-9:50am	ADMIN 264	Donnoban Orozco
BIO-001-09D	W	3:30-4:20pm	GLCR 155	Dean Wu
BIO-001-11D	T	10:00-10:50am	ADMIN 264	Donnoban Orozco
BIO-001-13D	M	12:30-1:20pm	GLCR 165	Reo Maynard
BIO-001-14D	T	11:00-11:50am	ADMIN 264	Donnoban Orozco
BIO-001-15D	M	3:30-4:20pm	GLCR 165	Reo Maynard
BIO-001-16D	M	4:30-5:20pm	GLCR 165	Reo Maynard
BIO-001-21D	R	7:30-8:20am	COB1 260	Taylor Sanchez
BIO-001-22D	R	8:30-9:20am	COB1 260	Taylor Sanchez
BIO-001-23D	R	9:30-10:20am	COB2 263	Taylor Sanchez

BIO-001-24D	F	10:30-11:20am	COB1 274	Beryl Arinda
BIO-001-25D	F	12:30-1:20pm	SSB 110	Beryl Arinda
BIO-001-26D	R	11:30-12:20pm	GRAN 155	Irina Barros
BIO-001-27D	M	6:30-7:20pm	GLCR 160	Dean Wu
BIO-001-29D	T	5:30-6:20pm	COB1 203	Ruihao Li
BIO-001-30D	W	10:30-11:20am	GRAN 155	Irina Barros
BIO-001-31D	M	12:30-1:20pm	COB1 270	Irina Barros
BIO-001-32D	W	5:30-6:20pm	GLCR 165	Ruihao Li
BIO-001-33D	F	11:30-12:20pm	SSB 110	Beryl Arinda
BIO-001-34D	M	3:30-4:20pm	COB1 201	Ruihao Li
BIO-001-35D	M	4:30-5:20pm	COB1 201	Dean Wu

BIO 001 Teaching Team (Contact Information & Office Hours)

Our instructional team aims to make your learning experience a rich and successful one this semester. In addition to the instructors, we have both Graduate Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Undergraduate Learning Assistants (LAs) on the instructional team. Our goal is to support your understanding of, and keep you highly engaged with, the course content. While the main job of a graduate Teaching Assistant (TA) is to assist the instructors by grading assignments and running discussion sections, the main job of a Learning Assistant is to help you, the students. LAs will help us facilitate active learning and collaboration activities in the classroom, but they have nothing to do with grading in the course. So, they will focus on your processing of new content and hopefully help learn how to learn more effectively. Our contact information is below.

You can join our Zoom office hours by clicking on the Zoom Tab on the menu (on the left).

Instructors of Record (IORs):

E-mail is the best way to reach BIO 001 IORs: **bio1@ucmerced.edu (mailto:bio1@ucmerced.edu)** . Please reserve e-mail for administrative questions only, such as adding/dropping the course, making an appointment with the instructors, or short informative e-mails. Please use office hours, discussion sections, and CatCourse discussions as well as study groups for specific questions on the lecture material.

Name:	**Email:**	**Office Hours Location:**	**Office Hours Date/Time:**	
Dr. Laura Beaster-Jones	bio1@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Mondays 3:30-4:30 pm Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 pm (except 3rd Wed of month)	
Dr. Mindy Findlater	bio1@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Tuesdays 9:30-10:30	

			AM and Wednesdays 9-10 PM (only via Zoom)	
Dr. Petra Kranzfelder	bio1@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Mondays 3:30-5:30pm	

Teaching Fellow (Discussion Coordinator):

Name:	**Email:**	**Office Hours Location:**	**Office Hours Date/Time:**
Josephine Sami	jsami@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Mondays 11:30AM-1:30PM

Graduate Teaching Assistants (TAs):

Name:	**Email:**	**Office Hours Location**	**Office Hours Date/Time:**
Ambarish Varadan	avaradan@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm
Dean Wu	dwu38@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Tuesdays 2:00PM - 4:00PM
Donnoban Orozco Ramirez	dorozco7@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Tuesdays 4:00PM - 6:00PM
Irina Barros	ibarros@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Mondays 2:30-4:30 PM

Beryl Ngabirano Arinda	barinda@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	
Pedro Perez	pperez40@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Thursdays 1:30-3:30 PM
Reo Maynard	rmaynard@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Thursday 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM; Friday 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Ruihao Li	rli46@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Mondays 9:59 - 11:59 AM
Taylor-J Sanchez	tsanchez4@ucmerced.edu	Zoom	Fridays 11:00-1:00 PM

Undergraduate Learning Assistants (LAs):

Name:	**Email:**
Austin John Escobar	tsanchez4@ucmerced.edu
Avreen Bal	abal7@ucmerced.edu
Dorsa Javaheri	djavaheri@ucmerced.edu
Francisco Lopez Lopez	flopezlopez@ucmerced.edu
Jazmin Reyes Servin	jreyesservin@ucmerced.edu
Jessalyn Arteta	jarteta@ucmerced.edu
Julian Perrando	jperrando@ucmerced.edu
Julie Gomez	jgomez294@ucmerced.edu
Sandy Rubio	srubio7@ucmerced.edu

Required Textbook and Materials

(https://secure.flickr.com/photos/41308980@N08/3835752311) **Great news - your textbook is *free*!**

Required Textbook:

Great news: your required textbook for this class is available for **free** online!

***Biology 2e* from OpenStax** (https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e), ISBN 978-1-947172-51-7

You have several options to obtain this book:

- **View online** (https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e)
- **Order a print copy** (https://www.amazon.com/dp/1947172514)

You can use whichever formats you want. Web view is recommended -- the responsive design works seamlessly on any device.

Required Materials:

- Access to **CatCourses** will be required to complete all assignments, quizzes, and exams
- Access to **Zoom**
- Access to **Internet** and **emails**

Course website:

Lecture materials and grades will be posted on this CatCourses website. To access this, go to: catcourses.ucmerced.edu and then log in with your Net ID username and password. Choose BIO-001-01 in the course list. The slides for each lecture will be posted on this site in PDF format. **Please be sure to check all of the tabs on the left, including Announcements, Assignments, Files, and Modules often.** Inform the instructors if you are unable to access any of these materials.

Grading Policies

Grading Policies

Your learning in Bio 001 will be assessed as follows:

Assignments	Points	Total Points	Maximum Points Towards Course Grade	Details
Weekly homeworks	10 points x 13	130	120	There are 13 weekly homeworks that will give you practice on new concepts and prepare you for quizzes and exams. They are due Friday evenings. The 12 highest homework grades will count toward your overall grade. Question prompts and a rubric are provided with each assignment.
Journals	16 points x 5	80	80	There are 5 journal assignments designed to encourage "thinking-about-thinking" and writing about some of the concepts that you have learned about in more depth as you proceed through this course. They are due periodically throughout the semester on Wednesday evenings. Question prompts and a rubric are provided with each assignment.
Discussion activities	10 points x 12	120	110	There are 12 discussion activities designated to apply concepts and skills learned in lectures using a team-based, collaborative learning approach

				and ask questions about challenging concepts. The 11 highest discussion activity grades will count toward your overall grade. Question prompts and a rubric are provided with each assignment.
Discussion attendance & participation	5 points x 12	60	55	There are 12 discussion activities where you will gain points for preparing for, attending and participating in discussion activities. The 11 highest discussion attendance and participation grades will count toward your overall grade. There is a rubric provided with this assignment.
Pre-Quizzes	5 points x 13	65	60	There are 13 total pre-quizzes that will help you check your learning and understanding of concepts. They are due Monday before class (5 points each with 5-10 multiple choice questions). All quizzes are administered via CatCourse quizzes. The 12 highest pre-quiz grades will count toward your overall grade. A missed quiz = 0 points. There are no make-up quizzes.
Post-Quizzes	10 points x 11	110	100	There are 11 total post-quizzes that will help you check your learning and understanding of concepts. They are due Saturday afternoons (10 points each with 5-10 multiple choice questions). All quizzes are administered via CatCourse quizzes. The 10 highest post-

				quiz grades will count toward your overall grade. A missed quiz = 0 points. There are no make-up quizzes.
Lecture Exams 1-3	90 points x 3	270	180	There are 3 lecture (midterm) exams that test your mastery of the concepts. The exact format and method of delivery for each exam will be communicated to you in lecture and via announcements. The 2 highest midterm grades will count toward your overall grade. A missed exam = 0 points. If you miss an exam, then that will count as your dropped score (see details below). There are no make-up exams.
Final Exam	120 points x 1	120	120	There is 1 cumulative final exam that tests your mastery of the concepts. The exact format and method of delivery for this exam will be communicated to you in lecture and via announcements. A missed exam = 0 points, this exam cannot be dropped, and there are no make-up exams. **Skipping the final exam will result in an automatic failure ('F') in the course** (see details below).
Extra Credit	5 points x 3			There will be 3 opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. We will send announcements via CatCourses and in lecture about these opportunities as they arise. See more details

				below.
Total		955	825	

Letter Grades: The final distribution of grades will depend on the overall achievement of the students in the course and is determined at the end of the semester. Designation of letter grades should be expected for students achieving the indicated percentage of the total possible points in the course, as listed below:

A+ 98-100	B+ 88-89.9	C+ 78-79.9	D+ 68-69.9	F 0-59.9
A 92-97.9	B 82-87.9	C 72-77.9	D 62-67.9	
A- 90-91.9	B- 80-81.9	C- 70-71.9	D- 60-61.9	

Where do I submit assignments?

All assignments must be submitted to the designated area in CatCourses. Do not submit an assignment via email.

Do I need to attend class?

Class attendance is critical to your academic success at a research university, like UC Merced. This is especially true in BIO 1 due to the volume of material that we cover over the course of the semester.

Attend every class to have the best opportunity to be successful. If you are planning to do a biological sciences or another STEM major, the material that you learn in BIO 1 will be the foundation for your next biology or STEM classes and future health science programs (i.e., medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, veterinary medicine, etc.).

If you believe you need to miss class for an extended period of time due to illness or a family emergency, talk with your BIO 1 instructor, consult with your **academic advisor (https://advising.ucmerced.edu/who-my-academic-advisor)**, and talk with the **Dean of Students (https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students)** office. A complete list of resources to support your success—including free tutoring, Counseling & Psychological Services, and Student Health Services—can be found on the **success anywhere (https://success.ucmerced.edu/)** site.

What happens if I need to turn in an assignment late?

Some assignments have dropped scores to accommodate absences, regardless of the reasons. Dropped scores are indicated in the table above.

Assignments (i.e., homework, journals, discussion activities) are generally due at 11:59pm. We encourage all students not to wait until the last minute to submit their assignments; however, there is a very short grace period in which your assignment will not be penalized as late, to accommodate internet issues, slow connections, etc.

All assignments, except for quizzes and exams, can be turned in late for partial credit. These assignments are penalized 25% of the total possible points for every day they are late, up to 48 hours after the deadline. Here is an example for a homework assignment originally worth 10 points:

- Your homework is due Friday night and you turn it in the morning after the posted deadline: 2.5 points will be deducted from your total score. Thus, if your original score was 9/10 points, then your final adjusted score will be 6.5/10.
- Your homework is due Friday night and you turn it in any time on Sunday: 5 points will be deducted from your total score. Thus, if your original score was 9/10 points, then your final adjusted score will be 4/10.
- Your homework is due Friday night and you turn it in on Monday morning more than 48 hours after the deadline. You will receive 0 points for the homework.

What happens if I am sick or have another type of excused absence and I miss a quiz or an assignment?

There are no make-up assignments but you may be excused from quizzes, homeworks, journals, and discussions activities and discussion participation and attendance if you have:

1. An **excused absence**, including participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, and religious observances. For these types of foreseeable events, it is the **student's responsibility** to contact your discussion TA about missing an assignment **one week in advance**. Instructors may determine that other circumstances not specifically enumerated in the policy are consistent with the definition of an excused absence.
    - Here are some circumstances that would **not** be considered excused absences: conflicts with employment, job training, job shadowing, volunteering, participation in student organization activities or events, oversleeping/alarm didn't go off, vacation, and non-emergency (scheduled) appointments with health providers (e.g., well-checks, immunizations, dental appointments, etc.).
2. An **unexpected absence** due to a severe illness, serious crisis, or bereavement. It is the **student's responsibility** to contact your discussion TA about missing an assignment **within two working days** of the unexpected absence with relevant details so the instructors can support your learning.

3. **Added the course late,** but before the add (mailto:deadline) deadline, and notified the instructors at bio1@ucmerced.edu (mailto:bio1@ucmerced.edu) and your TA about the missed assignments.

If an absence is due to of one of the three situations listed above and the student has followed the procedures outlined above, then a provisional grade based on the average of the student's other assignment scores shall be granted and assigned at the end of the semester for the missed assignment. To mark this, a yellow "excused" will be entered into the gradebook by your TA and the provisional grade will be assigned at the end of the semester.

Students who miss many weeks of this course should meet with their academic advisor to discuss next steps.

Missed Quizzes and Lecture Midterm Exams:

There are no early and no make-up quizzes and exams, and you will receive a zero if you do not complete the quiz or exam by the assigned deadline. For quizzes, the lowest pre-quiz score and the lowest post-quiz score are dropped at the end of the semester, so there are no make-up quizzes. However, the excused absence policy applies for quizzes.

For the midterm exams, the lowest midterm score will be dropped for everyone in the class at the end of the semester. Thus, if you have an excused absence on a midterm, this will count as the dropped exam. If you are experiencing substantial challenges this semester such that you may have excused absences for multiple exams, please email bio1@ucmerced.edu (mailto:bio1@ucmerced.edu) to discuss your options.

Missed Final Exam:

The above policy does not apply to the final exam—**skipping the final exam will result in an automatic failure ('F') in the course** unless:

1. An excused absence and permission were obtained before the final exam **AND**
2. The student was achieving a passing grade (C- or better) in the course before the final exam.

How do I know what my current grade is?

Do not solely rely on the point total reported by Canvas, as it can sometimes be inaccurate. To find your grade at any point simply take your total score on all assignments (including any extra credit assignments) and then divide that total by the total number of points possible in the class up to that point. Instructors will provide a spreadsheet to help you record your scores and easily check your course grade.

What do I do if I think an assignment or test was incorrectly graded?

Any errors or problems with grading should be brought to an instructor's attention *within a week* of

return of the graded item.

Is there a way for me to earn extra credit?

There may be occasional opportunities for a small number of extra credit points throughout the semester. We will send announcements via CatCourses and in lecture about these opportunities as they arise. We believe in laying out clear grade policies at the start of the semester and then applying these policies equally to all students, so that everyone has an equal chance of success throughout the class. Thus, there will be no opportunity at the end of the semester to turn in different or extra assignments for “makeup” or “extra” credit.

Release of Grades:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits faculty and staff from posting grades to unsecured websites, or reporting grades by e-mail or telephone. Individual grade information is available via Cat Courses Grades.

General Policies

Learn more about updated campus resources, policy, and student expectations by clicking on the **Resources & Policy** Tab on the menu (on the left).

Religious Observances

UC Merced seeks to accommodate any student who, in observance of a religious creed, encounters an unavoidable conflict with an examination schedule. In order to request accommodation, the student is responsible for providing, in writing and at the beginning of the semester, notification of a potential conflict to the individual responsible for administering the examination. Instructors will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis and determine whether such conflicts can be resolved without imposing on the instructor or the other students in the class an undue hardship that cannot be reasonably avoided. If so, the instructor will determine, in consultation with the student, a time during which the student can take the examination without incurring a penalty or violation of the student's religious creed.

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is taken very seriously at UC Merced. The **Academic Honesty Policy (https://osrr.ucmerced.edu/sites/osrr.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/academic_honesty_-_800.pdf)** and the **Code of Student Conduct (https://osrr.ucmerced.edu/sites/osrr.ucmerced.edu/files/documents/code_of_conduct_600_and_700.pdf)** emphasize that students, faculty and administration all share responsibility for maintaining a fair and honest academic environment. UC Merced is creating a strong tradition of upholding the student academic honesty policy and addressing suspected violations through the Report Form for Academic Misconduct and when appropriate the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR). Faculty and students both express confidence in the current process, which resolves almost all cases through informal meetings with students rather than formal hearings and emphasizes education in the discipline process. Faculty and OSRR strive to hold students accountable for violations but gives them the opportunity to learn from their mistakes.

Plagiarism: Any time you use the research, ideas, images, analysis, language, etc. produced by another, you must cite that individual (give them credit). If you use the words of another author verbatim (word-for-word), you must indicate that by putting the words in quotation marks and noting the source.

As a student at UC Merced, you are expected to know when and how to cite and paraphrase correctly. If you do not, ask me or your TA for help. Submitting work that contains work "borrowed" from others and not properly cited is called "plagiarism" and is a violation of our Code of Academic Conduct.

Student Accessibility Services

University of California, Merced is committed to creating learning environments that are accessible to all. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please feel welcome to contact me privately so we can discuss options. In addition, please contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at (209) 228-6996 or **access@ucmerced.edu (mailto:access@ucmerced.edu)** as soon as possible to explore reasonable accommodations. All accommodations must have prior approval from Student Accessibility Services on the basis of appropriate documentation.

If you anticipate or experience barriers due to pregnancy, temporary medical condition, or injury, please feel welcome to contact me so we can discuss options. You are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students for support and resources at (209) 228-3633 or **https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students (http://https://studentaffairs.ucmerced.edu/dean-students)**.

Please contact SAS early on in the semester and advise instructors before the end of week 3 if you need an accommodation.

Course Schedule

Course Schedule

*Tentative schedule, subject to changes announced via CatCourse and/or lecture announcements.

Most readings are from the textbook, but additional readings will be posted on CatCourse site.

Week, Unit	Lecture	Date	Lecture Unit & Topic	Reading	Instructor	Discussion Topic/Notes
Week 1: No Class		Aug. 25	*No Class*			*No discussions*
		Aug. 27	*No Class*			
Week 2: Study of Life and Cells	1	Aug. 30	Introduction to Biology	1.1-1.2	LBJ	Study of Life
	2	Sept. 1	Biology Core Concepts	Extract from Vision & Change Final Report	PK	
	3	Sept. 3	Cell Structure and Function	4.1-4.5	MMF	
Week 3: Cells and Genetics		Sept. 6	*No Class - Labor Day Holiday*		MMF	*No discussions*; 5pm on Sept. 10 last date to add or drop course
	4	Sept. 8	Cell Reproduction	10.1, 10.2, 10.5	MMF	

	5	Sept. 10	Process of Meiosis & Sexual Reproduction	11.1-11.2	MMF	
Week 4: Genetics and Evolution	6	Sept. 13	Mendelian Genetics I	12	MMF	Genetics
	7	Sept. 15	Mendelian Genetics II	12	MMF	
	8	Sept. 17	Understanding Evolution & Speciation	18	PK	
Week 5: Evolution of Populations and Phylogeny I	9	Sept. 20	Population Genetics I	19.1-19.2	PK	Evolution
	10	Sept. 22	Populations Genetics II	19.2-19.3	PK	
	11	Sept. 24	Taxonomy & Phylogenetic Trees I	20.1-20.2	PK	
Week 6: Phylogeny II and Animal Diversity	12	Sept. 27	Phylogenetic Trees II	20.1-20.2	PK	Evolution
		Sept. 29	**Midterm #1**			
	13	Oct. 1	Intro to Animal Diversity	27	LBJ	
Week 7: Animal	14	Oct. 4	Invertebrates & Vertebrates	28 & 29 (read Chapter	LBJ	Animal Diversity

				Intros and Summaries first; use the rest as needed for reference)		
Form and Function I	15	Oct. 6	The Animal Body	33.1-33.3	LBJ	
	16	Oct. 8	The Circulatory System	40	LBJ	
Week 8: Animal Form and Function II	17	Oct. 11	The Respiratory System	39	LBJ	Animal Form and Function I
	18	Oct. 13	The Nervous System I	35	JS	
	19	Oct. 15	The Nervous System II	35	JS	
Week 9: Plant Form and Function I	20	Oct. 18	Intro to Plant Diversity: Seedless Plants	25.1-25.4	MMF	Animal Form and Function II
	21	Oct. 20	Intro to Plant Diversity: Seed Plants	26.1-26.3	MMF	
	22	Oct. 22	Plant Structure and Growth	30.1-30.4	MMF	
Week 10: Plant Form and Function II	23	Oct. 25	Plant Sensory Systems and Responses	30.6	MMF	Plant Diversity

	24	Oct. 27	Plant Nutrition and Soils	31.1-31.3	MMF	
	25	Oct. 29	Flowering Plant Reproduction	32.1-32.2	MMF	
Week 11: Ecology and the Biosphere		Nov. 1	**Midterm #2**			Plant Form and Function; Nov. 3 last day to withdraw from course
	26	Nov. 3	Introduction to Ecology	44.1	PK	
	27	Nov. 5	Biogeography	44.2-44.3	PK	
Week 12: Population and	28	Nov. 8	Terrestrial & Aquatic Biomes	44.3-44.4	PK	*No discussions*

Community Ecology	29	Nov. 10	Climate Change	44.5	LBJ	
	30	Nov. 12	Population Demography & Life History	45.1-45.3	LBJ	
Week 13: Community and Ecosystem Ecology I	31	Nov. 15	Population Growth & Regulation	45.4	LBJ	Ecology I
	32	Nov. 17	Community Ecology and Food Webs	45.6 & 46.1	LBJ	
	33	Nov. 19	Food Webs & Energy Flow	46.1-46.2	LBJ	
Week 14: Ecosystem Ecology II	34	Nov. 22	Biogeochemical Cycles I	46.3	PK	*No discussions*
		Nov. 24	*No Class - Thanksgiving Holiday*			
		Nov. 26	*No Class - Thanksgiving Holiday*			
Week 15: Conservation Biology and Biodiversity	35	Nov. 29	Value of Biodiversity	47.1-47.2	PK	Ecology II
	36	Dec. 1	Threats & Preserving Biodiversity	47.3-47.4	PK	
		Dec. 3	**Midterm #3**			

Week 16: Review for Final Exam	37	Dec. 6	Review of Cell, Genetics, and Evolution		LBJ/MMF/PK	Review for Final Exam
	38	Dec. 8	Review of Plant/Animal Form and Function		MMF/JS/LBJ	
	39	Dec. 10	Review of Ecology		LBJ & PK	
Week 17: Finals Week		Dec. 13				*No discussions*
		Dec. 15				
		Dec. 17	**FINAL EXAM 6:30 - 9:30pm**			

Assignment Deadlines and Exam Dates

Assignment Deadlines and Exam Dates

(***tentative*** schedule, subject to changes announced in class)

Week	**Homeworks (due Fridays 11:59pm)**	**Pre-Quizzes (due Mondays 1pm)**	**Post-Quizzes (due Saturdays 2:30PM)**	**Journals (due Wednesdays 11:59pm)**	**Discussion Attendance and Participation (A&P)**	**Discussion Activity**	**Exams (during lecture)**
Week 1			Post-Quiz 1				
Week 2	Homework 2	Pre-Quiz 2 (due **Wed 9/1**)	Post-Quiz 2		Discussion A&P 2	Discussion Activity 2	
Week 3	Homework 3	Pre-Quiz 3 (due **Wed 9/8**)	Post-Quiz 3	Journal 1 (self-assessment)			
Week 4	Homework 4	Pre-Quiz 4	Post-Quiz 4		Discussion A&P 4	Discussion Activity 4	
Week 5	Homework 5	Pre-Quiz 5	Post-Quiz 5	Journal 2 (Evolution)	Discussion A&P 5	Discussion Activity 5	
Week 6	Homework 6	Pre-Quiz 6	Post-Quiz 6		Discussion A&P 6	Discussion Activity 6	Midterm #1 (Sept. 29)

Week 7	Homework 7	Pre-Quiz 7	Post-Quiz 7	Journal 3 (Animals)	Discussion A&P 7	Discussion Activity 7	
Week 8	Homework 8	Pre-Quiz 8	Post-Quiz 8		Discussion A&P 8	Discussion Activity 8	
Week 9	Homework 9	Pre-Quiz 9	Post-Quiz 9		Discussion A&P 9	Discussion Activity 9	
Week 10	Homework 10	Pre-Quiz 10	Post-Quiz 10	Journal 4 (Plants)	Discussion A&P 10	Discussion Activity 10	
Week 11	Homework 11		Post-Quiz 11		Discussion A&P 11	Discussion Activity 11	Midterm #2 (Nov 1)
Week 12	Homework 12	Pre-Quiz 12	Post-Quiz 12				
Week 13	Homework 13	Pre-Quiz 13	Post-Quiz 13	Journal 5 (Ecology)	Discussion A&P 13	Discussion Activity 13	
Week 14		Pre-Quiz 14					
Week 15	Homework 15	Pre-Quiz 15			Discussion A&P 15	Discussion Activity 15	Midterm #3 (Dec. 3)

Week 16					Discussion A&P 16	Discussion Activity 16	
Week 17							Final Exam (Dec. 17)