

Biology 6A Greensheet: Winter 2012

Form and Function in the Biological World

Instructor: Elizabeth McPartlan

Phone & Voicemail: (408) 864-8328

E-mail: mcpartlanelizabeth@fhda.edu (school) or
elizmcpartlan@sbcglobal.net (home)

Office: SC1208

Office Hours: MTWTh 1:30-2:10

Course Description:

This is the first class in a three course series intended for Biology majors. In addition to an introduction to science and the scientific method, this course will explore the universal challenges of life by comparing the structure and physiological processes of organisms, with an emphasis on plants and animals. Topics include: obtaining nutrients, gas exchange, transport, excretion, reproduction, movement and phylogenetic relationships between organisms.

Prerequisite:

Satisfactory score on the chemistry placement test or a grade of C or better in Chem 50 or Chem 1A.

Advisory:

Completion of English 1A or ESL 5 is strongly recommended.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Analyze and compare the process of homeostasis as applied to common physiological processes across higher taxonomy.
2. Use principles of scientific method to critique case studies in comparative biology research.
3. Contrast the Linnaean traditional phylogenetic and cladistic processes of taxonomy.

Class Meetings:

Lecture:	Secs 1,1H, 2, 2H	MTWTh	9:30 - 10:20	S35
Lab:	Secs 1,1H	MW	10:30 - 1:20	SC2108
	Secs 2, 2H	TTh	10:30 - 1:20	SC2108

Note: Both sections are available as honors courses to those students currently enrolled in the Honors Program. Please see me to obtain an add code.

Texts and Materials:

Textbook: Campbell and Reece, *Biology*, 9th ed. (8th is okay, too)

Lab book: Biology 6A: Form and Function in the Biological World (bookstore)

Materials: scantrons: brown or green with 50 questions/side (ex: form 2052)

Optional: - Van De Graff and Crawley, *The Photographic Atlas of Biology*, 6th ed.
- colored pencils for lab illustrations

Course Policies

Grading:

Lecture Exams 1, 2 & 3 @ 100 points each	300 points
Lecture Final Exam	300 points
2 Lab Exams @ 150 points each	300 points
Assignments- points vary	50 points (will vary)
Total	950 points (will vary)

Grades are based on a percentage of accumulated points:

A+ = 96 - 100%	B+ = 85 - 87%	C+ = 75 - 77%	D+ = 65 - 67%	F = ≤ 57%
A = 90 - 95%	B = 80 - 84%	C = 68 - 74%	D = 60 - 64%	
A- = 88 - 89%	B- = 78 - 79%		D- = 58 - 59%	

Exams: All exams are administered at the beginning of the class period. Late students will not receive extra time to complete the exam. If a student arrives after the exam, s/he will not be allowed to take the exam. **Make-up exams will not be given.** In the case of a documented, unavoidable absence, and if you inform me of the reason for absence before 5pm of the day of the exam, your grade in the class will be calculated without that score (points will be subtracted from the points possible). This is not a “drop score” in that you do not get to choose the lowest score to drop. If you miss a second exam you will receive zero points for that exam. If you do not take the final exam, you will fail the course.

Assignments: All Assignments must be complete before lab begins to avoid penalty. Assignments should be printed from the class website (do not tear pages out of the lab manual), completed, and placed on my desk before lab begins. Assignments will be checked off at the beginning of lab and returned to you during the lab for use in completing the group discussion and submission of the group version of the assignment.

Late Assignments: Any assignment submitted after class begins is late and will be penalized ½ point (out of 3) If your assignment is not on my desk before class begins, you must wait until the end of lab-lecture to submit it so as not to disturb the class. Late assignments will only be accepted until I hand them back in lab (later in the same lab period). You will only receive 1 point (out of 3) for the group version of the assignment if you do not submit your individual assignment. In the case of absence, individual assignments will be accepted upon return to class, and will count for the entire assignment score.

Please note: These are College Assignments, submitted for College Credit in a College Course. Your assignments should not be printed on scratch paper and they should be free of scratch-outs, scribble, “overwrites”, smears, lipstick, and food. You can use pencil with an eraser that actually erases (and does not just smear), or pen with correction fluid, if you can use it neatly. Your other option is to re-print the assignment and **DO IT OVER. (Yes, I know that is extra work.) Likewise, your papers should be written in coherent, complete sentences and free of spelling (Use a dictionary!) and grammar errors. *Assignments that are not properly presented will be docked points or not accepted at all, according to the instructor’s discretion and the condition of the assignment.***

Attendance: You are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared for every class meeting. While I do not take roll in lecture, it is expected that you will miss class only for serious and compelling reasons. Roll is taken in lab and you are allowed only two absences. **If you are absent or extremely tardy for more than two lab periods, you will be dropped, withdrawn, or given an F, depending on the date of the last absence/tardy.** You are responsible for all material missed in any absence.

Drop/Withdraw: If you wish to drop or withdraw from the course, it is your responsibility. The last day to drop the course (without a “W”) is Saturday, 1/21. The last day to withdraw from the course (with a “W”) is Friday, 3/2. **I will not withdraw any student after this date.**

Classroom Conduct

It is my responsibility as an instructor to provide all students with an environment conducive to learning. I will not allow students to infringe upon the rights of other students by creating disturbances and distractions. The following guidelines outline expected student conduct. Students unable or unwilling to meet these standards will not be allowed to remain in the class. Students will be dropped, withdrawn, or given an F, and may face disciplinary action, according to the instructor’s discretion and the nature of the offense(s).

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and have their materials out and ready when class begins. There will be no talking once I have begun class unless I have acknowledged the speaker. Late students are not permitted to disturb other students. Late students must not climb over other students to seats, cross in front of other students, block the projector, or approach the front desk while I am talking. If chronically late students become a nuisance to the rest of the class, I will lock the classroom doors at the beginning of the class period.

Cell phones, pagers and other electronic disturbances are not permitted during lecture or lab. All such devices must be turned OFF (not on vibrate). **I do not want to see or hear cell phones AT ALL during class. This also means NO TEXTING in class!!!** Students who fail to comply will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period. Students exhibiting other disruptive behaviors, such as talking in class or otherwise distracting other students, will also be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period. Students who disrupt the class more than once will be dropped, withdrawn, or given an F, and may face disciplinary action, according to the instructor’s discretion and the nature of the offense(s).

Laboratory Conduct: Although we greatly exceed the safety standards of Cal OSHA, the laboratory environment does expose you to some toxic chemicals. It is very important that you take the proper precautions to protect yourself and others. You are required to wear the provided protective eyewear and gloves whenever appropriate (such as during dissections). You are also required to comply with all safety regulations as outlined in Laboratory Safety Regulations (in the lab manual) and discussed in lab. Students who fail to comply will be dropped, withdrawn, or given an F, and may face disciplinary action, according to the instructor’s discretion and the nature of the offense(s).

Exam conduct: Students are expected to arrive on time for exams. Late students are not permitted to disturb other students. Late students are not permitted to ask other students for scantrons or pencils, even if a previous arrangement has been made, because this disrupts the entire class. During exams, students are not allowed to wear brimmed hats, hoods, sunglasses or anything that obscures my view of students' eyes. Students are not allowed to look at other students' exams. Any student glancing at another student's exam will be viewed as cheating (see below). Students are expected to use the restroom before an exam. If a student must leave the room during an exam for any reason, the exam must be submitted and the student is not permitted to re-enter the classroom. Students are not allowed to look at pagers, cell phones or other electronic devices during an exam. If a phone or pager makes noise during an exam, the offending student must be able to turn it off without having it visible and may receive a grade penalty for the disturbance.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Let me be clear about this: **anyone caught cheating, in any form, will receive an F in the class and will face disciplinary action.** Although lab exercises are designed to allow collaborative work, all assignments, quizzes and exams are to be done independently. Copying another student's work is cheating. Copying material from any source, including our textbook, without proper citation is plagiarism, which is a form of cheating (and is also illegal if the material is copyrighted). Proper citation for cutting and pasting from a source is quotation marks! A reference in your bibliography does not constitute adequate credit for word-for-word copying. **This is very important: for this class, there is no circumstance in which word-for-word copying is permitted.** Exams and quizzes are to be completed without use of any book or notes. Having notes, in any form, visible during an exam (whether used by the student or not) will be considered cheating. Any writing on the hands (or elsewhere) of a student during an exam will be considered cheating regardless of the content of the writing. Having any electronic device visible, including dictionaries, cell phones, pagers and calculators, is considered cheating. Any communication (gestures, notes, talking, etc.) between students during an exam will be considered cheating. Looking at another student's exam during an exam will be considered cheating. Discussing an exam with students who have not yet taken the exam (for example, students from one lab section discussing a lab exam with students in another lab section who have not yet taken the exam) is cheating. Using exams from previous quarters is also considered cheating because it gives an advantage other students do not have. All of the above behaviors, and any other creative means students may devise to obtain an unfair advantage, will result in an F in the class and disciplinary action.

You are also required to comply with all rules and regulations as outlined in the *Biological, Health and Environmental Sciences Student Handbook* as well as those of De Anza College. The BHES Division Student Handbook is available online.

All regulations in the Student Handbook apply in this course and students will be held accountable for this information. In addition to outlining expectations of classroom behavior, his handbook also contains many helpful resources for students as well as ideas to help science students succeed.