

COURSE INFORMATION

LECTURES - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:45 AM, L-9 Clapp Hall.

OFFICE HOURS -- Mondays, noon - 1:00 PM, and Thursdays, 2:30 - 4:30 PM, 148 Crawford Hall. Also Bio Help Desk hours, Commons Room, Cathedral of Learning, Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00 - 3:00 PM (see help desk schedule).

TEXT – *Biology*, 6th edition (2002), by N. A. Campbell and J. B. Reece (available at the University Book Center).

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides an introduction to the classical genetics, molecular genetics, reproduction, development, evolution, and ecology of organisms. The course emphasizes experimental and comparative methods and the data that underlie our knowledge about organisms. Throughout, the course takes advantage of the concept of evolution as the central, unifying theme in biology. In addition, the course is structured to illustrate how the topics we will cover are intimately related to each other and to other areas of biology.

COURSE WEB SITE

All students enrolled in the class have access to the course web site at the following address: <http://courseweb.pitt.edu>. Important course documents, including lecture outlines and recitation questions, are located on this site.

RECITATIONS

Each student in the course is enrolled in a once-a-week recitation section. This section is designed to give you the chance to interact with your instructor in a more personal setting, to review the lecture material in detail, and to practice working through problems like those on the course examinations. Attendance and participation in the recitations are important components of the course.

EXAMINATIONS

There will be three 50-minute midterm examinations and a 1-hour, 50-minute comprehensive final examination, each worth 50 points. The exam dates are given on the course schedule. Please make sure to bring your student identification (ID) card to each exam; it will be checked when you submit your exam.

Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, distributed in the following manner: 10 questions on terms and definitions; 10 questions on critical distinctions and comparisons; 10 questions on diagrams, figures, and interpretation of data; 10 questions on concepts and abstractions; and 10 questions in word-problem format. The questions will be based on the material presented in the lectures; material from the text should be used for clarification and reinforcement of the lectures.

The only valid reasons for missing an exam are under exceptional circumstances of illness, severe personal trauma, or (rarely) University business. If you have such an excuse, please bring a signed note from a doctor (illness), parent or other family member (personal trauma), or a University official (University business), and a letter from you requesting an excused absence and explaining the reason for missing the exam. If you miss an exam and have a valid excuse, your final grade will be based on your remaining exams. If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a score of "0" for that exam. There are no make-up midterm examinations. If you miss more than one exam, regardless of the

reasons, you must meet with the instructor to consider dropping the course.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Please remember, before each lecture starts, to turn off cellular phones and pagers, or to set them on "vibrate" mode. Communication by cellular phones or pagers during the lectures is not permitted.

GRADING

Your letter grade will be based on the percentage of points you earn on your three midterm exams and the final examination. For each exam, the average percentage for the class as a whole will be calculated, and the difference between the class average and 75% will be added (if class average is below 75%) or subtracted (if class average is above 75%) from each student's individual percentage. At the end of the course, the adjusted percentages for the four exams will be averaged to yield a end-of-course percentage for each student. The following scale will be used to convert that percentage into a letter grade:

A+ 97.5% and up	A 92.5% - 97.4%	A- 90.0% - 92.4%
B+ 87.5% - 89.9%	B 82.5% - 87.4%	B- 80.0% - 82.4%
C+ 77.5% - 79.9%	C 72.5% - 77.4%	C- 70.0% - 72.4%
D+ 67.5% - 69.9%	D 62.5% - 67.4%	D- 60.0% - 62.4%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's "Academic Integrity Policy Guidelines: Student Obligations". Any student suspected of violating these obligations for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the Instructor level, as outlined in the Academic Integrity Policy Guidelines. These guidelines may be obtained on-line at:

<http://pitt.edu/~graduate/ai1.html>.