

Course Syllabus B BISC 104 B Spring 2008
Inquiry Into Life B The Environment
Section 04, MWF 9-9:50 am, Turner 205

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Nature of Course Content: BISC 104 is a survey course intended for non-biology majors, emphasizing the relationships of humans to the environment, including origin and diversification of life, behavior, ecology, role of plants, and environmental concerns. Credit for this course applies to the science requirement of the core curricula.

PREREQUISITE is BISC102. Associated laboratory is BISC 105. This course will not count for credit if BISC 162 is counted.

Course Materials

Textbook (required):

Essential Biology with Physiology. 2007. Campbell, N.A., Reece, J.B., and Simon. E.J. Benjamin Cummings, Inc. (1st edition ISBN: 0-8053-7476-0; 2nd edition ISBN: 0-8053-6841-8; either edition is OK)

BlackBoard: All students at the University of Mississippi have a WebID (and associated password) that is used to access online resources (e.g., registering for classes, etc.) and the university's course management system BlackBoard <http://blackboard.olemiss.edu/>. You are already enrolled as a BlackBoard user for this course (and perhaps several other courses as well). I will be posting announcements, web links, and other information on BlackBoard.

Issues Approach: Students should be aware that we have chosen to cover some controversial issues in this course. We have selected a textbook that presents a balanced discussion of various controversies. We believe that being exposed to contrasting points of view, considering the merits of other points of view, and respecting people with other views is an essential part of being an educated person, and an essential part of being a member of the University community.

Goals of Course: For students to understand the dynamics of their interactions with the environment as well as their impact on the environment. For students to be able to critically evaluate media reports on environmental topics.

Grading and Exams:

The grade scale is as follows: A = 90-100% of total points (500) possible, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D=60-69%, and F = 0-59%.

Graded Material	Percentage Value
4 lecture exams	75 %
Online chapter pretests	25 %

Exams will be based on lecture material supported by assigned readings from the texts. On some occasions, lecture material will come from sources other than the text. None of the exams may be dropped. A scantron form (882-E) and number 2 lead pencil are required for all exams. Quizzes will be administered online through BlackBoard. In-class assignments may consist of short essays, interactive activities, etc. They will be unannounced and worth 5 points each.

* The four lecture exams (including the exam administered during finals week) are unit-based and cover only the lecture material preceding the exam. All students have the option of taking a cumulative final exam online (through BlackBoard) the week before finals. The score on this exam may be used to replace the lowest regular exam score.

Exam Make-up Policy: All students will be allotted one “grace” make-up for an exam, quiz, or in-class assignment where I will not ask any questions about the student’s absence. After the “grace” make-up has been used the following rules apply:

- * Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor under the following circumstances: major illness with physician documentation, family emergency with documentation and contact person, or a University-sponsored function with written documentation from the sponsoring department. Advance notification for a missed exam is essential except under extreme circumstances, in which case the instructor **MUST** be notified by 5pm the day of the exam.
- * During the examination period, exams will **NOT** be passed out to student(s) **UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES** after 20 minutes have elapsed from the start of the exam.
- * The format of makeup exams or quizzes will be at the discretion of the instructor.
- * All makeup work must be completed within 1 week of the original date. If the work is not completed within this time frame, the score is automatically recorded as 0.

Attendance Policy: I expect that students arrive on time and stay for the entire lecture. Please be attentive to the lecture and respectful of the instructor, other students and University property at all times. Students are responsible for all material and announcements made in class.

Student conduct: (1) Academic dishonesty of any kind will **NOT** be tolerated. If caught cheating, you will be reported to the university's Academic Discipline Committee for disciplinary actions. (2) ***All electronic devices (including, but not limited to, laptop computers; cell phones; iPods; blackberries; etc.) must be turned off during class. There will be no exceptions, and violators will be asked to leave.*** (3) Do not call me at home. My email and voicemail keep date and time records of any messages.

Inclement Weather: In the event that the University cancels classes due to inclement weather, we will adjust the schedule by shifting our topic or event (e.g., exam) to the next class period.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs.

Order of Subjects and Exams:

Subject:	Readings:
Introduction	Chapter 1
Evolution and Diversity: How Populations Evolve	Chapter 13
Evolution and Diversity: How Biological Diversity Evolves	Chapter 14
Exam #1, Monday, 2/11/08	
Evolution and Diversity: The Evolution of Microbial Life	Chapter 15
Evolution and Diversity: Plants, Fungi, and the Move onto Land	Chapter 16
Evolution and Diversity: The Evolution of Animals	Chapter 17
Exam #2, Friday 3/7/08	
Ecology: The Ecology of Organisms and Populations	Chapter 18
Ecology: Communities and Ecosystems	Chapter 19
Ecology: Human Impact on the Environment	Chapter 20
Human Impact: Safety and Ethical Issues in DNA Technology	Chapter 12 (Pages 236–238)
Exam #3, Wednesday, 4/9/07	
Plant Structure and Function: The Life of a Flowering Plant	Chapter 28
Plant Structure and Function: Photosynthesis	Chapter 7
Plant Structure and Function: The Working Plant	Chapter 29
Exam #4 (during finals week), Friday 5/9/08, noon	