



what is in the text or what you have learned elsewhere, **please ask about** it in lecture or after class and we will discuss the differences.

My goal as a lecturer is to guide and assist you in learning about this material. I can't do that if you aren't in class or if you don't tell me what you don't understand.

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from another student, not from me. I DO NOT hand out lecture notes, nor do I post them to the web. Do you realize that missing a class will likely drop your grade in the course by almost a grade? Do you realize that attendance is the best predictor of success in a course?

Deadlines are strictly adhered to. It is not fair to students that complete work on time for other students to have extra time to do the same work. Plan ahead and schedule your time. Most importantly, don't leave things to the last minute; you don't need that kind of stress!

### Lab?

This course does **not** have a lab. However, students may elect to enroll in Bio 15L to compliment this course.

### Textbook:

Audesirk, T., G. Audesirk & B.E. Byers. (2008) Biology: Life on Earth. Eighth Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. ISBN 0-13-238061-7 **REQUIRED**

### Exams:

There will be two midterms and a final for the course. Midterms are held during the lecture period and will be a mixture of fill-in the blank, short-answer and essay questions. I do not believe in multiple choice questions and do not use them.

Exams will be comprehensive, i.e., anything in the whole course up to that point in time is fair game. My previous students comment on two aspects of my exams: I am a hard grader and I am a fair grader. You can expect long exams that test your knowledge, but they will be exams without tricks. My goal is to have you tell me what you know and understand. You will have to work very quickly.

### Grading:

**This course is worth 3 units.**

The number of points/questions on a particular exam is irrelevant to the exam's worth -- it is merely a tool for grading. What matters are the following percentages.

Your lecture grade will be calculated according to the following scheme:

Midterm I	20
Midterm II	30
Final Exam	35
Term paper	10
Quizzes	5
	----
	100%

Your letter grade will be calculated according to the following table:

A = 93 to 100%	C+ = 77 to 79%
A- = 90 to 92%	C = 73 to 76%
B+ = 87 to 89%	C- = 70 to 72%
B = 84 to 86%	D+ = 67 to 69%
B- = 80 to 83%	D = 60 to 66%
	F = 0 to 59%

I generally do not adjust or curve or scale grades; If you want an "A", work for it and make it happen!

I do not hesitate to correct any errors I make in grading (e.g., incorrect addition or if I missed grading an answer), but keep in mind that I am looking for clear, succinct answers, not answers that sort-of-show-you-possibly-might-know-what-you-mean. If you feel that your answer deserves a better grade, please return it to me promptly.

I do not use "extra credit" assignments.

### **Honor Code:**

Please don't cheat. Besides the fact that we will be forced to take strong measures if we catch you -- including recommending your dismissal from the class and from the university -- I will be profoundly disappointed in you.

Don't even think about doing any of the following:

- a. giving or receiving information from another student during an examination
- b. using unauthorized sources for answers during an exam such as writing answers on hats, clothing or limbs
- c. illegally obtaining the questions before an exam
- d. altering the answers on an already-graded exam
- e. any and all forms of plagiarism
- f. destruction and/or confiscation of school and/or personal property

### **Feedback:**

I appreciate your feedback on this course. It is most useful to tell me things while the course is in progress, rather than waiting until the end of the course. If there is something that needs changing, LET ME KNOW and I will see what I can do about it. This course is a collaboration between you and me. I really enjoy teaching this class and I want you to have a great time as well.

**Bio 9: Tentative List of Lecture Topics. This list is subject to change.**

Week	Topic	Chapter
1 (Jan 26,28,30)	Biodiversity: what is it and why does it matter?	
2 (Feb 2,4,6)	The Scientific Approach to understanding the world	1
3 (Feb 9,11,13)	Endangered Species: the riddle of the frogs and scientific thinking, i.e., how scientists sort through competing hypotheses	
4 (Feb 16,18,20)	The Tree of Life: the ancestral relationships of organisms and how we determine these relationships	17,18
5 (Feb 23,25,27)	Midterm 1; Evidence of Evolution: there is lots of evidence at many levels! <b>February 27: Term paper topic due</b>	14
6 (Mar 2,4,6)	Evolution by Natural Selection: the five step argument for evolution by natural selection -- the process is key	15
7 (Mar 9,11,13)	Directions of Selection: directional (moths), stabilizing (human babies), and disruptive (sneaky salmon)	15
8 (Mar 16,18,20)	Structure and Function: convergent evolution, e.g., wings for flight, often illustrate the link between structure and function	23, 24
9 (Mar 23,25,27)	Ecosystems Big and Small: what defines ecosystems and how do they work; they vary in scale from rainforests to the human body	29
Spring Break	no class	
10 (Apr 6,8,10)	Midterm 2; Ecosystems and Biodiversity	29
11 (Apr 13,15,17)	Photosynthesis: this topic highlights integration from cellular processes to ecosystem function	7
12 (Apr 20,22,24)	Competition and Predation: why is star-thistle everywhere?; predators are running for their dinner while prey are running for their life <b>April 20: Term paper due</b>	27
13 (Apr 27,29, May 1)	Trophic cascades: effects at one level of an ecosystem can strongly affect another (e.g., West Coast killer whales, sea otters, sea urchins and kelp)	27,28
14 (May 4,6,8)	Selfish Genes: why some animals help and some do not (lions and elephant seals)	25
15 (May 11,13,15)	Sexual Selection: how animals choose their mates and why peacocks have beautiful tails	25
16	FINAL EXAM: Wed May 20 at 10:15-12:15pm	