

Biology 101, Course Description and Policies

September 8, 2008

Mondays, 9:00 to 2:45

URI Feinstein Providence Campus, Room 420

<http://public.markert.fastmail.fm/BIO.html>

Staff

Instructor: Jeffrey Markert (Jeffrey_Markert@mail.uri.edu)

Teaching Assistant: Kelly Pennoyer (kellyp20@mail.uri.edu)

Course Description

This is an introductory survey type course designed to provide a foundation for future studies in biology. Topics covered will include basic cell biology, metabolism, genetics, a survey of the animal kingdom and an introduction to developmental biology.

The class contains both a lecture and laboratory component. In general, we will have lectures in the morning and labs after lunch. However this format may change now and then to accommodate exams and other special circumstances.

Office Hours

Readily available by appointment

Text Book

Biology 8th edition. Solomon, Berg and Martin. Available from the CCE and Kingston bookstores.

Grading Policy

Four Exams (three periodic, one cumulative final)	100 points each - 400 points total
In class and take home quizzes	20 points each - 100 points total
Laboratory Exercises	150 points total

Course Total = 650 points

The grading system is based on individual performance. At the end of the semester, grades will be assigned based on the following scale: 90% guarantees an A, 80% guarantees a B, 70% a C, and 60% a D. Pluses and minuses will be assigned within each category. I reserve the right to curve *if necessary*, but I cannot guarantee that I will do so. *If* a curve is used, it will involve widening the ranges for some or all grade categories. The final grading scale for this course will not be determined until *after* the final exam. Until then, use the scale above to estimate your grade. Note: there will be no extra-credit assignments.

There is one circumstance under which a student will be awarded a higher grade than what it would be indicated by his/her final percentage. If a student has a "borderline" grade, but has shown a consistent increase in performance, I reserve the right to increase that student's grade.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at any particular session is not mandatory. However given that each Monday meeting is equivalent to three full lectures and a lab, missing a day will likely cause you to fall far behind. Part of your grade will involve unscheduled quizzes and exercises. These cannot be made up unless a University approved excuse is provided. Attendance at the four scheduled Exams is mandatory. If an emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam, please contact me as soon as it is practical so that we can make appropriate arrangements. Do not wait a full week until we meet again as it is my goal to return graded exams within a week.

Academic Integrity

For the purposes of this course, the definition of ‘cheating’ may include copying work from another student or relying on written or electronic sources of information during an exam or quiz (unless such a quiz is designated as ‘open notes’, ‘open book’ etc.) Cheating of any sort is not tolerated by the University of Rhode Island, and will result in serious consequences. Please review the appropriate sections of the URI manual for further details.

Class cancellation, weather and other emergencies

Weather emergencies may make it necessary to cancel class. If this happens, I will notify you by email as early as I can. If the weather looks iffy, it is wise to check your email and the University web pages before you drive into Providence. You are also encouraged to use eCampus to sign up for Emergency Alert messages via either text message or email.