

COURSE SYLLABUS
Honors Introductory Biology I
BISC207H - Hodson - Fall 2011

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course registration is for BISC207, Section 082. It is 4 credits (lecture and laboratory are combined). Pre- or co-requisite is a first-semester course in General Chemistry, CHEM101, 103 or 111 (or AP credit). CHEM103 has a requirement of adequate math preparation. This is satisfied with test placement in a calculus course or concurrent registration in MATH117.

This first semester of a two-semester foundation course in general biology focuses on the major concepts, facts, and vocabulary involving molecules (basic biochemistry), cell structure and function including membrane transport, energy transformation, classical genetics, and gene function at the molecular level.

If you scored a 4 or 5 on the biology AP test, you may exempt the second semester course, BISC208. However all biology majors are encouraged to take the course and forego the credits especially to obtain additional laboratory experience. Professional schools (health sciences) do not accept AP credits for required undergraduate courses. For the biology major this restriction is not a problem because several additional courses and a lab are taken. Non-majors must take BISC208 if exempt from higher level biology courses with lab to fulfill the professional school entrance requirements.

Communication outside of class is preferred as e-mail; the telephone should be used only for urgent situations. Please get in the habit of checking your e-mail inbox daily. You also may send anonymous comments to me at any time via the Suggestion Box link on the course homepage.

Lecture and laboratory schedules are available from the course web site (see below). They will be updated regularly and therefore should be consulted frequently.

The Sakai server is a convenient portal to some course material because it is secure and accessible from both on- and off-campus. Examples of materials are data collected in the laboratory, supplemental lecture information, the place where questions for discussion and other assignments from you should be submitted. This latter use is described below and demonstrated in class.

To access the server, do the following:

- Run a Web browser. UD is recommending Firefox at this time.
- Enter: “sakai.udel.edu” or www.udel.edu/sakai.
- Enter your user name and password.
- Choose the appropriate course from the menu of Sakai “courses” in which you have been automatically enrolled.
- Don’t forget to log out when you are finished.

Office: 225 McKinly Laboratory

Office Hours: Drop-in (no appointment needed) Monday morning and afternoon, Wednesday morning, Friday morning.

Telephone: 302.831.8440

E-Mail: hodson@udel.edu

Course web site (direct connect): URL = <http://www.udel.edu/hodson/207H/>

LECTURE

Regular attendance is expected. I don't lecture in the classical sense. For each class meeting you are responsible for completing the assigned reading and submitting electronically (via Sakai server) a question you will pose to your colleagues for them to answer or for you to answer if they are stumped. I expand on these answers and fill in gaps as needed, and from time to time add new material not in the text book. We also will work on developing your critical thinking skills.

LABORATORY

Regular attendance is required to pass the course. You must have documentation for any excused absence. Makeups are generally not possible. If you miss more than three meetings, whether excused or not, we generally consider the laboratory experience has not been satisfied and must be repeated. A more explicit statement of policies is given in the lab manual.

COURSE REPEAT

A student who has taken BISC207 and wishes to retake the course for a higher grade may (at the discretion of the new instructor) be exempt from the laboratory component only if the lab score was at least 80% and if agreeing to the following conditions: (a) the retake must be within one calendar year after the first experience (e.g. by fall 2012 for course taken fall 2011); (b) the laboratory score cannot be carried forward. The retake grade for 4 credits will be based only on lecture.

EVALUATION

The course grade is based on 75% from lecture and 25% from lab (see below). Grade assignments based on initial total score out of 100% may be revised upward if it is academically justified (i.e. not guaranteed). This will be determined only at the end of the semester. Any grade revision applied would be determined after adjusting total scores of all students by a custom formula I devise; no special considerations will be given.

You will have quizzes almost every week on Tuesday at the beginning of class. They will be based on 1-2 chapters of topics. There is no final lecture examination. All quizzes are required except if I am contacted in advance (if possible) and if the excuse is documented in writing and fits one of the following categories: (1) medical, (2) family emergency, (3) university-sanctioned event (e.g. sports), (4) religious holiday, or (5) other hardship (determined on case-by-case basis). Delayed or early test taking is sometimes possible (case-by-case basis) if it occurs before graded tests are handed back. No make-up tests are available.

In addition you are to submit a question for discussion almost every week, and there are some other assignments. Discussion questions receive full credit if they are more than trivial (e.g. not just seeking a term's definition), can be answered from the assigned reading, and are relevant to the current topic (assigned reading).

COURSE EVALUATION	Pts
Pre-Test http://tinyurl.com/3szcsjh)	0.25
Quizzes	64.5
Discussion Questions and Other Assignments	10
Post-Test	0.25
Lab	25
Total	100

LAB EVALUATION (draft)	Pts
Quizzes (5)	10
Work Plans (3)	6
Work Sheets (2)	4
Short Reports (6)	24
Long Reports (2)	16
Final Lab Exam	40
Total (converted to 25% of course)	100

COURSE GRADING SCHEME			
	Minus		Plus
A	90-91	92-100	
B	80-82	83-86	87-89
C	70-72	73-76	77-79
D	60-62	63-66	67-69
F	0-59		

THINGS YOU PROVIDE

- Textbook
- Laboratory Manual (custom) - Nauen & Campbell, Fall 2011 (available for purchase in area bookstores)
- Eye protection – must have neck strap and be worn around the neck when not protecting the eyes
- Data acquisition, analysis, and communication will use computers extensively, and laboratory reports must be created with word processor software. It is strongly recommended that you own or have easy access to a computer with Microsoft Office (*Word, Excel, Powerpoint*), and Adobe *Acrobat Reader* installed. A free alternative to Microsoft Office is Open Office. *Acrobat Reader* is available free from the Adobe website (www.adobe.com). We transfer data files over the campus network via UD mail or the Sakai server. Removable media such as flash drives pose a malware contamination risk and are usually not allowed for this purpose.