

physiology, evolution, ecology, behavior  
**BIOLOGY 1620**  
SPRING 2017 GILBERTSON & MESSINA

**The four most important things to know about BIOL 1620**

1. Examinations are made from the notes and lecture material and you will have a two-day window to take them at the USU Testing Center. You may not take it outside of this time period. Because you may drop an exam, there are no make-up or alternate accommodations possible for exams. See schedule for dates.
2. Mastering Biology assignments are due on THURSDAYS at 11:59 PM.
3. iClicker use is for *bonus points* only. The ONLY way to get these points is to be IN class with a functional iClicker.
4. Grades are based upon grading standards (*see below*) set up prior to the course. This will NEVER change and we will NEVER find points for you at the end of the semester and we never round any scores. Don't ask.

*Now, the fine print:*

**LECTURES:** MWF 930-1020 (Sec 1) or MWF 1030-1120 (Sec 2) in ESLC 130

**INSTRUCTORS:** Dr. Tim Gilbertson (BTEC 303; tim.gilbertson@usu.edu); Dr. Frank Messina (BNR211; frank.messina@usu.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** 1-3 PM on WED for the current instructor

**SIs & UTF:** See Canvas site for information and times.

**TEXT:** *Campbell Biology*, by Reece *et al.* Custom 10th Ed. for USU, Benjamin Cummings. You may purchase the custom edition in the USU Bookstore. This includes a hard copy (loose-leaf) and electronic version of the text, as well as access to *Mastering Biology*, a required online resource that you will use for assignments that comprise 9.1% of your score. An e-text and Mastering Biology only version is also available. If you purchased access to *Mastering Biology* from BIOL 1610 in Fall 2016, it is still valid.

**CANVAS SITE:** The comprehensive website for this course can be found on Canvas (<https://canvas.usu.edu/>). Lecture notes, supplementary material and lecture recordings are available here to help enhance your learning experience. Links to other resources including Mastering Biology and the Lab portion of the course may be found here. We strongly encourage you to have PDF copies of the power point slides with you during each class, and to use the lecture recordings to supplement NOT replace your attendance at lecture.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Biology 1620 is the second course in a two-semester sequence that is designed to cover topics essential for advanced study in biology and related fields. Neither semester is designed to stand alone. We will cover evolution, ecology, and animal behavior and physiology. Upon successful completion of this course you will have:

- (1) Gained a background in physiology, behavior, ecology and evolutionary biology.
- (2) Gained experience in biological laboratory investigations.
- (3) Developed problem-solving skills in the biological sciences.
- (4) Developed a sound base in general biology that is essential for more advanced study.

**iCLICKERS:** In order to facilitate your participation and attendance in this course, we will use an OPTIONAL in-class response system (iClickers) at various times throughout the semester. You may earn an additional 4.4 points (2% of the 220 possible) throughout the semester based upon the level of your participation, not the correct answer. You must be in class with a functional iClicker to receive iClicker points for that day; should you miss a class or your iClicker is not working, you will not earn any points for that day (even if the absence is EXCUSED). Please note that iClickers may not be used in every lecture period. iClicker use is for extra credit and therefore optional – we cannot require you to purchase one, though we strongly recommend it. *Use of another student's iClicker or allowing someone to use your iClicker is a violation of the University's Honor Code; it will result in loss of extra credit points and will be reported to the Vice-President for Student Services.*

**GRADING:** Grading is based upon 3 one-hour exams, a comprehensive final exam, laboratory and 8 online assignments. No individual extra credit for low grades will be available. However, you can get up to 2% (6 points) added to your score for classroom participation assessed using an electronic polling system (*iClickers*; see below). Letter grades are not assigned to individual exams or assignments. Your final letter grade will be determined by your total point accumulation during the semester according to the following scale:

GRADING	
*Best 3 of 4 exams (40 each)	<b>120</b>
Final Exam	<b>80</b>
Mastering Bio Assignments	<b>20</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>220</b>
<i>*There are 4 one-hour exams. You will be allowed to drop (or miss) one exam. iClicker use is for a maximum bonus of 2% (4.4 points).</i>	

GRADE	Minimum pts (%)
A	205 (93.2%)
A-	198 (90%)
B+	189 (85.9%)
B	183 (83.2%)
B-	176 (80%)
C+	167 (75.9%)
C	161 (73.2%)
C-	154 (70%)
D+	145 (65.9%)
D	132 (60%)
F	0 (<60%)

**Please Note:** Your grade will be based solely on the **integer value** in the table shown. We cannot “find” points for you at the end of the semester simply because your score is near the next grade level. Doing so would be unethical and unfair to the other students in the class, many of whom will also be a point away from the next grade level. If we were to change a grade *arbitrarily* simply to meet graduation or scholarship requirements, then we would be guilty of fraudulent reporting. Your grade will be based solely on your performance on the exams, assignments and in lab. **WE DO NOT ROUND ANY GRADES UP or DOWN at the end of the semester. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**EXAMS:** There are four hour-long examinations and one two-hour final examination in BIOL 1620. The 1-hour exams and the final exam will be administered online through Canvas in the new USU Testing Center. All exams will be multiple choice, and the content of exams will be from material covered during lecture, including iClicker questions that have been presented and discussed in class, and from Mastering Biology questions that you have already answered as part of weekly Mastering Biology assignments. Material to be covered in each exam will be discussed in class prior to the exam. **Portable electronic devices (iPods, iPads, laptops, cell phones, etc.) earphones, or headphones may not be used during examinations. There will be no makeup exams.**

There will be four 1-hour exams spaced evenly throughout the semester (see Schedule). We will drop your lowest exam score and calculate your course score based on the remaining 3 hourly exam scores.

Exams will be given in the Testing Center over a 2-day period; you will be able to take the exam anytime during the 2-day period. Instructions on how to sign up to schedule your exam will be given in class. If you are unable to take the exam during the scheduled 2-day period for a valid reason (university-related event, military service, job-related travel, etc.) you should notify one of us as soon as possible and we will arrange an alternate time. Be prepared to document your event. If you miss an exam for any other reason, we will drop that score from your grade as your lowest score (see above). If you must miss an exam because of an emergency (e.g., sudden and incapacitating illness, death in the family), you must notify us as soon as possible and preferably before the exam period. Be prepared to prove your emergency. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in a zero for that exam. You can only drop one hourly exam score. Exam periods are marked on the course schedule.

For exams taken in the testing center, your exam score will be reported to you in Canvas as soon as you finish the exam. You will be able to see your exam with the correct answers marked soon after the testing period for that exam expires.

You have one week from the time scores are posted to ask questions about the exam. If you think there has been a mistake in assigning points on an exam, assignment or homework, please bring it to the attention of the appropriate instructor within one week of the time that answers for that exam or assignment are issued.

**Final Exam:** The final exam is comprehensive and will be two hours in length. It will be administered in the testing center over a 3-day period. Please **DO NOT SCHEDULE EARLY TRAVEL PLANS** because you will not be released from taking the final during the scheduled time.

## **MASTERING BIOLOGY:**

There will be 8 Mastering Biology assignments throughout the semester that require you to complete exercises and activities and answer a number of multiple choice questions. You may access this through the MyLab/Mastering tab in Canvas. Assignments are due at midnight on those Thursdays as indicated on the Schedule page. 1% per hour is deducted from your score for questions answered after midnight on Thursday; questions answered before midnight are not penalized. Each Mastering Biology assignment is designed to take about 1 hour, but there is no time limit and you don't have to complete the entire assignment in one session. There is a tutorial session, Introduction to MasteringBiology, which is optional and can be completed at any time, and a practice assignment that is due on Thursday, January 19th. The practice assignment will not count for credit, but will allow you to become familiar with the Mastering Biology software and provide assurance that your later scores will be recorded correctly. See website for more information on accessing Mastering Biology

Your score in Mastering Biology counts for 20 points (9.1%) of your course score. Mastering Biology is a powerful learning tool if used wisely. Working in groups fine, as long as everyone in the group participates in answering each question. You will be given two chances to answer each question correctly. An incorrect first answer will not count against your score. It shouldn't be too difficult to do well and learn from the experience.

There are many ways to use Mastering Biology ineffectively. Three popular abuses are blindly copying answers from friends, guessing an answer, or looking up the answers online. All these approaches may give you nearly the full 20 Mastering Biology points, but you won't learn anything and you won't be able to correctly answer the Mastering Biology questions that will be part of every exam. Trust us - we often see Mastering Biology questions with a 90% or higher correct response rate in assignments, with the same questions on exams giving a correct response rate of less than 30%. Please use Mastering Biology to master biology, not simply to obtain 20 points that you'll more than lose on exams because you don't know the material.

*Now, the really fine print: Academic Affairs*

### **Grievance Process (Student Code)**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking - which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code:

<http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/pdf/StudentCode.pdf> (Article VII. Grievances).

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.

### **ADA compliance**

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."