

BIOL 1620

Spring 2020

Drs. Bobeck and Messina

The four most important things to know about BIOL 1620

1. Exams are made from lecture material and you will have a two-day window to take them at the Testing Center. You may not take an exam outside of this time period. **Because you may drop an exam, there are no make-up exams or alternative accommodations.** See the schedule for dates.
2. The seven Mastering Biology assignments are due on THURSDAYS at 5:59 PM MST.
3. iClicker use is for *bonus points* only. You must be IN class with a functional iClicker.
4. Grades are based on grading standards (below) set up prior to the course. These will NEVER change and we will NEVER “find” points for you at the end of the semester. Don’t ask.

LECTURES: MWF 930-1020 (Section 001) or MWF 1030-1120 (Section 002) in ESLC 130

INSTRUCTORS: Erin Bobeck (BTEC 303; CANVAS inbox); Frank Messina (LSB 324; frank.messina@usu.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: 1-3 PM on Wednesday, but only for the current instructor

SIs: See the Canvas website for information and times.

TEXT: *Campbell Biology*, by Reece *et al.* Custom 11th 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. An e-text and Mastering Biology only version is also available. If you purchased access to *Mastering Biology* for BIOL 1610 in Fall 2019, it is still valid.

CANVAS SITE: The comprehensive website for this course can be found on Canvas. Lecture notes, supplementary material and lecture recordings are available there to help enhance your learning experience. Links to other resources, including Kaltura lecture recordings (in the [Media Gallery](#)) and Mastering Biology may be found there. We encourage you to have 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 designed to cover topics 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 completion of this course you will have: 1) gained a background in physiology, behavior, ecology and evolutionary biology, 2) developed problem-solving skills in the biological sciences, and 3) developed a sound base in general biology for more advanced study.

iCLICKERS: To facilitate participation and attendance, we will use an OPTIONAL in-class response system (iClickers) throughout the semester. You may earn a maximum 3.2 points (= 2% of the 160 points possible) of **extra** credit based upon your level of participation, not the correct answer. You **must** be in class with a functioning iClicker to receive iClicker points for that day. Should you miss a class, or your iClicker is not working, you will not earn points for that day, *even if the absence is excused*. Note that missing a single lecture because of a non-functioning device amounts to losing **only** about 0.08 points, or 0.05% of your grade. iClickers may not be used in every lecture period. 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 as an Academic Integrity Violation to the office of the Vice-President for Student Services.

GRADING: Grading is based upon the best three midterm scores, a comprehensive final exam, and seven online assignments. You can get a maximum of 2% added to your score from iClicker participation. Your letter grade will be determined by your total point accumulation during the semester according to the following scale:

GRADING		
Best 3 of 4 midterms (30 pts each)	90	56.25%
Final exam	60	37.5%
7 Mastering Biology assignments	10	6.25%
Total	160	
iClicker extra credit (maximum of 2%)		

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
>92.5%	89.5%	86.5%	82.5%	79.5%	76.5%	72.5%	69.5%	66.5%	59.5%	<59.5%

Please Note: Your grade will be based solely on the **percentages** in the table. 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 and assignments. WE DO NOT ROUND ANY GRADES UP or DOWN at the end of the semester. NO EXCEPTIONS!

EXAMS: There are four 45-minute midterms and one 90-minute final exam. The midterms and the final exam will be administered online through Canvas in the USU Testing Center (<https://testing.usu.edu/>). All exams will be multiple-choice or true/false, and the content of exams will be from material covered during lecture, possibly including iClicker questions and Mastering Biology questions. Portable electronic devices, earphones, or headphones may not be used. There will be no makeup exams. We will drop your lowest midterm score and calculate your course score based on the remaining three midterm scores.

Exams will be given in the Testing Center over a two-day period; you will be able to take the exam anytime the Testing Center is open 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 period for a **University-approved reason** (university-related event, military service, unavoidable job-related travel, etc.) you should notify one of us as soon as possible and we may arrange an alternate time. Be prepared to document your event. Be aware that early exam accommodations will need to be within 1-2 days BEFORE the scheduled exam (exams will not be ready earlier than that), **NEVER after**. If you miss an exam for any personal reason (e.g., a wedding), we will simply drop that score from your grade as your lowest score. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in a **zero** for that exam. You can drop only one midterm exam score.

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 and answers are posted to ask questions about the exam.

Final Exam: The final exam is comprehensive and 90 minutes. It will be available over a three-day period: **THURSDAY-SATURDAY, April 23-26**. Please DO NOT SCHEDULE EARLY TRAVEL PLANS because you will not be released from taking the final during the scheduled time. You **must reserve your time slot for the final exam early** because the Testing Center slots often fill up well before finals week.

MASTERING BIOLOGY:

There will be seven MB 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 5:59 PM (MST) on those Thursdays as indicated on the Schedule page. We will deduct 1% per hour from your score for questions answered after 5:59 PM on Thursday; questions answered before midnight are not penalized. Each Mastering Biology assignment is designed to take about 1 hour or less, 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 Mastering Biology, which is optional and can be completed at any time, and a practice assignment that is due on Thursday, January 16th. 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.

Mastering Biology counts for 10 points (6.25%) of your total score. It is a useful learning tool if used wisely. Working in groups is fine, as long as everyone in the group participates in answering questions. You will be given two chances to answer each question correctly. 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. These approaches may give you nearly the full 10 points, but you won't learn anything and won't be able to answer Mastering Biology questions that may be on an exam. Please use Mastering Biology to master biology, not simply to obtain points that you'll more than lose on exams if 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/student-services/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."