

BIOL 115 Survey of Biology Lab (Fall 2009)

Instructor : Dr. Jim Barron, office – Rm 132 Science, 657-2918
Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30; or By Appointment or Walk In ANYTIME
Email: jbarron@msubillings.edu

Textbook: *None (handouts are on web -see below)*

<http://www.msubillings.edu/sciencefaculty/Fall%202009%20handouts.htm>

SPECIAL RULES FOR LAB: No food or drink allowed in lab. Labs are designated “Biosafety II” spaces, which means that microorganisms (some potentially pathogenic) may be present in this space at some time. Additionally, many chemicals are used in lab that are mutagenic and potentially carcinogenic. You don’t want to ingest any of these things, and so eating and drinking are prohibited. It is also a good rule to wash your hands immediately after leaving lab each day.

Expected Outcomes and Assessment (i.e. objectives and grading): The objectives of this course are to familiarize you with basic laboratory skills and to use hands-on exercises to reinforce basic biological concepts. To assess your knowledge and understanding, you will be graded on nine lab quizzes (5 - 10 points each) and two lab exams (50 points each). Lab exams will consist of both a written and practical portion. Quizzes and written portion of the lab exams will consist of short answer questions (no multiple choice). The lab quizzes will assess how well you understand factual material presented in the previous lab, while the lab exams will assess your understanding of techniques as well as knowledge of concepts.

Lab Quizzes will be given at the BEGINNING of lab. Students arriving after I have finished handing out the quiz will NOT BE ALLOWED to take it. BE ON TIME.

Grades are guaranteed: 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D; below 60% =F
I **may** use minus (-) grades at my discretion if I feel it is warranted. In all cases, these would only help you. For example, a score of 69 should be a D, but I may give it a C-. A score of 70 will always be a solid C. I will not use plus (+) grades.

Extra Credit - Although there will be some ‘extra credit’ questions on each exam, I will not accept ANY ‘extra credit’ reports or other special projects for the purpose of improving grades. Please do not ask me if you can do a special project for extra credit to raise your grade. Instead, put that effort into studying for the exams in the first place.

Academic Misconduct: I WILL NOT TOLERATE CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM. A student caught cheating will receive a zero on the exam, potentially an F in the course, and a referral to the University Judiciaries.

Students with disabilities, whether psychological, physical or learning, who believe they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to meet with Disability Support Services located in the Academic Support Center. Students who are registered with DSS and need accommodations in this class should meet with me early in the semester.

Make-up Exams: Make-ups will be given with valid, written university excuses. Let me know before the exam if possible. **However, because of the difficulty and time involved in setting up lab exams, I prefer not to give makeup exams. NO MAKEUPS WILL BE GIVEN FOR MISSED LAB QUIZZES.**

LAB SCHEDULE FOR BIOL 115 (FALL 2009)

Date	Topic	Quiz #
	WEEK 1 NO LAB	
	WEEK 2	
Sept. 15	Measurement and Light Microscopy	
	WEEK 3	
Sept. 22	Scientific Method	Quiz 1
	WEEK 4	
Sept. 29	Cells: Structure and Function	Quiz 2
	WEEK 5	
Oct. 6	Cell membranes, osmosis and diffusion	Quiz 3
	WEEK 6	
Oct. 13	Photosynthesis, Respiration, Fermentation	Quiz 4
	WEEK 7	
Oct. 20	Lab Mid-Term Exam	
	WEEK 8	
Oct. 27	Mitosis and Meiosis	
	WEEK 9	
Nov. 3	Genetics / Blood Typing	Quiz 5
	WEEK 10	
Nov. 10	Molecular Biology	Quiz 6
	WEEK 11	
Nov. 17	Vertebrate histology and skeletal structure	Quiz 7
	WEEK 12	
Nov. 24	Evolution and Population Genetics	Quiz 8
	WEEK 13	
Dec. 1	Animal Diversity/Ecology	Quiz 9
	WEEK 14	
Dec. 8	Lab Final Exam	
	WEEK 15	
