

## **Bisc 104 - Inquiry Into Life – The Environment – Spring 2015 Section 02**

**Course meeting time and location: MWF 10 AM-10:50 AM; Shoemaker 323**

**Professor:** Evelyn F. Jackson, M.S.

**Office:** 515 Shoemaker Hall

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursday 11 AM-12:30 PM

**<Type BISC 104-02 in e-mail subject line>**

**Tel:** 915-1580

**Nature of Course Content:** BISC 104 is a survey course intended for non-biology majors emphasizing the relationships of humans to the environment, including origin and diversification of life, behavior, ecology, role of plants and environmental concerns. Credit for this course applies to the science requirement of the core curricula.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

- 1) To understand major review concepts in introductory biology as a background to principles presented in this course.
- 2) To learn about the mechanisms of evolution and speciation, and outline the historical context of the development of evolutionary thought.
- 3) To understand the diversity of life including animals, plants, protists and microorganisms.
- 4) To learn about ecological principles and how human activity impacts the environment.

### **Required Materials for Course:**

- 1) Biology: The Essentials with Connect Plus Access Card, 1st Edition. 2013. Hoefnagels. McGraw Hill. (ISBN 9780077682460)
- 2) Scantron forms (882-e) and a number 2 pencil for exam sessions.
- 3) Ole Miss Student ID Card
- 4) Turning Technologies ResponseCard NXT Clicker (ISBN 9781934931455)

**Grading: \*The plus minus grading scale will not be used in this course.**

Exam 1: 100 points

Exam 2: 100 points

Exam 3: 100 points

**(Drop the lowest out of the three above exam scores)**

In class quizzes: 50 points

Final Exam (Cumulative): 100 points

Total: 350 points possible (200 points from the highest two regular exams, plus 100 points from the final exam, and 50 total from quizzes)

Final Grade: A = 350-315; B = 314-280; C = 279-245; D = 244-210; F = 209 or less

### **Example of how final grade is calculated:**

Exam 1: 82 Exam 2: 62 Exam 3: 90 Final Exam: 88 In class quizzes (see below): 35

(Drop the lowest of the three regular exam scores: Exam 2; 62)

82+90+88+35= 295 total points out of 350 possible. This equals a B as the final letter grade.

**Exams:**

Exams will be primarily based on material covered in class supported by reference material from the textbook. Students are responsible for all covered material and announcements made in class, as well as any supplemental readings assigned by the instructor. **Bring a Scantron form 882-E, a number 2 pencil and Student ID to each exam.**

**Missed Exam Accommodations:**

All students are allowed to miss one regular exam in the course, since the lowest exam score out of three regular exams will be dropped. The missed exam would be scored as zero, and this would be the dropped exam grade. Therefore, there are no alternate make up times available for regular exams since all students drop one regular exam. If more than one exam is missed by the student, then only one regular lecture exam can be dropped. Additional missed regular lecture exams will result in a score of zero for those exams. Exceptions are students missing exams for university business (e.g., athletics, attending a meeting as part of a university group, etc.) or legal or governmental obligation (e.g., jury duty; military service). In these cases, students must provide documentation of the absence prior to the exam. Also, students must contact the instructor by e-mail to officially arrange the make up. These make ups must be taken within one week after the original exam date, and will typically be scheduled during my regular office hours. If the make up exam is missed, then the student will score a zero on the missed exam, which would be dropped as the lowest exam grade according to regular class policy. For final exams, it is a policy of the College of Liberal Arts that final exams must be taken at the scheduled time, so there are no make ups given for final exams.

**In class quizzes:**

There will be in class quizzes using the Turning Technologies ResponseCard NXT clicker, and these may be unannounced. These quizzes will be worth up to a total of approximately 50 points, which makes up about 15% of the total points possible in the class. There will be approximately two extra quizzes given in class during the semester to accommodate students missing class for any reason. Therefore, there will be no penalty on a student's total quiz points for missing a couple of class sessions. Due to the extra quizzes given to accommodate missed class sessions there are no make ups given for any reason. Each student is required to bring their own working clicker to class, and should register their clicker through the Turning Point tool in Blackboard by Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup> to participate in the quizzes. The procedure for registering clickers through Blackboard will be reviewed in class.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is required. By missing class, you may miss material covered on the exams and also on the in class quizzes. Students will not have points deducted from their grade in the course for missing class, but attendance will be taken during the semester. By missing class, you may miss material covered on the exams and in class quizzes.

**Students with Disabilities:**

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with

disabilities who have registered with the Office of Student Disability Services (234 Martindale; 915-7128) should contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Evidence of academic dishonesty involving exams and assignments will be taken seriously and university procedures for academic dishonesty grievances will be followed if necessary. Any student involved in academic dishonesty may have their grade in the course reduced.

**E-mail Communication/Course Blackboard Site:**

E-mail is one of the ways for contacting me with questions about course lecture material and guidance for studying. Please write BISC 104-02 in the e-mail subject line. There is a Blackboard site for this course that will contain course information such as the syllabus, announcements, grades and supplemental study materials. You should check this site regularly during the semester for any important updates, including current grades and announcements.

**Class Responsibilities:**

- Students are expected to be courteous. Talking while the instructor is lecturing, excessive tardiness, and leaving early from lecture are some of the examples of behavior that is not permitted.
- The use of cell phones, laptops, etc. for non-related class activities is not permitted. Cell phone ringers should be turned off and text messaging is not allowed. Students should speak with the instructor concerning any other questions about cell phone use.
- If you miss lecture, you will miss material. Make sure you read the corresponding text chapters listed in the outline of lecture topics, or get the lecture notes from another student (and review them). Lecture notes are not provided by the instructor to students who miss class, or lose notes for any reason.

**Exam Dates:**

Exam 1: Friday February 13<sup>th</sup>    Exam 2: Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>    Exam 3: Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam: Section 02- Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM

**Outline of Lecture Topics (subject to change according to instructional needs)**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Chapters</b>
1/21-1/23	Introduction Evolutionary Change/Populations	1 12/13
1/26-1/30	Evolutionary Change/Populations Evidence of Evolution	12/13 13
2/2-2/6	Evidence of Evolution Speciation and Extinction	13 13/14
2/9-2/13	Microbial Evolution and Diversity <b>EXAM 1 (Friday 2/13)</b>	15
2/16-2/20	Evolution and Diversity of Plants	16
2/23-2/27	Animal Diversity and Evolution	17
3/2-3/6	Animal Diversity and Evolution	17
3/9-3/13	<b>Spring Break: No Class</b>	
3/16-3/20	<b>EXAM 2 (Wednesday 3/18)</b> Plant Anatomy and Function	21/22
3/23-3/27	Plant Anatomy and Function Flowering Plant Reproduction and Development	21/22 21/22
3/30-4/3	Flowering Plant Reproduction and Development Photosynthesis <b>Friday 4/3(Good Friday): No class</b>	21/22 5
4/6-4/10	Photosynthesis <b>EXAM 3 (Friday 4/10)</b>	5
4/13-4/17	Introduction to Ecology/Biomes/Biodiversity Population Ecology	18/19/20 18
4/20-4/24	Population Ecology Communities and Ecosystems	18 19/20
4/27-5/1	Communities and Ecosystems	19/20

**FINAL EXAM:** Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM