

# General Biology 1120

Lecture (BIOL 1120) & Lab (BIOL 1121)  
Spring 2010  
Department of Biology, Middle Tennessee State University

## SYLLABUS

*Note that although great effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of important dates and statements made in this document, students are responsible for double checking university policies and dates*

**Professor: R. Stephen Howard, PhD**

**Office location: Jones 232**

**phone (615) 898-2044**

**e-mail [rshoward@mtsu.edu](mailto:rshoward@mtsu.edu)**

E-mail and phone messages checked regularly, but I may not be able to respond immediately. Messages received nights and weekends will typically be answered the next weekday.

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday. 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (first-come-first-serve basis), or by appointment.

## Course Location/Time:

*Lecture:* M 6:00-9:00 p.m., **STARK AGRIBUSINESS AND AGRISCI 125**

*Laboratory (BIOL 1121):* Check your class schedule to find your lab section

**Course Description:** this 4-credit course is the second of a two-part series primarily designed for Biology majors and minors and other science-oriented students. Survey of plants and animals emphasizing evolution, structure, function, reproduction, growth, and ecology.

General Biology 1120/1121 consists of 3 hours of lecture (BIOL 1120) and one 3-hour laboratory (BIOL 1121) per week. Dr. Howard is your professor for the lectures; your GTA will be responsible for the lab component of the course, and your lab grade. Note that a single grade is given for the General Biology lecture/lab combination (see below).

## Course Prerequisite and Co-requisite:

Prerequisite: BIOL 1110/1111 (General Biology: part I lecture and laboratory)

Co-requisite: BIOL 1121 (General Biology: part II laboratory)

## Lecture Text:

Freeman, S. Biological science, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1283 pp. (ISBN 0-13-140941-7).

Note: The previous edition (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) of the textbook may also be used. The material in the two editions is mostly the same, but the chapter numbers may differ between the two editions

## Laboratory Text:

Vodopich, D. S., and R. Moore. 2005. Customized biology laboratory manual, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw Hill, Boston, MA, 551 pp. (ISBN 0-07-327704-5)

Also recommended: Perry and Morton. 1996. Photo atlas for biology. Wadsworth.

## Course Attendance:

As a student enrolled in Biology 1120 you are expected to attend all lectures and labs.

### **Course Grading:**

Overall Course Grade:

Lecture grade = 75% of overall course grade

Laboratory grade = 25% of overall course grade

### **Laboratory Grade:**

Note that your General Biology laboratory will be taught by a Graduate Teaching Assistant who will have control of the examinations and assignments comprising your laboratory grade. Hence, if you have questions regarding laboratory grading, please see your specific Graduate Teaching Assistant.

### **Lecture Grade:**

The lecture grade is based on lecture examinations 1-4: these exams are mandatory and will each contribute equally to the overall lecture grade. There is NO EXTRA CREDIT. Students may take the optional final exam (see below) to attempt to improve their lecture grade.

Make-up examinations: if you miss a regular exam for a legitimate reason (note: documentation will be required to validate claims of illness, flat tires, sick relatives, etc.) you should contact me ASAP regarding permission to take a make-up examination. Students who have missed a lecture exam and who do not take the make-up exam will receive a grade of zero for the missed lecture exam. Students missing a lecture exam who are unable to provide adequate evidence that the exam was missed for a legitimate reason will not be allowed to take a make-up exam and will receive a grade of zero for the missed exam.

**The comprehensive “elective final examination” (see below) will serve as the make-up exam and students requiring a make-up exam will not have the option of using the elective final examination in an attempt to drop a low test score (see below).** Missing a second or more exams will result in a grade of zero for the missed exams.

Elective Final Examination: students who have completed all 4 lecture examinations can elect to take a comprehensive final examination covering all course material in an attempt to replace their lowest lecture exam score with the score they earn on the elective final exam. If successful, the overall lecture grade will be calculated as the average of the three highest lecture exam grades and the final exam grade. **If you take the final exam, IT COUNTS!** If the score earned on the final exam is equal to or lower than the lowest lecture exam score, the final lecture grade will be calculated as the average of the four lecture examinations and the final examination. If a student chooses not to take the elective comprehensive final, their overall lecture grade will be calculated as the average of their four lecture exams.

**Grading Scale:** your overall grade (course grade) in General Biology will be based on your lecture and lab scores as detailed above. Course grades will be assessed according to the scale below:

A = 100-90% C+ = 77-79% D = 63-66%

B+ = 87-89% C = 73-76% D- = 60-62%

B = 83-86% C- = 70-72% F < 60%

B- = 80-82% D+ = 67-69%

**Finding Out Your Grades:** I will return your lecture examination grades in a timely manner (typically on the next lecture date after the exam). **Note: It is against MTSU policy to discuss grades by e-mail or over the phone.**

**Course Schedule:** a tentative lecture and laboratory schedule will be provided; however, students should note that these schedules are guidelines regarding class progress and that changes may occur as the semester progresses. Students are responsible for attending class to stay aware of scheduling changes.

**Special Consideration:** if you are registered with Disabled Student Services (DSS) and need special consideration, please bring me as soon as possible the sheet from DSS that tells me specifically how I should meet your needs. I will make every effort to ensure that you are accommodated so you have a fair opportunity to succeed in this course.

**Courtesy in Lecture and Laboratory:** cell phones, ipods, and other gadgets that are not pertinent to your participation in General Biology are not permitted and should be turned off and put away prior to class (you may take notes on a laptop if you wish). You are expected to arrive on-time for both lectures and laboratories and to remain in class until the end of lecture or the scheduled laboratory activity. If you must leave the room during a class for some important reason, please do so without disturbing anyone.

**Course Withdrawal Policy:** Be aware of the following departmental and university policies regarding withdrawal from courses (see appropriate semester schedule for deadlines):

- students who withdraw from a course within 14 days of the semester's commencement will not receive a grade on their university transcript.
- students who withdraw from a course during the third through seventh weeks of the semester will receive a grade of "W" on their university transcript.
- after the seventh week of the semester, students may not withdraw from a course unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances that necessitate withdrawal from MTSU. Permission from the course instructor is required (this is a departmental policy).
- students who withdraw from a course after the seventh week of the semester (and, therefore, from MTSU as per the bullet above) will receive a grade of "W" if they are passing the course at the time of withdrawal or a grade of "F" if they are failing the course at said time.

**Lottery scholarship eligibility:** To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a **cumulative** TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. You may qualify with a 2.75 **cumulative** GPA after 72 attempted hours (and subsequent semesters), if you are enrolled full-time and maintain a **semester** GPA of at least 3.0. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility; if you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. Lottery recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for a maximum of five years from the date of initial enrollment, or until a bachelor degree is earned. For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form, review lottery requirements on the web at <http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm>, or contact the Financial Aid Office at 898-2830.

**Honesty Policy:** because students should have a high degree of integrity and honesty, and because cheating weakens students, academic systems, future employers, professions, and society, cheating will not be tolerated. Should cheating be discovered regarding a BIOL 1120 examination, the offending student will receive a grade of "0" and the offense will be reported to an appropriate university authority. Likewise, plagiarism on laboratory assignments will be considered a serious cheating offense, the consequences of which will be an assignment grade of "0" and notification of university authorities. It is each student's responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism before using the work of others. If any uncertainty exists regarding this matter, the student should consult the course instructor. See also the MTSU academic integrity web page at: [www.mtsu.edu/~judaff/integrity.htm](http://www.mtsu.edu/~judaff/integrity.htm)