

## **BIOLOGY 1104: Organismal Biology, Syllabus Fall 2006**

**BIOL 1104** is an introduction to the diversity of organisms, an investigation of how the structures of plants and animals allow them to survive and function in their environments, and it explores how organisms interact with each other in their physical environment. It is aimed at non-majors. The course syllabus is a general plan for this course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Kathrin F. Stanger-Hall, 411B Biol. Sci Bldg; [ksh@uga.edu](mailto:ksh@uga.edu); 542-1689  
Office hours: Tue/Thu 1:45-2:45pm & Wed 2:15-3:15pm or by appointment

**DATA SPECIALIST:** Ms. Yulonda Davis, 403 Biol. Sci Bldg; [ydavis@uga.edu](mailto:ydavis@uga.edu); 542-1684

**MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR THE COURSE:** Starr and Taggart: BIOLOGY. The Unity and Diversity of Life, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Helping you (1) understand the facts and principles of organismal biology, (2) relate your insights to your every-day life, and (3) develop your critical thinking (problem-solving) skills. Critical thinking skills such as application (of the learned material to new situations), analysis, evaluation, and effective communication of your knowledge, are **life-long learning skills** that will serve you beyond this class in other college courses, and in your professional career (in any field).

**EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:** A demonstrated understanding of (1) how organisms interact with their environment, (2) how different organisms faced with the same problem may have evolved quite different solutions (function depends on structure), (3) how all these different solutions are often based on common principles. Your understanding will be based on a critical examination of facts and processes as they apply to real-life scenarios.

**WEBCT:** Class information is available on-line under BIOL1104 (Stanger-Hall). Use your myID name and password to login. **Please check the website frequently.** It is used for announcements, exam information, and as a resource for class and studying. You will find learning objectives, animations, 'food for thought' questions, and more on this site. There is NO answer key for the 'food for thought' questions (that would defeat their purpose), but I will be glad to give you feedback.

**BIOSCIENCE LEARNING CENTER (BLC)** in 406 Biol. Sci Bldg. The BLC is a computer lab with reserved copies of the textbook and lab manual, biological literature, videos and other resources (printers, copy machines). See (<http://www.biosci.uga.edu/blc/>) for a complete list of videotapes, books, slides, etc. that are on reserve for student use in BLC. M-Thu: 8:30am-7pm; Fri: 8:30am-5pm.

**LECTURES. TUE&THU 12:30-1:45pm in Room 404E.** Regular attendance at all class meetings is **expected**. You are responsible for **all class material** (whether or not it is covered in the text) and you are responsible for the assigned material in the text that is relevant for topics covered in class. Preview the text before coming to class to have a framework for the lecture material. After lecture please read the parts of the text directly relating to lecture in detail and complement your notes before studying.

**CLASS ETIQUETTE.** Please be on time for class and **switch your cell phone off**. A few minutes late? Please take a seat quietly close to the door without disturbing your classmates. Please do not talk to each other during class. If you have any class-related questions ask me at any time. I will be happy to clarify. Please do not leave class early (this is very disruptive) and treat each other with respect. Please keep the lecture hall clean and use the trashcans and recycling bins outside the lecture hall. Thank you!

**EXAMINATIONS.** All exams in lecture are multiple-choice and machine-graded. There will be three exams and one **cumulative** Final Exam. **Attendance at all exams is required.** There are **NO MAKE-UP** exams. If you miss an exam for medical reasons, please inform me **before** the exam and provide documentation. You must bring a #2 pencil and a **photo-ID** to all exams.

**Question & Answer sessions** will be held before each exam. Please come prepared and bring your questions. Written regrade requests (a brief explanation why a specific question should be regarded) have to be submitted within one week of posting the answer key. If you feel there was an error in scoring your exam, get a photocopy of your scantron sheet and check it against the answer key **before** requesting a regrade.

**FINAL COURSE GRADE.** You can earn a total of **500** points (100%) this semester:

Three lecture exams (100 pts each)	300 pts
One cumulative Final Exam	200 pts

Grade	% points	Total points	Grade	% points	Total points
A	93-100%	465-500	C+	77-80 %	385-399
A-	90-93 %	450-464	C	73-77 %	365-384
B+	87-90 %	435-449	C-	70-73 %	350-364
B	83-87 %	415-434	D	60-70 %	300-349
B-	80-83 %	400-414	F	< 60 %	< 300 pts

**INCOMPLETE.** The grade of incomplete is given to students who for reason of illness or accident were unable to complete the course. Incompletes are not given to avoid a failing grade.

**LEARNING AIDS.** Lecture, in-class questions, learning objectives, food for thought questions, and posted animations on the class website will aid you to grasp the knowledge in this class and will guide you in practicing your critical thinking (problem-solving) skills. Please note that these are **ACTIVE** learning skills and you have to **PRACTICE** in order to master them. **Please come prepared (having worked through and practiced the previous material) to class.** If you have any questions that you didn't get to ask in class please come see me right after class, during office hours, or send me an e-mail. **I am also available to privately discuss any needs, including disability accommodations.** If you encounter any non-academic problems during the semester that will affect your study abilities, please make sure to get help right away (e.g. by seeing a counselor: <http://www.uhs.uga.edu/CAPS/>) and notify me. **Don't wait until the end of the semester.**

**STRUGGLING?** You should be studying **at least 2 hours per lecture hour** (in addition to class and reading) to do well. If you are spending more than 10 hours/week, and are still struggling, **please come see me right away.** You may be more efficient by changing your study method. I will be glad to work with you on that. In addition, tutors (and general advice) are available through the Milledge Academic Center: <http://www.uga.edu/dae/index.html>.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY.** All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty" ([http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm)). You are responsible for informing yourself about those standards before performing any academic work. Students who cheat (e.g. look at or copy from exams of others, letting others copy, exchange information on exams before both have taken it) will be reported to the Office of the Vice President for disciplinary action, and are subject to severe disciplinary penalties including the possible failure of the course and/or dismissal from the University. Policies on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.