

BIO 1: Biodiversity, Evolution & Ecology

Activity: Spring 2017

Contact Info:

Instructor: Dr. Timothy Davidson

Email: Davidson@csus.edu

Office Hours: T 12:30-1:30pm, T & Th 3:20-4:20pm or by appointment (SQU 114)

Course Info:

Location: Humboldt 102

T 1:30-3:20pm (Sec 12), Th 1:30-3:20pm (Sec 14)

Course Description:

The BIO 1 Activity sequence is focused on developing and improving analytical and communication skills useful in the field of Biology, but specifically related to this course. It includes discussion, and exercises in writing, data analysis and presentation, critical thinking, literature location and interpretation, and oral presentation. These intellectual pursuits occasionally will be broken up with the presentation of some video material relevant to the course. Materials will be provided online for the sequence shown below but the Instructor also will provide additional information in class as required.

Course Format:

Each week, an introduction will be given prior to beginning all Activity exercises. Some of these introductions will be longer than others depending on the material. These introductions should provide you an adequate background, which will facilitate your smooth and timely completion of each exercise. Further, there may be exercises that require you to follow my step by step instruction, **AS IT IS GIVEN**, requiring patience on the part of some that may finish a particular step before others. My intention is for you to use the entire scheduled Activity period, so plan on utilizing it appropriately.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory! There are no make-up activities. If you miss an activity, you will simply miss out on the material and lose those points. If there is an excused absence, i.e. an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible afterward. Additionally, I will require documentation of the emergency within 24 hr of your return. **Missing more than two Activity periods without a valid, authorized excuse will result in an F grade for the entire course.**

Grades:

Quizzes: There will be several quizzes given at the discretion of the instructor, but students should expect an assessment about every 2-3 weeks. Quizzes will include general questions from the prior week or two regarding overarching concepts. Mini quizzes, given at the start of class, will also be used to assess your familiarity with the present Activity exercise as well. Therefore, **It is highly recommended that you familiarize yourself with Activity exercises before you arrive for class and arrive on time!** **Quizzes cannot be made up.**

Worksheets & Pre-assignments: Most activities have worksheets that must be turned in by the end of the session. In addition, some activities will have short pre-assignments or homework (or quizzes!) that must be completed and turned in at the start of the appropriate session. These assignments will be worth ~5-10 points each, and your earned average for these assignments will be adjusted to a total of ~90 possible points (See point totals below).

Biodiversity Presentation: In teams of 3-4, you will create a 10 – 15 minute PowerPoint presentation on an aspect of biodiversity that interests your team. The presentation is worth 50 points, which includes 10 points earned from a peer evaluation given by the class. Team presentations will be given at the end of the semester. The details for these presentations will be further discussed as the semester progresses.

Assessment	Possible Pts
Quizzes	~60
Worksheets, Homework, other assignments	~90
Biodiversity Presentation	50
Total Pts:	200

Attendance & Participation:

Although you will not earn points simply for participating, you are expected to attend and participate in every lab session (See “Attendance” above). *Participation* means being attentive and respectful of others, as well as remaining engaged in the material. Your instructor may note attendance and your earned grade for a particular laboratory assignment may be affected (See “Lateness” below).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and require accommodations, please provide disability documentation to SSWD (Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955). Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

GENERAL POLICIES & ETIQUETTE:

- **Late work:** Late work does not apply to activity, because worksheets are completed during activity and turned in at the end of the session. However, homework assignments will be due on dates specified by your lab instructor.
- **Cell phones:** Turn them off or put them on vibrate. Also, I reserve the right to deduct points for compulsive texting. My expectation is that you will be engaged in the activity, not texting friends.
- **Lateness:** I understand that there may be a time or two when you have a good reason for arriving late. However, chronic lateness will not be tolerated and your grade for particular exercises will be adjusted -10% for each respective assignment.
- **Behavior:** Please be respectful of everyone; do not talk while I am talking. Encourage and support each other, conduct yourself appropriately and professionally, and have a positive attitude. I will not tolerate disruptive or disrespectful behavior.
- **Laptops:** The use of laptops will not be allowed unless specifically required by, or useful to, the activity.

CHEATING:

I have a zero-tolerance policy for cheating, and I expect you to know what cheating is. If you need a refresher, refer to <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm>. Penalties for cheating may include failing the course and having an academic-misconduct incident report filed with the Office of Student Conduct. Furthermore, you may be required to meet with the Department chair as well as the university's Director of Student Conduct.

SCHEDULE: The tentative schedule of topics for BIO 1 activity is as follows:

Week #	Week of	Activity #	Activity Topic
1	1/23	1	Syllabus, Study Tips, Scientific Paper Structure, Sci Paper Reading Assignment - Assigned
2	1/30	2	1 st Paper Discussion; Relevance to River Project Plagiarism Discussion and writing exercises
3	2/6	3	Types of data, graphing, & data analysis
4	2/13	4	Evolutionary relationships & phylogeny, biodiversity presentations discussed-Topics
5	2/20	5	Searching for literature 2nd Paper assigned for discussion
6	2/27	6	Critical thinking
7	3/6	7	<i>Inner Fish</i> video
8	3/13	8	2nd Paper Discussion; Relevance to River Project Presentation Grading Expectations
9	3/20	N/A	Spring Break - No Lab or Activity
10	3/27	N/A	Cesar Chavez - No Lab or Activity
11	4/3	9	<i>Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind</i> video
12	4/10	10	Creating effective PowerPoints, TBA
13	4/17	11	Discussion session: Relating the Literature to the River Project Reports
14	4/24	12	Free time to work on presentations
15	5/1	13	Biodiversity presentations
16	5/8	14	Biodiversity presentations
17	5/15	N/A	Finals Week - No Labs or Activities