

Principles of Biology Laboratory: Biol 1116 Fall 2011

Derring Hall

CRN 90878 Tuesday 4:40pm-6:35pm Room 1009

CRN 90905 Wednesday 12:20pm-2:15pm Room 1009

CRN 90894 Wednesday 2:30pm-4:25pm Room 1009

Instructor: James Skelton

Email: skelto3@vt.edu

Office: 1027 Derring

Office Hours: Wed 9am-12. Other times can be scheduled by appointment.

Required Textbooks

Introduction Biology Laboratory Manual, 2011-2012 ed., by Webb, Tyler and Buikema
Biology, VT custom 9th Edition, by Raven, Johnson, Losos, Mason, and Singer.

Online Manual Website: <http://genbio.biol.vt.edu>

Information Concerning Online Portion of the Lab Manual: The purchase of the laboratory manual (which includes a CD) is required for all Introductory Biology Laboratory courses except Honors Biology. Purchase of the manual entitles you to access the online component of the manual. You will receive instructions for accessing the online portion during the first day of class. Other components of the manual online include instructions, procedures, quizzes, worksheets, tutorials, and access to your instructor's webpage.

Course Objectives: This laboratory is designed to illustrate basic biological concepts and to provide some “hands on” experience with the scientific method. It is hoped that you will leave this course with an appreciation of the complexity and the scope of biology and understanding of its role in your life. Critical thinking, writing, and communication skills will be emphasized.

Honor System: **The Honor Code will be strictly enforced in this course.** All assignments submitted shall be considered graded work and shall be completed on an individual basis unless otherwise stated. Working together in a group does not warrant copying group members' work, even if group work is encouraged. All aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor System. Any suspected violations of the Honor Code will be promptly reported to the Honor System. Honesty in your academic work will develop into professional integrity. The faculty and students of Virginia Tech will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Violations include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and falsification (This includes lying about absences). Website: <http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

Emergency Assembly Point: Exit the building using the northwest exit and proceed to parking lot. Assemble as a class and roll will be taken.

Policy on Fetal Pig Dissection: During the spring semester, the dissection of a fetal pig is a major exercise in all freshman biology laboratories. If dissection is a problem for you and biology is not a required course for your major, then we recommend that you choose another science course to fulfill the University's Area 4 core requirement. However, if biology is important to you, but you have a problem with dissection you may apply for an alternative exercise. If you wish to take biology and there are overwhelming reasons (i.e. strong religious or moral views, or medical conditions) that would prevent you from participating in the dissection of a fetal pig in the spring semester, this must be made known by the first week of October with a completed written application. We will accommodate exceptions based on the content of the application and the availability of space. The application form, with further explanation, is available from Catherine Webb in room 1020B Derring Hall.

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	A	93-100	C+	77-79
	A-	90-92	C	70-76
	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
	B	83-86	D	63-66
	B-	80-82	D-	60-62
			F	< 60

Approximate* Weights of Grades:

Class participation	10%
Worksheets and online quizzes	20%
Fermentation lab report	20%
In-class quizzes	30%
<u>Final presentation</u>	<u>20%</u>
	100%

*Weight %'s are subject to change during semester

Attendance: Attendance is expected and required to all lab activities with assignments completed prior to lab. No make-ups will be given without previous arrangements or an official university excuse. If you have to miss a lab, let me know ahead of time so I can schedule you to do the lab in one of my other sections or have time to contact other TAs. If you miss a lab and have an unexcused absence, it is advised to get the materials from another student to be prepared for future quizzes and tests. **Four excused absences will result in an Incomplete (I) grade for the semester.**

Assignments: **Assignments are due the day of lab regardless of whether or not you attend.** If you cannot attend class, you may send the assignment with someone else, bring it to me the same day of lab, or email it to me. If you cannot meet a deadline, come see me *ahead* of time, and I will evaluate your situation. As long as the assignment is turned in by 5 pm the day it is due it will not be considered late. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day until the third day, after which it will receive a 0. All assignments must be the individual's own work unless otherwise stated (See Honor Code).

Participation: This grade will reflect your attendance, being on time, being prepared for lab, participating in the lab exercise, proper use of equipment, and keeping the lab clean. Lab tables must be maintained and in order for students to exit the lab, points will be deducted if lab space is out of order.

Online Quizzes: Online quizzes are accessible from the online manual via the CD that is included with your lab manual. There is a quiz for a majority of the lab exercises. These quizzes must be completed **BEFORE** lab each week but no more than 1 week in advance to account for modifications. The information for these quizzes is primarily in your lab manual, and you may use the manual while taking the quiz. **You may only take each quiz once.**

Lab Worksheets: Please print these out after taking the online quiz each week and bring them to class. At the end of each experiment, each lab group will submit one completed worksheet with the names of all group members. We will go over the answers to the worksheets after they have all been turned in.

In-class Quizzes: 3-5 quizzes will be given throughout the semester during the first 15 minutes of class. They may or may not be announced in advance. I will drop the lowest quiz grade. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

Lab Report: A formal lab report will be written on the fermentation experiment shown on the schedule. Detailed instructions will be given later.

Disabilities: Any student that feels that he or she may need an accommodation because of a disability (learning disability, ADD, psychological, physical, ect.) please make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible.