Laney College

BIOLOGY 10

# Introduction to Biology - Fall 2012

# Lec./Lab.: 40619

## Lec. and Lab. MW 6:30 – 9:20 pm B 202

**Office Hours: MW 1 hour after the Lab.**

# Instructor: Thabiso M’Timkulu

# Home phone: 510-223-5901

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**Website:** [**http://www.laney.edu/wp/thabiso\_mtimkulu**](http://www.laney.edu/wp/thabiso_mtimkulu).

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

Textbook (Required): ESSENTIAL BIOLOGY with physiology. By Campbell et.al. (2nd ed.). ISBN : 0-8053-6841-8

Biology Lab Manual: Biology Lab Book. By Laney faculty. Laney Bookstore.

(Required)

#### \*\*Save money: Go to my website and checkout the cheap textbook sites I have posted.\*\*

**About the course and how I approach it.**

This is an introductory biology class and some of the students enrolled are not science majors, but, have to take it as a required course. Many of these students just do not see what biology has to do with their lives. However, if they “read the newspaper or watch the news, they will be reminded daily that the subject of biology is woven into the fabric of our society as never before”. Also, we must understand that today’s global economy and other human endeavors (e.g. Medicine, agriculture, forensics, ecology, etc.) are technology driven. Thus, if we hope to interpret and correctly implement this technology, we must learn the skills necessary for promoting critical thinking about issues we shall face as **consumers**, **parents** and **voting citizens** in this brave new world. This is what this class is all about, to provide you with the skills to make sense of this new technology.

REMEMBER:

*“Human freedom increasingly depends on who controls what we know and therefore how we understand our world. It depends on what information we are able to create and disseminate: what we can share; how we can share it; and with whom we can share it.”* - Rebecca MacKinnon.

For you and I to continue communicating, you must be computer literate and sign up for the Laney student’s e-mail address at:

[**http://web.peralta.edu/it/studentemail/**](http://web.peralta.edu/it/studentemail/)

**Students learning outcomes from the course.**

Students will:

* Develop a working vocabulary and acquire sufficient information to interpret for themselves the remarkable connection between molecular change, evolution and their own lives
* Have sufficient information to help make informed decisions on many biology-related issues such as STD’s, prenatal diagnosis, gene therapies and stem cell research.
* Be invited to think outside the memorization box by applying the Scientific Method in problem solving.
* Learn the skills to work individually and cooperatively in acquiring and understanding the information necessary to succeed in this class.
* For more information about the course and what is required from you in order for you to pass the course, go to my web site at **http://www.laney.edu/wp/thabiso\_mtimkulu**. Click on Biology 10. All the materials you will need for the semester you will find in here.

**LECTURE and LAB:**

1. The lectures will be for **1.5** hours in room B202, followed by a **15**-minute break. The lab section will then commence immediately after the break in room B202.
2. You are expected to attend ALL LECTURES AND LABS ON TIME. Since this is a night class, punctuality is essential for us to complete the materials listed in the lecture and lab schedules.
3. For each missed or incomplete lab, 5 points will be deducted from your final grade. There will be a sign-up sheet at the beginning of each lab.
4. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. This includes talking in class whilst the instructor is trying to lecture, using cell phones and beepers, and coming to class late and /or leaving early. Therefore, TURN OFF CELL PHONES AND BEEPERS IN CLASS.
5. The **Lab** will begin with a short introduction, clearly explaining the purpose of the lab and what you are supposed to accomplish in that lab. You will work in pairs or groups. Pick your partner carefully since both of you must contribute.
6. *You are done when you have completed all assigned sections of the lab. REMEMBER… you are responsible for understanding the concepts presented in that lab.* I am always available if you need help.

**GRADING:**

1. There will be 4 lecture exams, each 100 points. Each exam will cover only the chapters discussed in class and will not be cumulative. Questions will be T/F, multiple choice and matching.
2. **You will be required to write 10 complete laboratory reports** on some of the experiments you will conduct. Each type-written report will be worth 10 points, making a grand total of 100 points at the end of the semester.
3. Homework – There will be homework assignments from your Biology Lab Book consisting of questions from the lab exercises or other relevant questions. Each assignment will be worth 5-10 points. Homework is due at the beginning of the next lab day. These will be your bonus points.
4. You must keep track of your grades by using the following formula:

(your total points) / (points possible) x 100 = %

Remember that it is up to you to let me know if you need help.

The instructor does not “give” grades, they are earned by the student’s hard work. Students’ grades are based on individual accumulative points in the following:

### Lecture exams (4 x 100) 400

### Laboratory reports (10 x 10) 100

Attendance / Participation 30

**Total possible points 530**

**Grading scales: 85-100% = A**

**75-84% = B**

**65-74% = C**

**50-64% = D**

**below 50% = F**

\*\*There are NO make-ups in this class!! You are responsible for all class work.\*\*

1. Cheating will result in the notification of the Dean and possible failure of the course.
2. Finally:

*“Instead of hoping and wishing, you have to work hard, put your nose to the grindstone. It can’t just be dreaming big. There has to be work (*ATP) *behind it.”* - David Torrence.