

## **BSC-2023L HUMAN BIOLOGY LAB**

**Spring 2017**

Department of Biological Sciences  
Florida International University

**Section #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**TA Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**TA E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**TA Office Hours** \_\_\_\_\_

**TA Office #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Head TA:** Alberto Cruz ([alcruz@fiu.edu](mailto:alcruz@fiu.edu))- Office: OE296

**Human Biology Lab Links and Information:** Can all be found on Blackboard.

### **Class Objectives:**

The objective of this class is to understand the functioning of the human body and factors affecting human living. The lab is a practical complement for the class lecture.

### **Required text:**

Laboratory Manual for Human Biology by Sylvia Mader (14<sup>th</sup> Edition), McGraw- Hill.

**Reading assignment:** You are required to read each lab assignment and task sheet before the lab period (task sheets are posted in the lab web site). Bring the task sheets to lab each week. This is essential for you to fully understand the procedures and to be able to complete the tasks and answer the questions for each assignment.

**Required Lab Supplies:** All of them are **mandatory** for admission to the lab:

1. Lab coat (**Long sleeve shirts are not acceptable**)
2. Close-toed shoes
3. Weekly task sheets
4. Brand new lab manual

**\* You will NOT be allowed in the lab (even to take the quiz) unless you are wearing your lab coat, close-toed shoes and have your task sheet and brand new lab manual \***

**Grading Breakdown:** All grades are based on a 100 point scale. No extra- credits will be given under ANY circumstances. Asking for an extra credit will show a complete disregard of this syllabus. There will be NO curve. No “incompletes” will be given.

## POINT SCALE :

100 - 90 = **A**; 89 - 80 = **B**; 79 - 70 = **C**; 69 - 60 = **D**; 59 - 0 = **F** **Grade components:**

- 40% - Weekly Quizzes
- 35% - Practical Examinations
- 15% - Research Paper
- 5% - Group cooperation
- 5% Lab Manual

Weekly Quizzes: There will be **a quiz at the beginning of each class** on the material from the previous and current lab. The lowest quiz score will be dropped, however if you miss a lab due to an unexcused absence, this will automatically count as the quiz grade, which will be dropped. You will also receive a grade of **ZERO** if you arrive in lab after the quiz has been finished. **No makeup quizzes will be given.**

Practical Examinations: Two practical examinations will be given (midterm & final) on the dates provided in your syllabus. Each will comprise 17.5% of your grade. Due to the nature of the laboratory practical exams, you will also receive a grade of **ZERO** if you are late. You may not attend any other lab section if you miss an exam. **Make-up exams will NOT be given.** If you are forced to miss an examination due to an emergency, please contact your TA and TA coordinator via e-mail **within two days of the missed exam**. Send a message that includes the reason for your absence. You will be asked to provide a written excuse (doctor's note, accident report, etc.) before a missed exam will be forgiven (The same applies to weekly quizzes).

Research Paper: There will be one research paper for this lab. The research paper will be based on one topic selected by your TA from one of the 10 labs and it will be given to you no later than the second week of class. The research paper is to be completed individually! You need to gather information from the library as early as possible. The research paper will be 5 pages long (Times New Roman, 10pts, double-spaced, ~2000 words). It should include a half page introduction, 3 pages forming the body of the paper and a half page conclusion. Finally, the last page will consist of a reference page that will include a minimum of 6 journal articles, and 1 citation from a book (do not use your lab manual, nor information from the Human Bio website). The paper cannot include ANY quotations. Students must submit an annotated bibliography **by the start of class time the week of February 7th (Lab 4)**, and a rough draft of at least half of the paper **BY the start of class time the week of February 21st (Lab 6)**.

**Students MUST submit the final version of the paper only electronically to Turnitin.com by the end of the day of class the week of March 28th (Lab 9).** **NOTE:** Spelling and grammatical errors are penalized. Plagiarizing is not acceptable! Your TA will introduce you to it and how to avoid it in your papers this semester. Please take note of what your TA tells you because failure to do so will result in getting an "F" for the paper with serious considerations to dismissal from the course and possibly the university (see Plagiarism Policy below). Each TA is supplied with software that is sensitive to any level of Plagiarism and if you submit something that you have plagiarized the computer will find it. Do not copy anything directly from a web page. This is a serious offense and will be reported to the Dean. **You CANNOT RE-SUBMIT a paper used for another class, including a previous semester of this class.** To avoid plagiarizing you must cite every idea or piece of information that is not your own or "common knowledge." You must write all information in your own words. Please be sure to talk to your TA if you are unsure whether you have plagiarized and how to cite references. For more information please check the Research Paper Guidelines in the lab website.

Group cooperation: This grade will be assigned based on **1) Cooperative learning** exhibited during class discussion, **2) Being able to function as a cooperative learning group** and **3) Showing respect to your fellow lab mates and assigned TA.**

**Additional Information on Group Work:**

You will be working in groups of four. Each group will be assigned various **tasks** that must be completed during the lab period. You must work **together** to complete one task before moving onto the next one. Your Lab Instructor will evaluate the group after each task to determine that each group member understands the information. Each person will be evaluated and will receive a Group Grade based on their ability to work within the group. Did the group finish the tasks? Did all members of the group work together to make sure that everyone understood the material? Were there negative comments by group members? These are the kinds of questions that will shape your evaluation.

E-mail: All students are required to obtain e-mail accounts. FIU provides free e-mail accounts to students. **All students must send an e-mail to their Lab Instructor/TA** with their name, section, & e-mail address **before the second lab class. Otherwise, the first quiz will be a zero.**

Although e-mail is a great form of communication, if for some reason you cannot get a hold of your Lab Instructor via e-mail you must try other means of contacting him/her. You can visit them during their office hours, call their office (if they have one) or if you cannot get a hold of them, contact the Head TA/Head Lab Instructor. You should in NO way assume that an assignment is not due just because you have not heard back from your Lab Instructor. All due dates are posted on the schedule, so there are NO exceptions!

Lab Manual: You are responsible to have a folder with the syllabus, safety rules, and tasks for every lab. You will also complete assignments in your lab manual. Both the folder and the lab manual will be checked randomly during the semester. This grade will include all homework.

Initial Assessment: The first day in lab you will take an Initial assessment that will count as your first quiz grade. In order to earn a 100 on this, you must do three things:

1. **E-mail:** You must send the aforementioned initial e-mail to your Lab Instructor.
2. **Syllabus Survey:** You must electronically sign the syllabus via the Qualtrics Syllabus Survey link. This link is found on the lab website.
3. **Initial Meeting:** You must meet with your Lab Instructor for a brief 5-10 minute meeting at the beginning of the semester to review the initial assessment.

**Policies:**

**Cheating:** Cheating on any quiz, practical exam or lab assignment will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive a verbal warning and a grade of zero on the specific assignment. If the same student is caught cheating for the second time, charges will be filed against the student as stated in the Student Handbook. Consequences include (but are not limited to): suspension, expulsion, and disciplinary probation.

**Plagiarism:** The deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the passing off of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions, or materials taken from another, including web sources, is guilty of plagiarism.

### Actions that might be seen as plagiarism:

- Buying, stealing, or borrowing a paper;
- Using the source too closely when paraphrasing;
- Hiring someone to write your paper;
- Building on someone's ideas without citation;
- Copying from another source without citing (on purpose or by accident).

### Some Consequences of plagiarism:

- **Expulsion:** Permanent separation of the student from the University, preventing readmission to the institution. This sanction shall be recorded on the student's transcript.
- **Suspension:** Temporary separation of the student from the University for a specified period of time.
- **Disciplinary Probation:** Formal, written warning that the student's conduct is in violation of University policies. The continued enrollment of the student depends on the maintenance of satisfactory citizenship during the period of probation.
- **Reprimand:** A written statement placed in the student's disciplinary file or an oral statement of the student's violation of a university regulation.
- **Work Hours:** Obligation to complete community services under the supervision of FIU or an outside agency.
- **Failing Grade/Reduction of Grade:** Failing grade or reduction of grade for the examination, project, or course assignment involved, or for the course involved.

**Behavior:** Students should behave as educated, tolerant and willing-to-learn persons and follow conducts described in the Student Handbook. If a student fails to respect any one of these policies, especially the respect for self and others, that individual will be expelled from the lab thereby creating serious consequences for your grade and enrollment status. Students should follow the safety rules in a lab. Students should wear **lab coat and protective clothes all the time**. **Food, drinks, cell phones, laptops or music/video devices are NOT allowed in the lab.** Text messaging is not allowed in the lab, if you are caught doing it, you will be asked to leave the classroom, and will receive a 10 point penalty on that weeks quiz, with no further forewarning (aside from the syllabus) necessary.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and you have to be ON TIME. You must be registered for the section that you plan on attending and you must attend ALL labs. If this is going to be a problem for you, you need to drop this course now. Attendance is checked at the beginning and end of class. If you come in late or leave early your quiz grade will count as a ZERO. We will always have more than enough to do in the time provided. DO NOT schedule doctors/dentist appointments during class time, as these are not valid excuses for making up a lab.

- **Excused absences are either a death in your immediate family** (written proof required) **or if you are in the hospital** (proof required, e.g. doctor's note) **or if you get involved in an accident** (police report required). **Proof of excused absences must be provided to your Head TA/ Head Lab Instructor within two days of the missed lab otherwise the absence will be considered unexcused and will automatically count as the quiz grade to be dropped.** You will be able to make up a lab WITHIN the day that you missed. Once that day passes, there is no possible way to make up a lab. Only one make-up will be granted in the semester, with PROPER DOCUMENTATION. You must make an appointment via e-mail with the Head TA in order to gain the

- possibility to make-up the lab. Keep in mind that the *last lab of the week* is **Thursday 12:00pm-2:50pm**. Once that lab time passes, there is no way to make up a lab.
- **Religious holidays:** A student must notify their TA and Head TA at the beginning of the semester that they wish to observe a religious holyday but will be held responsible for scheduling the make-up, and submitting documents in a timely manner.
  - Student athletes obligated to miss a lab because of a sporting event **MUST** contact the TA or head TA at least one week prior to the laboratory class. If the student contacts the TA in the same week or after the missed lab, he/she will not be allowed to make up the lab/assignments/exams, and they will be penalized for the lab.

**All labs will run until ALL groups are finished.** Groups that finish early will work as helpers to those students that require help, or complete homework, and or work on completing assignments such as the Research Paper. **No one is permitted to leave the lab early. Doing so will result in a 0 for the day, including the quiz.**

Your laboratory workbench must be clean and sterilized with all instruments put away in their proper place at the end of class. Failure to do so will cost you **2 course points off your final grade** every time you fail to follow these instructions.

**Dissections:** The best way to comprehend the organization and makeup of an organism's body is through the dissection of that organism, or another related organism. In the human biology laboratory, dissection is an essential part of the learning process and is therefore required. If you are unable to dissect an animal, you may **not** be excused from that lab that day, and you should consider registering for a different course.

**Drop & Add Policy:**

If you need to add or drop this laboratory section for any reason, make sure you do so on Panthersoft. Keep in mind that you can drop the lab without dropping the lecture, but not vice-versa. Dropping either the lecture, will require you to drop the lab. *Please note that the last day to drop this laboratory section with a DR grade is **Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**.*

**Important dates:**

Midterm Exam: Week of February 28.

Final Exam: Week of April 18.

Research Paper due: Week of March 28.

**"Professors don't give grades; students earn them."**

**\*\*\*Syllabus is subject to change!!!\*\*\***