

Minhan Dinh-Mahavongtrakul (Dr.D)

Dinh_Minhan@sac.edu

<https://rscdd.instructure.com/courses/6904>

Office hours (R-217):

W: 11:30-2:30PM

F: 11:30-1:30PM

Or by appt

(I'm here Saturday mornings too!)

Did you know that:

- **Your stomach acid can eat through metal?**
- **Alzheimer's disease is caused by protein buildup?**
- **Koala bears smell like cough drops?**
- **Vultures like to eat rotten meat?**
- **Your brain contains 100 billion cells?**

These facts are just some of the things you'll learn in this class!

Important dates:

- Last day to add: 9/10
- Last drop date with "W": 9/19
- Last drop date without "W": 9/10
- Last date to get refund: 9/10

Introduction:

Biology is the study of life. We will learn about different aspects of biology, including cell biology, genetics, ecology, evolution, development and MORE! This course is intended for students who are not majoring in biology.



WELCOME TO BIOL-109!

Make the most of BIOL-109!

Pre-requisites:



None! Concurrent enrollment in BIO109L is recommended but not required.

Required texts and materials:

- Concepts in Biology, OpenStaxx (free online as PDF)
(<http://cnx.org/contents/s8Hh0oOc@9.11:Pj8cW7X1@4/Introduction>)
- 4 Apperson 100AS scantrons (0.50\$ at bookstore)
- 10 Apperson 15AS scantrons ("half sheet", 0.25\$ each at bookstore)
- #2 pencils; blue, black and red pen for notetaking (color coding notes can help!)

Lecture schedule – subject to change at instructor's discretion

Wk	Date	Unit	Schedule	Readings	To do
1	9/1	Molecules, cells and energetics	Introduction & Intro to Bio	Ch. 1	ICA1
2	9/8		Chemical basis & Cells	Ch. 2 & 3	ICA2
3	9/15		Cellular respiration & Photosynthesis	Ch. 4 & 5	ICA3
4	9/22		Midterm I and Mitosis	Ch. 6	HW 1, ICA4
5	9/29		Mitosis & Meiosis	Ch. 6 & 7	ICA 5
6	10/6		Genetics & Molecular Biology	Ch. 8 & 9	ICA 6
7	10/13		Biotechnology & catch up	Ch. 9 & 10	ICA 7
8	10/20		Midterm II and Evolution	Ch. 11	HW 2, ICA 8
9	10/27	Evolution and ecology	Natural Selection and Ecology	Ch. 19 & 20	ICA 9
10	11/3		Plant & animal diversity	Ch. 13 & 14 & 15	ICA 10, Science in the News
11	11/10		NO CLASS – Veteran's Day		
12	11/17		Midterm III and digestion	Ch. 16	HW 3, ICA 11
13	11/24	Human body: brain and systems	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving		
14	12/1		Respiratory and Circulatory	Ch. 16	ICA 12
15	12/8		Neuroscience and Immune System	Ch. 16	ICA 13
16	12/15		Midterm IV and TBA	Ch. 17	bonus, HW packets due (HW 1 – 4)

***Reading the schedule: since we only meet once a week, there will be lectures following midterms. The lecture content following a midterm will appear on the subsequent midterm. For example, the “mitosis” lecture on 9/22 will appear on midterm II (10/20). The only exception is 12/15 lecture, which is the bonus lecture.

What is this class like?

BIOL-109 is designed as an INTRODUCTION to biology.

I will help guide you through these fundamentals, but is it your responsibility to come to class prepared, ready to engage with material, and excited to participate! Make it worth it!

Student Learning Outcomes

Communication skills

- Reading and writing – students will develop their ability to comprehend readings on biological subjects
- Reading and writing – students will learn the basics of the technical vocabulary of biology

Thinking and Reasoning

- Critical thinking – students will develop their critical thinking skills by evaluating scientific evidence to reach valid conclusions

My goal is to make learning biology a fun and hopefully, rewarding experience!

BIOL-109 course policies

RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR IN CLASS

Students should act in accordance to Santa Ana College Student Code of Conduct. Behave in a manner that is respectful to both your instructor and your classmates. This means your actions should not interfere with the work of anyone – this includes talking in a distracting manner, texting, being disrespectful, and coming in late or leaving early. If you continually engage in disruptive behavior, you will be asked to stop, leave, or be dropped from 109.

Withdrawals

It is my hope that you stay in the course, but BIOL-109 isn't for everyone – should you want to withdraw, it is your responsibility to drop the course. Failure to drop will result in failing this course.

Attendance and tardiness – important and mandatory!

- Attend classes every day! If you miss more than 10% of classes, you MAY BE DROPPED. You must be present for the entire period to receive credit. Arriving 30 minutes late results in a tardy. A total of 3 tardies equals an absence. Any missed material cannot be made up, no exceptions.

Grades

Grades are found on Canvas – any errors need to be brought to my attention within 2 weeks of the posted date. DO NOT wait until Finals to say something!

**** If you only miss class ONCE, and complete ALL your assignments and exams, you will get a **0.5% bump in your grade**. DO NOT ask for any CURVING or bumping up of grades – any emails received will receive an answer of “NO CURVE.”*
Extra credit is given at the discretion of the instructor.



Electronics are permitted for note-taking ONLY. Disruptive use of electronics can result in points deducted from assignments.



Please feel free to email me at Dinh_Minhan@sac.edu under the subject **BIO109**. Expect to receive a reply within 24 hours. In your email, please start with “Dear Dr. D” and always end up with **your name that is under Blackboard/Webadvisor** – this makes it easier for me to determine who you are. If you emailed me and did not receive a response, chances are 1) you did not give me your name, so I have no idea who you are, or 2) your answer can be found in another class email or the website, so be sure to check there first.



This course will use the Open Staxx Biology: Concepts and Connections. This is an open educational resource, meaning the textbook is available for **free to the public**. The textbook will be used to help strengthen fundamental concepts. Please do the assigned reading prior to coming to class.

Disability Services

A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS). To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Physical Disability Center in Johnsen Center, U-103, or phone (714)-564-6264, TTY (714) 564-6284 for a referral to the appropriate DSPS Department.



Please be courteous to your classmates and do NOT leave the room a mess.

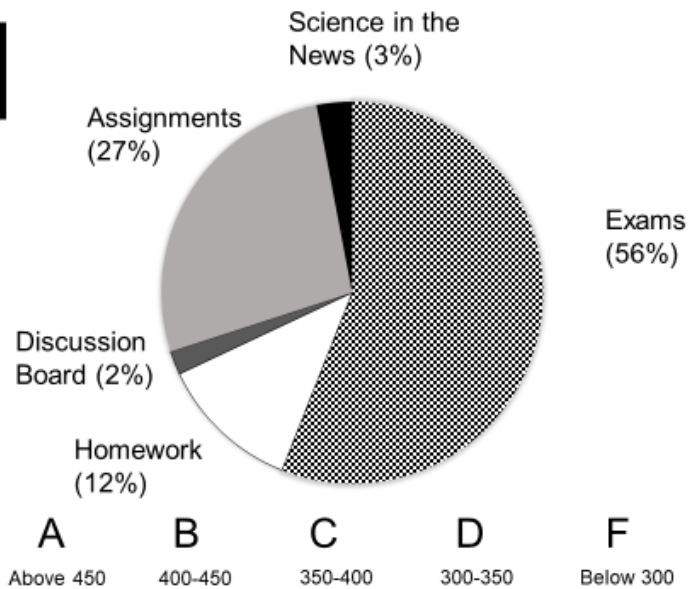
No glass drinks are allowed in the lecture hall.

Any spills **MUST** be cleaned up, or brought to my attention **IMMEDIATELY**.

What does BIOL-109 entail?

Grading is based off 500 points total

- Exams: 4 non-cumulative exams at 70 points each
- Science in the News: news summary at 15 points
- Online homework sets: 4 sets of 15 points each
- In class assignments: 135 points total
- Discussion Board: 10 points



Lecture exams:

Exams: there are 4 exams that are non-cumulative. **Exams are CLOSED NOTES.** The date of exams are SET and cannot be changed. If you arrive more than 30 minutes late to the lecture exams, **you will not be allowed to take it.**

**** If you complete all your assignments, you will get your lowest midterm exam score replaced with the next highest exam score! This only applies if you take all your exams.*

Homework

All assignments are due on the specified due date, no exceptions. No late work accepted. Check your Blackboard regularly to make sure assignments are not missing.

Homework is due on Canvas. Each homework set corresponds to each unit (4 units, with 1 homework set each). It is advisable to complete the homework set before each midterm, but the **homework is not due until 12/15. Please plan accordingly!**

TIPS:

- **Check CANVAS regularly – all assignments are due on specified due dates, no exceptions. Anything late is NOT ACCEPTED.**
- **Use a secure internet connection when doing homework online (Mozilla or Chrome are best)**
- **Always take a screenshot of your homework as proof of completion – just in case!**
- **Always double-check submissions have gone through!**

Make up policy:

NO make up for assignments, quizzes, or exams unless you have a proof of an emergency. In the event that you miss a midterm, and have proof, you will take an alternate exam as your make up (this may include an oral examination).

Science in the News

This assignment requires you to find a science article from a popular news magazine (for example, Discovery Magazine, Scientific American, local newspaper) and report on the findings. You will be required to write a summary and explain how this article relates to material you've learned in class.

Assignments must be submitted through CANVAS using **ONLY PDF/DOC/DOCX** format – anything else will result in an automatic 20% deduction. Double-check your submissions! Detailed information on this assignment will be posted on CANVAS. This must be work of your own thought – be sure to **AVOID** Plagiarizing. Plagiarism will result in at least a **50%** deduction in your total assignment score (plagiarizing with more than a 70% is an automatic 0). **DON'T DO IT!** Please consult me if you have questions.

In Class Assignments

This class will use lecture time to strengthen your understanding of key biological concepts. There may be in-class activities that involve pair work, group work, or solo work. Lecture in-class activities will be done throughout the semester and will occur either at the beginning or end of the class period. These assignments are **open notes**. Some assignments may require your **answers to be on a small sized scantron (this is the scantron that holds less than 50 questions)**. You should keep the hardcopy of every assignment as **PROOF** that you were in class (should there be an error or your quiz gets misplaced).

It is your responsibility to have handouts printed and brought to class if they are posted on Blackboard in advance. All other documents will be supplemented by instructor.

Discussion Boards:

For 10 points towards your grade, you are expected to contribute to discussion board activity by posting or replying to the board for at least 2 units.

Academic Dishonesty will not be allowed

There is ZERO tolerance for academic dishonesty. In this laboratory course, we will strictly enforce Santa Ana's Policy on Academic Honesty (<http://www.sac.edu/StudentServices/AdmissionsRecords/Pages/Academic-Honesty-Policy-.aspx>). Students at Santa Ana College are expected to be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. To falsify the results of one's research, to steal the words or ideas of another, or to cheat on an examination, corrupts the essential process by which knowledge is advanced. Academic dishonesty is seen as an intentional act of fraud, in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic exercise. As institutions, we also consider academic dishonesty to include forgery of academic documents, intentionally impeding or damaging the academic work of others, assisting other students in acts of dishonesty or coercing students into acts of dishonesty.

In cases where a violation of academic honesty is discovered, the faculty member is encouraged to file an "Academic Misconduct Incident Report" form and distribute the form to the appropriate offices listed. There are two categories of sanctions: Limited and College-wide. Limited sanctions include an academic action such as assigning a lower grade or a grade of "F" for the assignment, project, or test. College-wide sanctions include any sanction that will affect a student's standing with the college-at-large, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the College.

In matters relating to academic honesty violations, the primary responsibility for disciplinary proceedings rests with the instructor and the academic division where the violation allegedly occurred. The Dean of Student Affairs will assist in all Collegewide sanctions.

Simply put: DON'T DO IT. Cheating, plagiarism, or any form of academic dishonesty = no points.



"Support each other always"

Awesome resources
exist at SAC – you just
need to know where to
go!

"ASK FOR HELP if you don't
know how to study"

Tutoring or Learning Resources:

- **OFFICE HOURS** with Dr. D – drop by my office to get help or clarification on anything. I am here to help you! If you cannot make it to my office hours, EMAIL ME – I will make time for you.
- **Science Study Center** (R-202) – professors are here to help you! It's also a great place to study if you want peace and quiet. This is considered tutoring and it is FREE.
- **Learning Center** (D-307) – tutoring for different courses that is FREE.
- **Library** – great place to study, print material, or refer to textbooks (Both the Campbell and OpenStax books are located here)

Printing:

- Library
- Learning Center
- Computing Center