BIOL154: Introductory Microbiology

Syllabus | Spring 2017

INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Larry Forney
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LECTURES TIME AND PLACE
Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:15 p.m. in REN 111

OFFICE HOURS TIME AND PLACE
Mondays and Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00 p.m. in LSS 344 or by appointment

LEARNING OUTCOMES
The primary objective of this Introductory Microbiology course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the importance of microorganisms (particularly prokaryotes) in the biosphere and in human, animal and plant health.
It is expected that by the end of this course students will be competent in the following ways.

Learn & Integrate:
• Understand the structure, physiology, and functional diversity of Bacteria, Archaea, fungi, and viruses and their roles in the biosphere.
• Understand the genetics, genomics, ecology and evolution of microorganisms.

Think & Create:
• Students will become aware of and gain insight to current events in which microorganisms have a central role.
• Students will be able to apply the concepts and approaches learned in this course to help solve problems encountered in their professional lives.

Communicate:
• Students will be able to effectively communicate microbiology concepts to others.

Clarify Purpose & Perspective:
• Students will understand the importance of microorganisms in causing or resolving problems in contemporary society.

Practice Citizenship:
• Students will be able to explain to others many of the critical roles that microorganisms play in our daily lives.
• Students will be able to inform decision makers about the ecological importance of microorganisms in developing strategies to address sustainability of the biosphere,
emerging diseases, as well as in sustaining human, animal and plant health.

**TEXTBOOK**

The textbook used in the course is a customized textbook entitled *Introductory Microbiology* that is published by Pearson (ISBN 10 1323538518) and available at the University of Idaho Bookstore. Along with the book itself you will obtain a Student Access Code Card that includes a code that you will need to log in to the Mastering Microbiology website [http://www.pearsonmastering.com](http://www.pearsonmastering.com). Through this website you can access Pearson eText (an electronic version of the textbook) and learning resources available on this website that will be used throughout the semester.

**MEDIA**

In addition to the textbook the course will include media from the Web. The Web-based materials will include videos such as episodes of Frontline and NOVA, TED talks, and others, as well as articles from the popular press that have been published on-line. This material will expose students to current events in which microorganisms have a central role. Not all of these are listed in the lecture schedule partly because some are events that may occur during the semester.

**BBLearn WEBSITE**

All students enrolled in BIOL 154 will have access to the BBLearn website [https://bblearn.uidaho.edu/webapps/login/](https://bblearn.uidaho.edu/webapps/login/). On this website you will find a copy of this syllabus, the lecture schedule and lecture notes, as well as links to relevant videos, news articles and grades. The website will also be the primary means used to communicate announcements and other information about the course during the semester. Students are advised to regularly check the website and their email for announcements and changes to the proposed lecture schedule and reading assignments.

**LECTURE SCHEDULE**

The lecture schedule is posted on the BBLearn website. Reading assigned material in advance is highly recommended, as it will be easier to follow the lectures, and the slides will not always contain all information necessary to do well on exams. **It will be very difficult for you to succeed in this course if you do not attend lectures.** This is because (a) the essential concepts that you should learn will be distilled, explained and clarified during these lectures and (b) the textbook does not include all the material that will be covered in the course.

Lecture notes (in the form of PowerPoint slides) will be posted on the BBLearn website after the lecture and not before.

**GRADES**

**Examinations:**

There will be three multiple-choice exams and a cumulative final. These will evaluate student's understanding of all assigned reading and media, as well as information presented and discussed in lectures. Each exam will be worth 100 points and the final exam will be worth 200 points for a total of 500 possible points.
COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM:

THURSDAY, MAY 8 at 12:30-2:30 p.m. in REN 111

Final grades:
Final grades will be based on the total points earned from exams. Grades will not be ‘curved’ and pleas for exceptions will not be heard.
Grade scale:
A = 500-450 points
B = 449-400 points
C = 399-350 points
D = 349-300 points
F = <300 points

Disputes:
If you think that your exam was incorrectly graded then I will be glad to recheck the scoring. To initiate this process you need to explain your concern in writing and give it to me no more than two class days following the exam. Requests to recheck the grading of an exam may not be submitted via e-mail or verbally.

Review sessions:
Review sessions will be held prior to each exam if there is sufficient interest. The time and place of these will be announced in class.

Make up exams:
If you have a legitimate conflict with the day and time of a regularly scheduled exam then you must let the instructor know in writing one week prior to the exam. Failure to do so will forfeit the opportunity for a make-up exam and result in a grade of zero. The instructor will consult with the student to reschedule the exam within one week. The day and time of the rescheduled exam, as well as the format of the exam, will be at the discretion of the instructor, but usually these will be oral exams.
Make-up exams will only be allowed in the case of an excused absence. Excused absences are those that result from situations beyond the control of the student. These include, but are not limited to personal illness, serious family illness or death and sanctioned University events (e.g. athletics). Excused absences require some formal documentation such as a doctor’s note, an email from a coach, or the like. Unexcused absences are those that are preventable by the student. These include, but are not limited to oversleeping, forgetting to come to class, attending family functions, and personal leave days.

GETTING HELP: PASS TO SUCCESS
To be successful in this (and most other courses at the UI) you need to:

- Prepare by reading the assigned chapters, exercises, and other material before class.
- Attend class. While there, pay attention to what is being said, ask questions, and think about the material being presented. Use good note taking skills.
- **Study regularly.** Most individuals will require 1-2 hours of study time for each hour spent in class. When studying use the resources made available to you by the instructor, in the textbook, and on the Web or in library.

- **Seek help.** If you are having trouble understanding some parts of the material then meet with the instructor during regularly scheduled office hours or, if necessary, make an appointment.

The University of Idaho Counseling and Testing Center can provide help and testing for students that face a variety of challenges. If you are struggling with the course, please consider availing yourself of tutoring services that are provided by the university's [Academic Support & Access Programs](http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html).

### STUDENT CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM

Any behavior that is disruptive to the class or deemed by the instructor to be disrespectful to fellow students or the instructor will not be tolerated. Such behaviors include but are not limited to conversations with fellow students, texting or inappropriate use of phones, laptops or tablets, sleeping in class, reading newspapers, ringing cell phones, and so on. Students that are disruptive or disrespectful will be summarily dismissed from class. Repeated violations may result in expulsion from the course and a failing grade for the student.

### UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO CLASSROOM LEARNING CIVILITY

In any environment in which people gather to learn, it is essential that all members feel as free and safe as possible in their participation. To this end, it is expected that everyone in this course will be treated with mutual respect and civility, with an understanding that all of us (students, instructors, professors, guests, and teaching assistants) will be respectful and civil to one another in discussion, in action, in teaching, and in learning. Should you feel that classroom interactions do not reflect an environment of civility and respect, you are encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours to discuss your concern. Additional resources for expression of concern or requesting support include the Dean of Students Office (855-6757), the UI Counseling & Testing Center’s Confidential Services (855-6716), or the UI Office of Human Rights, Access, & Inclusion (855-4285).

### ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is governed by Article II of the University of Idaho’s Student Code of Conduct ([http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html](http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/fsh/2300.html)). All students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating on examinations, plagiarism, falsification of academic or other records, and the acquisition or use of test materials without faculty authorization. Students are reminded that examinations are to reflect their own work and knowledge. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. Individuals guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade. Even one incident of academic dishonesty may also merit expulsion from the University.

### DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have documented temporary or permanent disabilities. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Support Services located in the Idaho Commons Building, Room 306 in order to notify your instructor(s) as soon as possible regarding accommodation(s) needed for the course. More information can be obtained on
the website of Disability Support Services ([www.uidaho.edu/dss](http://www.uidaho.edu/dss)).

**FIREARMS**

The University of Idaho bans firearms from its property with only limited exceptions. One exception applies to persons who hold a valid Idaho enhanced concealed carry license, provided those firearms remain concealed at all times. If an enhanced concealed carry license holder’s firearm is displayed, other than in necessary self-defense, it is a violation of University policy. Please contact local law enforcement (call 911) to report firearms on University property. For more information, see [http://www.uidaho.edu/public-safety-and-security/Weapons-on-Campus](http://www.uidaho.edu/public-safety-and-security/Weapons-on-Campus). The university remains committed to maintaining a safe work, living and learning environment on campus and does not tolerate any threatening use of firearms or any other weapons. While authorized license holders may have familiarity and be at ease carrying a loaded firearm, the university asks that they be aware that many people are not familiar with handguns and are uncomfortable in their presence.