

## Course Syllabus

### Lecture Instructors:

Bruce Smith (CNS 166)  
[smithb@ithaca.edu](mailto:smithb@ithaca.edu) 274-3971  
**Office Hrs:** Thur 1:30-3:30,  
Wed 11-12, or by appointment

Leann Kanda (CNS 159)  
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**Office Hrs:** Mon 10-12, Wed 10-11,  
or by appointment

### Lab Instructors:

Anne Stork (CNS 156)  
[astork@ithaca.edu](mailto:astork@ithaca.edu) 274-3575  
**Office Hrs:** by appointment

Sofia Windstam (CNS 280)  
[swindstam@ithaca.edu](mailto:swindstam@ithaca.edu) 274-5141  
**Office Hrs:** Wed and Fri 8-10, or by appointment

Robin Bingham (CNS 213)  
[rbingham@ithaca.edu](mailto:rbingham@ithaca.edu) 274-1086  
**Office Hrs:** Tues and Thur 8:15-9,  
Tues and Thurs 10:40-12, or by appointment

### Teaching Assistant:

Becca King [rking1@ithaca.edu](mailto:rking1@ithaca.edu)

**Meeting Place and Time:** Lectures – TR 10:50 - 12:05; 225 Williams Hall  
Labs – M, T, W, or R 1:00 - 3:50; CNS 107 or CNS 110

### Recommended contact:

We recommend you contact us by email if you have personal questions or appointments to make. However, if you have questions about material, or logistical questions about assignments, please use Blackboard discussion, as this will post the question (and answer) available to everyone.

### Required Texts:

Campbell, N.A., J.B. Reece, L.A. Urry, M.L. Cain, S.A. Wasserman, P.V. Minorsky, and R.B. Jackson. 2008. *Biology*, 8th edition. Pearson, San Francisco.

Van de Graaff, K.M., and J. L. Crawley. 2005. *A Photographic Atlas for the Biology Laboratory*, revised 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Morton Publishing, Englewood.

**Course Website:** This course is on Blackboard (<http://blackboard.ithaca.edu>).

Use your IC email address as your Blackboard ID (without the @ithaca.edu); your password is your IC email password. Readings, homeworks, and lecture notes will all be posted at this site. Announcements about review sessions, changes to schedules or assignments, etc. will be put on Blackboard, so you will have to check Blackboard regularly.

**Course Description:** This is the second semester of the introductory biology series for biology majors. Emphasis is placed on evolution, biodiversity, and ecology.

**Learning Objectives:** The Biology Department has identified seven Student Learning Objectives to be mastered by students in our majors. We expect students completing this course to have achieved an introductory-level competence in all seven of these outcomes.

1. demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles in biology
2. demonstrate an understanding of the application of biological concepts to everyday life.
3. articulate connections among biological concepts at various levels (e.g. molecular, cellular, organismal, ecological) as well as between biology and other natural sciences.

*Specific concepts students will be able to address at these three levels after taking this course:*

origin and evolution of life and how scientific and creationist perspectives differ  
 populations genetics; origin of species and species concepts  
 organismal diversity; systematics & phylogenetics  
 ecological basis of evolutionary adaptations  
 ecology at multiple levels (e.g. population, community, ecosystem)  
 human dependence & impacts on natural systems; sustainability

4. critically analyze biological information, including analysis of the effectiveness of methods, the meaning of observational and experimental data, and the appropriateness of conclusions.
5. carry out scientific investigations to answer questions about the natural world.
6. effectively communicate scientific works in both oral and written form.
7. carry out work in a way that demonstrates a professional standard of ethics, collaboration, and respect for nature.

*Specific processes students will be able to apply:*

comparative statistics  
 hypothesis building & experimental design  
 lab techniques for observation and comparative analysis of taxa  
 communication via written media  
 accessing scientific literature using electronic tools & the evaluation of reliable sources  
 distinguishing between original thought & plagiarism

**Lecture:** Students are expected to attend all lectures with the exception of health emergencies, religious holidays, court appearances, or college-authorized extracurricular events. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate (do not ask the instructors). Do not assume that all lecture material is covered in the text. Poor attendance generally correlates with poor grades.

*Exams* will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Make-up exams will be given only in special situations (see above under Lecture). Requests for make-up exams MUST be made ONE WEEK ahead of the regularly scheduled exam time. Unexplained absences will result in a zero grade for that exam. The **final exam** will be given during finals week.

*Homeworks* (a total of four) will be assigned during the semester. Each is worth 20 points. They will be made available electronically on Blackboard and you will submit them electronically on Blackboard before the deadline (see Lecture Schedule).

*Reading assignments* are found in the Lecture Schedule. Students should keep up with the readings as listed on the schedule. To get the most out of the lectures, students should complete the readings **before** the class when they will be discussed. Reading assignments are mandatory unless otherwise noted. Additional readings may be added that are not listed. Readings that are not part of the textbook will be found on Blackboard.

*Blackboard quizzes* will be assigned regularly through the term. These short multiple-choice online tests will **not** be evaluated for your performance, but for your participation.

*Behavior:* Please be respectful of your instructors and fellow students (do not talk during lecture). Cell phones, iPods, etc. may not be used during lecture or exams. Inappropriate behavior during class could result in dismissal (or an embarrassing verbal request to keep quiet!).

**Students with Disabilities:** Students that need special accommodations should contact the Office of Academic Support Services for Students with Disabilities, 322A Smiddy Hall (274-1005, TDD - 274-7319).

**Laboratory:** Laboratory attendance is **mandatory**. If you miss your lab, please arrange to attend another lab section during the same week. You must notify both your regular lab instructor and the instructor of the make-up lab section (see below). Lab absences will result in a loss of 10 points per missed lab if labs are not made up.

<i>Lab instructors:</i>	Section 01 M 1:00 - 3:50 CNS 110	Kanda	TA: Erika Clark
	Section 06 M 1:00 - 3:50 CNS 107	Stork	TA: Ashley Bell
	Section 02 T 1:00 - 3:50 CNS 110	Kanda	TA: Rebecca Rideout
	Section 03 T 1:00 - 3:50 CNS 107	Stork	TA: David Seidorf
	Section 04 W 1:00 - 3:50 CNS 110	Windstam	TA: Kate Noonan
	Section 05 R 1:00 - 3:50 CNS 110	Bingham	TA: Zach Cava

*Ecology Project:* The ecology project is a semester long exercise. Details will be explained in lab. You will also be required to hand in weekly **lab assignments**. Due dates for each assignment are listed in the Lab Schedule. Routine short lab quizzes will act as a distributed practical test.

*Lab Evaluation:* Your laboratory instructor will determine the number of points earned from a total of 20 possible. Factors important in this part of your grade include behavior, preparedness, and participation in discussions.

**Grading:** There are a total of 800 points to earn in this class. Your lab grade accounts for about 30% of your overall grade. You will be graded on a straight scale (no curving).

<b>Points Summary</b>		<b>Grading Scale</b>		
In-Class Exams (3 x 100)	300 points	93-100%	A 77-79%	C+
Final Exam	175 points	90-92%	A- 73-76%	C
Homeworks	80 points	87-89%	B+ 70-72%	C-
Lab Assignments	100 points	83-86%	B 67-69%	D+
Ecology Project	65 points	80-82%	B- 63-66%	D
Lab quizzes	50 points		60-62%	D-
Blackboard quizzes	10 points		below 60%	F
<u>Lab evaluation</u>	<u>20 points</u>			
Total	800 points			

**Due dates:** All assignments are due at the appointed day and time. Homeworks and lab assignments will be accepted late however 5% of the total possible points will be removed from the grade for every 24 hours late (i.e. 1-24 hours late = 5% off, 24-48 hours late = 10% off, etc.). Weekend days count the same as weekdays.

**There will be no extra-credit assignments in this course.**

**Academic Conduct:** Familiarize yourself with the college's policies on academic conduct (<http://www.ithaca.edu/judicialaffairs/>). Please make yourself familiar with plagiarism as it is defined in the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty can result in a grade of zero on an assignment or test and/or judicial referral.