

# BIOL 1520: Introduction to Organismal Biology

## Spring 2007

### *Tentative schedule for labs*

The labs will be held in room ESM G1. Check your registration for location. Labs begin the first week of classes (Aug 21, 2006).

## BIOL 1520 Laboratory Policies

1. The Biology 1520 lab manual will be made available on-line. It is your responsibility to retrieve it well before lab to show up prepared. There will not be an elaborate introduction to each lab experiment, so you will need to read the protocols in advance of the labs.
2. **NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE LAB.** This is not a request; it is against institutional rules. Failure to comply will result in the submission of "F" as your lab grade for the semester.
3. **BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER LAB SECTIONS.** Clean up your lab station after each lab and report any messes left behind previous lab sections to your TA.
4. **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP LABS FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.** An unexcused lab will cost you 5% of your OVERALL 1520 grade plus the lost 2% for a missed quiz, and since you have a quiz every time you are in lab it is to your advantage to (a) attend, (b) document your absence, (c) make arrangements in advance of any known absences for school or personal activities to make up the lab in another section. Documented absences can include: an illness of your own or within your family, schedule conflict with an obligation to an official organization, auto accident, etc. [FYI: Full-time students can be exempt from/rescheduled for jury duty with proof of full-time enrollment.]  
In the event that you miss a lab, or will need to be excused from a lab in advance of it, the lab coordinator Dr. Rupal Thazhath should be contacted at [rupal.thazhath@biology.gatech.edu](mailto:rupal.thazhath@biology.gatech.edu), or in Cherry Emerson Room A106 during office hours, and emailing the TA of your lab section; or you may leave a message at the Biology main office: (404)-894-3700; 201 Cherry Emerson Building. There is no penalty for an excused absence.
5. **THERE IS ONLY ONE MAKE-UP QUIZ.** If you miss a quiz due to an excused absence, then you will take a comprehensive make-up quiz during the week prior to the lab final, irrespective of the quiz you missed. This may sound unfair, but it will be an option available to everyone to prepare for the final exam and is no more difficult than any other quiz. This is the only way to ensure uniformity of grading and testing.
6. Be on time for lab. **THERE WILL BE A QUIZ IN LAB EVERY TIME YOU ATTEND, BEGINNING WITH THE "Microbiology - Part 1" LAB.** The quiz is handed out exactly 10 minutes past the hour, giving you sufficient time to get to the ESM building, and ends 15 minutes later. Showing up 10 minutes late means you have only 5 minutes to take that quiz. Also, leaving lab early without the instructor's prior permission (the TA's) will result in a zero (0) grade for that lab's quiz.
7. Proper attire needs to be worn in lab. **No open-toed shoes. If open-toed shoes are worn to lab, you will be sent home immediately.**
8. All injuries or accidents must be reported to the lab TA IMMEDIATELY.
9. The distribution of grades and the modes of assessment have been determined to provide you with a diverse set of opportunities to demonstrate your command of the course content and the scientific method including public speaking, scientific writing, etc.
  - You will have 8 quizzes during the semester. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped, and the remaining quizzes will account for **25%** of your final lab grade.
  - The lab final is worth **25%** of your total grade and is comprehensive.
  - You will have to write two lab reports as indicated in the syllabus. Lab Report 1 is worth **15%** of your final lab grade and Lab report 2 is worth **25%** of your final grade.

- There will be random lab notebook checks and homework assignments throughout the semester that will total **10%** of your final grade.

**10. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Anything written in your lab report(s) that is not an original idea of yours must be referenced. Direct copying from the lab manual will result in a grade of "O" for that assignment. Your conduct in this class is expected to conform to the Georgia Tech Honor Code (<http://www.honor.gatech.edu>). Please familiarize yourself with its expectations and responsibilities.

### Quizzes

You will have a quiz each week in lab, and these are done to provide you with lots of feedback about your performance, and to minimize the length of introductory lectures during the lab period. These will require a significant amount of independent preparation before lab, but you will be given several examples of quizzes to guide you with your preparations. You will need to be conversant in the basic modes of experimental design since Biology is an experimental science.

### Lab Notebooks

You will be required to keep a lab notebook for the duration of the semester that documents each experiment, its methodology, the data you collect and the conclusions that you can draw from the data. The lab notebooks can also be used as a place to make notes about correct answers to quiz questions and material given during the pre-lab lecture. There will be a lab notebook format outline posted on WebCT before the first lab. Lab notebooks will be randomly taken up and graded during the semester, so it is advised to keep current on writing.

### Tentative schedule for labs

Week	Lab
1 (Jan 8-12)	Introduction
2 (Jan 15-19)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday-NO LABS
3 (Jan 22-26)	<b>Lab 1:</b> Data analysis: Scientific Method, Termite pheromones and normal flora
4 (Jan 29-Feb 2)	<b>Lab 2:</b> Microbiology lab - Part 1; Design original Microbiology research project <b>Quiz 1</b> <b>1520 Lecture Exam 1-1 Feb 07</b>
5 (Feb 5-9)	<b>Lab 2:</b> Microbiology lab - Part 2; Continue original Microbiology research project <b>Quiz 2</b>
6 (Feb 12-16)	<b>Lab 2: Start Group Microbiology Experiments for Lab Report 1</b> <b>Lab 3:</b> Discussion of original Plant research project; <b>Statistics Lecture</b> <b>Quiz 3</b>
7 (Feb 19-23)	<b>Lab 4:</b> Animal reproduction: Reproduction and the chemistry of parenting <b>Quiz 4</b> <b>1520 Lecture Exam 2- 22 Feb 07</b>
8 (Feb 26-Mar 2)	<b>Lab 5:</b> Comparative morphology-(vertebrate/invertebrate); Hormone Lab?; <b>LAB REPORT 1 DUE</b> <b>Start Plant Lab for Lab Report 2</b> <b>Quiz 5</b>
9 (Mar 5-9)	<b>Lab 6:</b> Special sensory lab; EKG <b>Quiz 6</b>
10 (Mar 12-16)	<b>Lab 7:</b> EEG, EMG <b>Quiz 7</b> <b>1520 Lecture Exam 3- 15 March 07</b>

- 11** (Mar 19-23) Spring Break- NO LABS
- 12** (Mar 26-30) *Lab 8:* Dissection part I: Basic Anatomy  
**Quiz 8**
- 13** (Apr 2-6) *Lab 9:* Dissection part II: Cardiovascular & GI Systems **Make-up quiz**  
**LAB REPORT 2 DUE**
- 14** (Apr 9-13) *Lab 10:* Dissection part III: Reproductive Systems; Final Exam Review  
**1520 Lecture Exam 4- 12 Apr 07**
- 15** (Apr 16-20) **1520 Lab Final Exam**
- 16** (Apr 23-27) **Dead Week**
- 17** (Apr 30-May 4) **1520 Lecture Final Exam- 1 May 07 2:50-5:40**