

BIOL 1511: HONORS BIOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES I

Fall 2008

Tentative schedule for labs

The labs will be held in room ESM G2. Labs will begin the first week of classes (August 18, 2008).

BIOL 1511 Laboratory Learning Objectives

This course has been designed to introduce honors students to the biological principles covered in class through discovery based lab sessions throughout the semester. You will work in groups of 4, occasionally brainstorming as a class, to address ecological, evolutionary, cellular and genetic questions based upon samples you will collect at Piedmont Park. This course is meant to foster critical thinking, develop effective communication skills and help you work as a team.

1. Piedmont Park officials have generously offered to allow us access to sample at Lake Clara-Meer. You will be respectful of the environment and the people that work/frequent the park area. Dress appropriately; closed toed comfortable shoes are a must, no exceptions. The same applies for when you are in lab.
2. **NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE LAB!!!** This is not a request; it is against federal, state and 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 1511 course grade plus the lost % for participation, and since you graded on participation 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 instructor (Dr. Rupal Thazhath) should be contacted at rupal.thazhath@biology.gatech.edu, 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. Be on time for lab. Also, leaving lab early without the instructor's prior permission (the TA's) will result in a zero (0) grade for that lab.
6. Proper attire needs to be worn in lab. No open-toed shoes.
7. All injuries or accidents must be reported to the lab TA **IMMEDIATELY**.
8. 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. More detailed explanations will be provided in lab as to what is expected from you.
 - The lab research proposal writeups will be worth **20%** of your lab grade
 - The lab presentations are worth **20%** of your lab grade and is comprehensive
 - Participation in lab exercises is very important and you will be evaluated by your TA and other students in your group as to whether or not your overall involvement was adequate. You will also maintain a lab notebook. Both participation and your lab notebook combined are worth **25%** of your lab grade.
 - You will be expected to turn in a final lab report worth **25%** of your lab grade.
 - Reading, understanding and critiquing research papers is crucial to your development as a scientist. We will assign 3 papers over the course of the semester for you to go over, and turn in a page long summary of the paper. These exercises will be worth **10%** of your lab grade.

9. 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 literature 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.

1511L schedule (subject to change at any time) will be determined as we go along in the semester. How far we get is entirely up to you and the progress you make in this class.

TA Information:

Monday 3-6: **Jennifer Kovacs**
gtg647u@mail.gatech.edu

Tuesday 3-6: **Miranda Watts**
gth767t@mail.gatech.edu

Some important points to remember:

1. YOU are responsible for your learning in this class.
2. You need to ask pertinent questions when you do not understand what may be going on in lab. We will not be holding your hands for you through the semester, you will need to be able to articulate clearly what your goals are, where you need help and how you think you can find a solution to your problems. Your TA and Dr. Thazhath are there to guide, not to provide an easy answer for you. Be prepared to think for yourself.
3. Having great results is wonderful, but the whole point of this exercise is for you to experience science and how it is done, first hand. How hard you work throughout the semester and your productivity counts more than whether or not you had the “right” results. Besides, looking for the “right” results is not how good science is done anyway.
4. Keys to doing well in this lab: Hard work, participation, intelligent thought processes and thinking outside of the box.