

BIOL 1520: Introduction to Organismal Biology

Fall 2008

Tentative schedule for labs

The labs will be held in room ESM G4. Check your registration for location. Labs begin the first week of classes (Aug 18, 2008).

BIOL 1520 Laboratory Policies

1. The Biology 1520 lab manual is available in the bookstore. It is your responsibility to read each lab 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 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 supervisor TA, Jonathan Sylvester should be contacted at gth644s@mail.gatech.edu, or the lab coordinator Dr. Rupal Thazhath at rupal.thazhath@biology.gatech.edu. Dr. Thazhath can also be reached in Cherry Emerson Room A106 during office hours. Next you will need to email the TA of your lab section and notify them of your absence. There is no penalty for an excused absence. **You are only allowed one excused absence during the semester.**
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. To avoid taking a make-up quiz at all, be sure to attend all labs regardless if you miss your section.
6. Be on time for lab. **THERE WILL BE A QUIZ IN LAB EVERY TIME YOU ATTEND, BEGINNING WITH THE "Microbiology - Part 1" LAB**, unless told otherwise. The quiz is handed out exactly when class begins (at 5 minutes past the hour), and ends 10 minutes later. Showing up 5 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.** Failure to comply will result in a zero (0) grade for that lab's quiz and you will be asked to leave the lab immediately. You may return with proper shoes on BUT will not get credit for the quiz.
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 taking observations, 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 **15%** 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 reading assignments throughout the semester that will total **20%** 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 "0" 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 quiz questions during class 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 T-square 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.

Reading Assignments

Throughout the semester, you will be assigned a journal article to read that will contain information related to a particular lab, or as background information for either of your Lab Reports. You will be required to write a short summary of what you read and/or questions about the reading material. You will need to discuss what study was described, what methods were used, what were the results and conclusion. The purpose of these assignments is to prepare and guide you as you write your lab reports. The requirements for each reading assignment will be explained to you in depth from your TA as you receive them.

Tentative schedule for labs

Week	Lab
1 (Aug 18-22)	Introduction
2 (Aug 25-29)	Lab 1: Data analysis: Scientific Method, Termite pheromones and normal flora
3 (Sep 1-5)	<i>Labor Day - No labs</i>
4 (Sep 8-12)	Lab 2: Microbiology lab - Part 1; Design original Microbiology research project Quiz 1 1520 Lecture Exam 1
5 (Sep 15-19)	Lab 2: Microbiology lab - Part 2; Continue original Microbiology research project Quiz 2
6 (Sep 22-26)	Lab 3: Begin original Plant research project, Statistics tutorial, Finish original Microbiology research project (<i>BEGIN LAB REPORT 1</i>) Quiz 3
7 (Sep 29-Oct 3)	Lab 4: Reproduction and the chemistry of parenting 1520 Lecture Exam 2 Quiz 4
8 (Oct 6-10)	Lab 5: Comparative morphology

Quiz 5

- 9** (Oct 13-17) *Fall Break – No Labs*
- 10** (Oct 20-24) *Lab 6: Special senses (LAB REPORT 1 DUE)*
Quiz 6
- 11** (Oct 27-31) *Lab 7: EEG, ECG*
Quiz 7
1520 Lecture Exam 3
- 12** (Nov 3-7) *Lab 8: Dissection part I-neck, digestive and circulatory system*
Quiz 8
- 13** (Nov 10-14) *Lab 9: Dissection part II-excretory and reproductive system, finish Plant research project (BEGIN LAB REPORT 2)*
Make-up quiz
- 14** (Nov 17-21) **1520 Lab Final Exam 1520**
Lecture Exam 4
- 15** (Nov 24-28) *Thanksgiving Holiday – No Labs*
- 16** (Dec 1-5) *Dead week – No Labs (LAB REPORT 2 DUE)*
- 17** (Dec 12) **1520 Lecture Final Exam**