General Information for students taking BSC 2011L

In the past many students have complained of the need to learn the names of organisms and their structures, for which they will have little use in their future career plans. Regardless of your need for this terminology in the future, you will need the learning skills that you develop in this course. Whether you are planning to pursue a career in medicine, in applied biology, or in biological research, you will have to be able to read and understand large amounts of information, learn many minute details, or learn to distinguish a variety of similar structures and their functions. This course will help you develop the ability to perform these skills more successfully. Do not take this course lightly, as it will form the foundation not only for your content knowledge, but for your study habits and skill acquisition as well.

1. You may expect your TA to attend the course lecture. However, if he or she is unable to answer questions about the lecture, be sure to contact the professor directly with your question.

2. You will be given a lab quiz every week except when stated otherwise. These quizzes are cumulative and will cover the material from the previous weeks’ labs and will contain several questions pertaining to the reading assignment in the lab manual for the current lab.

3. You must attend all labs. There will be no make-up labs and no make-up quizzes. If you must miss a lab due to a documented emergency, you will be allowed to drop one quiz grade.

4. Your TA has control over a small percentage of your course grade in the form of a subjective TA evaluation of your performance in the lab. It is to your benefit, therefore, to be on time for lab each week, to be prepared to complete the lab activities without constant supervision by the TA, and to stay for the entire lab period.

5. You are expected to clean up after yourself each week. This entails cleaning your part of the lab table, disposing of dissected specimens properly, washing and drying any microslides and pins you may have used and returning them to your table, disposing of coverslips and bent or rusty pins in the sharps container, and covering your microscope and returning it to its proper place in the cabinet. Students should use the colander in the sink to prevent any specimens from washing down and clogging the sink drain.

6. For the purpose of lab quizzes or practical exams, the lab manual will be the basis for the terminology. The optional Rust manual uses some outdated terms so be sure to check your lab manual for the terms we expect you to use. Unless otherwise stated by the professor, the lecture material and lecture texts will not be covered on practical exams and/or lab quizzes.

7. You are expected to use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation on all quizzes and practical exams. The specific names of taxa must be capitalized.

8. Do not depend on the color of a structure to identify it. Use shape, location, relative size, texture, etc. as your guide.

I have read and understood the statements made in the sheet entitled ‘General Information for Students taking BSC 2011L.’ I asked the TA to explain any points that were unclear to me so that I am now fully aware of what is expected of me during this course.

Print name

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