Principles of Biology
Biology 100 (Section 10)
Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. C. Riley Nelson, Widtsoe Building 123, 801-422-1345, for personal issues: rileynelson@byu.edu; but class assignments and routine matters should be sent to the teaching assistants at nelsonbiology@gmail.com
Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:00 - 3:00 pm. I'm available at other times, by appointment only.

Course objective: I will instill in you an appreciation for the living world. The world is amazing. Some of you have lost a sense of wonder for the interesting things in the natural world. Sometimes this is for rational reasons, more often it is because you have become too channelized in rationality. I hope to rebuild that sense of wonder. I hope these ideas will help you make the world a better place each day. We must become better stewards of the Earth and its living inhabitants. See also the Learning Outcomes listed below.

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:30 pm in the Martin Building (MARB) Room 456.
Attendance at each lecture is absolutely required; random checks with in-class assignments will be made during the semester.

Textbooks: The first three textbooks listed below are required, the fourth is optional.
Nelson, C. R. 2006. Freshwater Aquatic Invertebrate Identification Guide, BYU Creative Works, available in the BYU Bookstore. We will be using it for several exercises.
Optional text (will be on reserve in the Teaching Assistants' office):
Notice: the format I have used in the above citations. It is the same that you will use in citations for papers in this class

Examinations: Tests will be in multiple-choice format and administered in the Testing Center located in the Heber J. Grant Building (HGB). All material for tests will come from lecture and my determination of your synthesis of these lecture ideas. Be prepared to analyze new situations using material covered. The textbooks are excellent. I reread the texts to prepare my lectures. You should read them before class to prepare you for the lecture. Do not read too far ahead. I often fit lectures to current events and needs. The texts present, however, much more material than I can cover in each lecture. I will give tests based on the text material I cover in the lectures. Take all tests! No makeup tests will be given.

Preparation for class: A good study schedule and strategy is:
1. Read the actual text assignment before a lecture. Keep up, but don't get too far ahead.
2. Take careful notes in the lecture.
3. Recopy those notes after the lecture (but on the same day).
4. Reread the text if concepts from a lecture are unclear.
5. Clarify concepts with teaching assistants.
**Petitions:** If you think that an error has been made in grading a test question see your teaching assistant first, then me. I reserve the right to adjust all scores as to me seems fair and reasonable. All petitions will take the form of a typed, single 8.5 x 11 inch sheet with reasoning (not physical or social excuses) for your answer, supported by documentation from our notes and our texts. These petitions will be duly filed in my office, but not read unless the points missed could really be important for your grade. I will judge at the end of the semester. If you are on a borderline, I will read them then.

**Teaching Assistants:** Kirsten Pierce, Ross Christensen, Sarah Weeks, and Jordan Baker are your teaching assistants. Their main office is WIDB 198. They can be reached by email at: nelsonbiology@gmail.com. They may post more contact information on our Learning Suite site.

**Grading:** Tests will be scored by the Testing Center. The Nature Experience Proposal, Nature Experience, Biodiversity project, Virtual Biology Labs, and Serendipity writings will be graded by your teaching assistant and noted by Dr. Nelson. Your teaching assistant may also assess your participation in the extra discussion sessions and use that information in borderline grade situations. Dr. Nelson will determine final grades using the following:

- Nature Experience Proposal: 5%
- Class learning Nature Experience: 10%
- Serendipity writings: 10%
- Mastering and Virtual Biology Lab writings: 10%
- Test One: 15%
- Test Two: 15%
- Final examination: 15%
- Choice of Nature Experience: 20%

In classes of this size, and based on my experiences with this and similar courses, the average for the first test will be about 85%, the second 80%, and the third 80%. I expect a standard deviation for each test to be near 10%. I do not intend to adjust a frequency curve for the class. If all students get above 93%, then each student will get an A grade. I do not expect this to happen so I will generally follow this design:

- 93-100% A
- 90-92% A-
- 88-89% B+
- 83-87% B
- 80-82% B-
- 78-79% C+
- Below 70% E

I offer no opportunity for extra credit. Take tests and turn in assignments on time. Late assignments will be penalized a minimum of 10%.

I will not post grades. You can check with the University for your final grade.

**Good citizenship and following the Honor Code includes no plagiarism, sexual harassment, or cheating in all its forms.** Be good and make the world a better place.