Department of Biology and Wildlife  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks

BIOL 103X “Biology & Society”  
Spring 2006

Lectures: BUNN AUD. 5:15pm- 6:45pm  
Mon &Wed

Labs: BUNN 308. FE1: 8:00am- 11:00am  
Tue; FE2: 2:00pm- 5:00pm  Tue; FE3:  
5:20pm- 8:20pm  Tue.

Office Hours. TBA & by email appointment. You should expect to receive a  
response to your email within 48 hours.

Overview. This course will explore the practice and subject matter of the  
biological sciences and their impact on society. In the lectures, we will briefly  
consider the question of knowledge versus opinion and the place of science within  
this general question. With this under our belts, we will begin our study of some of  
biology’s most salient sub-disciplines. As we do this, we will explore the  
relationships between the practice and products of these disciplines, our life in  
particular, and our society in general.

In our Laboratory Sessions, we will provide you with some hands on experience in  
laboratory and field biology and we will expose you to biology’s implications on  
society. We will do this with the help of laboratory materials, video and (if possible)  
field trips, and invited speaker presentations.

Topics to Cover. I must stress that the Chapters list in your text is an ideal list of  
the topics to be covered in this course. I say “ideal” for two reasons. First, like this  
course’s subject matter, the course’s topics list might evolve - to reflect the class’  
interests and the appearance of contemporary issues that pertain to the subject  
matter of this course. Second, I will not advance down the chapter’s list unless  
most of you understand the issues covered. This is partly because, usually, to  
understand any given chapter you must understand the preceding ones. But the  
most important reason behind my speed-limit policy is that I’m after your  
understanding - and not after reaching the end of the book (all alone).
**Requirements.** Readings for each lecture (and some laboratory sessions) will be assigned in advance. You will be expected to critically study this material **before** class (i.e. read it seriously enough to be able to participate in class discussions by answering and having questions regarding this material). My lectures will **analyze** and **supplement** the readings. Consequently, neither can my lectures work as substitutes of your reading and studying; nor can your reading substitute my lectures. These two are **complementary** and you should not expect a passing grade if you only concentrate or one or the other. Attendance to class is mandatory and class participation is highly recommended.


**Evaluation**

**Laboratory Assignments (20%)** Attendance will be taken daily. Only 3 unjustified absences will be permitted -- more will result in 0 Laboratory-Assignments points and possible instructor-initiated course withdrawal.

**Three Exams (20% each)** These exams will consist of questions that will mainly require the **application** of the material studied in class. These exams will be evenly spaced throughout the course and will refer to the material discussed in their particular class period.

**Final Exam (20%)** This exam will cover material of the entire course.

**Course Policies**

A. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class regularly and actively participate in discussion of the assigned readings. Students having more than three unexcused absences may, at the discretion of the instructor, forfeit 15% points of their final grade, or be withdrawn from the course.

B. **Withdrawal:** Students whose participation is determined by the instructor to be less than required by assignments due and attendance will be withdrawn from the course.

C. **Incomplete Grades:** Students should consult with the course instructor and/or their faculty advisor well in advance of final examination week to establish that an incomplete grade for the course is warranted. Students must have been performing minimally at "C" level and completed more than 50% of the required coursework to warrant an incomplete.
D. **Late Assignments:** assignments are to be submitted when due unless previous arrangement has been made with the instructor. Due dates may be extended when there are justified mitigating circumstances.

**Support Services and Disabilities Services**

A. **Since this course requires a certain amount of writing,** you are encouraged to use the UAF Writing Center as needed for assistance with the mechanics of writing, grammar review, etc. The Writing Center is located on the 8th floor of the Gruening Building.

B. **You should also be aware that the UAF Office of Disability Services** implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities staff (located at 203 WHIT, 474-7043) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

C. Students having difficulties of a personal nature that interfere with normal completion of course requirements may speak with the instructor as warranted, consult a Faculty Advisor at the UAF Academic Advising Center (Gruening Building, 5th floor), or see a counselor at the UAF Center for Health and Counseling (Whitaker Building).

**Student Code of Conduct.** Students are subject to the UAF student code of conduct. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be not tolerated, and will result in immediate failure of the course (not just the assignment). Students that participate in these types of activities will be withdrawn from the course and turned over to the Dean of Student Affairs.

http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/reqs3.html#Student_Conduct