GRADING POLICY
BIOLOGY 104 - FALL 2000

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HOUR EXAMS
Three hour exams will be given. Questions will consist primarily of short essays. You MAY have no more than 30% multiple choice and/or True/False questions. Value: 100 pts each; 300 pts total.

HOMEWORK AND QUIZZES
I will assign occasional homework that should be fun for you. You can count on at least one quiz before each of the first two hour exams. You will choose and read 2 natural history articles. I reserve the right to give numerous announced or unannounced quizzes (probably in the form of one short essay). Value: 70 to 100 pts.

FINAL EXAM
The final exam will include material since the third hour exam, and a COMPREHENSIVE section covering the ENTIRE SEMESTER. It will last two hours. Value: 75 pts. The top two students, and any student with a grade of > 94%, will be excused from the Final Exam.

MAKE-UP EXAMS
PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY. If you must miss an exam, please talk to me beforehand. If that is impossible, see me (or call me) immediately afterwards. If you have a valid, documented excuse for missing an exam, I MAY allow you to write a make-up exam. If you miss an exam and do not follow the above instructions, plan on either: 1) writing a research paper as a PARTIAL substitute or 2) receiving a zero (which really hurts) for that exam.
POSTER PRESENTATION & CRITIQUE
In lieu of a research paper, students will research and compose a poster that explores some aspect of Alaskan natural history. Posters will be displayed for public viewing. **Value: 60 points.**

Students will provide a formal critique for 3 posters. **Value: 5 points @.**

LABORATORY COMPONENT
Your work in the laboratory will constitute 25% of your overall grade for this course. You will receive a separate grading policy that outlines our expectations for lab performance. **Students who miss 5+ lab sessions will fail this course,** automatically.

LATE PAPER POLICY
If you have a valid reason to turn in an assignment late, I will accept the assignment, but with a point reduction of 10% per day.

EXTRA CREDIT (Maximum of 15 points)
Anyone who would like to explore, in more detail, any facet of Alaska's natural history is encouraged to write an OPTIONAL research paper. Please consult with me before you begin. I reserve the right to refuse to accept any papers that cover topics not approved by me. Due: class time, 6 Dec. **Value: Maximum of 15 points.**

Alternatively, students may attend natural history lectures or read additional natural history articles (of at least 5 pages). **Value: 5 points @.** (Maximum: 3 lectures and/or articles).

FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION
Final grades will be determined as follows:

| 90-100% | A |
| 80-89   | B |
| 70-79   | C |
| 60-69   | D |
| below 59| F |

I reserve the right to adjust grades upwards, if I feel exams were too difficult or some questions were unfair.
**WEEK OF** | **TOPICS** | **READINGS**
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**Sep 4** | Introduction | P:6-15
**Sep 11** | Migration | **Sup:**1-8
| LAB: Pond studies *(field)* | |
**Sep 18** | Discuss homework; squirrels | **Sup:**189-192;
| LAB: **Soil/plant relations *(field)*** | P:16-27
**Sep 25** | QUIZ; local vegetation patterns; fire; permafrost | **Sup:**103-108;
| LAB: Fire ecology *(field)* | *(109-120)*;**9-20**
**Oct 2** | Alaskan biomes; Prehistoric Alaska | **Sup:** (121-138);
| LAB: LARS tour *(field)* | 161-168
**Oct 9** | **EXAM:** animal insulation; metabolism | **Sup:**29-36;
| LAB: Clues of the past | 93-102
**Oct 16** | Living above the snow | **Sup:**21-28;
| LAB: Ice & snow features | **P:**42-112;
| | **March:**2-35;152-156;93-125
**Oct 23** | Living above the snow; **QUIZ:** living under the snow | **P:**28-41
| LAB: **Adaptations/insulation** | **Sup:**227-235;
**Oct 30** | Hibernation; plant adaptations | **Sup:**83-86;
| LAB: Animal Identification | *(44-45);46-48;**37-41;*(87-92)
**Nov 6** | **EXAM:** plant/animal interactions | **March:**42-91
| LAB: Population **studies;tracks** | **Sup:**78-82
**Nov 13** | Population cycles; parasites | **March:**139-149
| LAB: Hare project *(field)* | **Sup:**147-160
**Nov 20** | Parasites; marine mammals | **Sup:**183-184;
| LAB: Data analysis | **Sup:** 201-218
**Nov 27** | Marine mammals; SLIDES; BREAK | **NO LAB**
**Dec 4** | Mar. mam.; EXAM; aquatic organisms | **NO LAB**
| LAB: Posters | **Dec 11** | Aquatic organisms; envir. issues | **LAB:** Museum project

*( ) = optional readings; (field) = 2+ hours outside
P=Pruitt;Sup=Reading Packet;March=Marchand (Reserve)