Welcome to NATS 104 - Life on Earth! In this course, you will learn about biological systems, from molecular to global. You will gain firsthand knowledge about the processes of scientific investigation and communication. You will gain a basic understanding of biological systems, how biological systems are studied and how biological systems change. Our goal is to prepare you to understand and evaluate the continuing developments and controversies in biological that affect your life.

GENERAL POLICIES

1. Learn Biology!
Attend all lectures and workshops on time, complete the readings before lecture, and complete all assignments as soon as they are available.

2. Don't Cheat!
Your grade must reflect your understanding of biology. Cheating prevents learning, makes your grade meaningless, and hurts your classmates. Read University Code of Academic Integrity (link). All the material you submit must be entirely your own words, written for this class and not handed in for any other class, including previous sessions of NATS104. (citation added 03/04/11) Copying material from any source is cheating unless it in quotation marks followed by a citation. Cheating also includes giving your assignments to another person to copy, because it causes that student's grade not to reflect their understanding of biology. Cheating will result in the sanctions determined by the (faculty-student conference) as set forth by Dr. Carol Thompson cdt@email.arizona.edu, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students, and Associate Dean Kendall Washington White kwashing@email.arizona.edu.

3. Be Prepared!
Read the assigned material including instructions and readings before class starts. Prepare for exams using practice exams as many times as possible. Don't put things off to the last minute. D2L assignments are available for several days. Complete them as soon as they become available. Written or printed copies emailed or delivered to the instructors do not constitute on-time submission for materials assigned to be submitted electronically. (clarification added 01/21/11) Attendance is required; don't be tardy, the class starts on the hour and end 10 minutes before the hour. See “attendance” below

4. Be Responsible!
You are responsible for understanding and following all of the rules outlined in this syllabus. You are responsible for bringing a pencil and eraser to the exams. Do not disrupt class by talking, by using your cell phone, or by using your laptop except in assigned areas. (link) These are serious infractions (UA policy). NATS104 follows the 3-strikes
policy of the Dean of Students: in addition to zero credit for attendance that day, “step 1” is an email written record of your FIRST warning. “Step 2” is the same penalty and an email serving as a written record of your SECOND warning. “Step 3” is a written complaint (form) to the Dean of Students asking that you be placed on academic probation.

● Never behave in a threatening manner. This is a very serious infraction (UA policy).
● Sleeping during lecture is rude, you will not receive attendance credit if you sleep in class.
● Email Requirements: Always put "NATS104" in the subject line of emails to us, and always use your UA email account in all communications particularly when setting up and interacting with D2L, TurnItIn and other Nats 104 internet programs. Retain all of the previous text in emails regarding ongoing issues. If you cite an issue that involves persons other than the email recipient, be sure to include them in the cc line. Our policy is to add their addresses to replies involving those persons.
● Check your grades frequently on D2L and report any discrepancies within two weeks of the due-date for the material.

CLASS WEB PAGE, AND READINGS

The NATS104 D2L home page includes CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS and a schedule that outlines the topics that we will cover in lecture and in the workshops, and provides links to the online reading assignments. The assigned readings are due before lecture.

You may communicate with any of us at any time (see D2L home page for email addresses) and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We strongly encourage you to use email to ask for clarification about the course material, to make appointments, or for any questions relating to class.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required. The lecture notes and readings are posted online, but neither gives the emphasis and explanations provided in lecture. By missing lectures, you will miss any additions, corrections or clarifications that are made in lecture. You will also lose attendance credit.

Attendance will be monitored by assigned seating. You will be marked absent (-1 pt) if you do not sit in your assigned seat, for any reason Read UA Policy on Excused Absences (link). If you arrive late, leave early, use your cell phone or laptop without permission, or sleep in class, you will not receive attendance credit for that day. Illness-related, family-emergency and academically-sanctioned absences must be explained in writing to retain attendance credit. If you wish to change your seat, in order to use your computer in the back rows or other reasons, contact Prof. Davis (odavis@email...).

There are NO MAKE-UPS for Workshops or Lecture Quizzes. See "Don't put things off to the last minute," above.

If you will miss an EXAM you must either notify us two weeks BEFORE the exam in writing (by email), or afterward submit convincing evidence for a valid excuse. Valid excuses submitted before or after the exam are limited to major health-related emergencies (read MORBYMORT) or academically-sanctioned absences (requires Dean-of-Students’ written excuse). Make-ups for missed exams will be D2L practice exams taken the Prof. Davis’ office within one week of the missed exam. The Final Exam (30 points) cannot be made up in this way and the final grade will be calculated without those points.
Academic Contestants, Student Athletes, Greek Life, Special Needs (DRC): Every student in this class has the same opportunities and obligations. "Dean's excuses" issued for sporting or academic events do not remove responsibility for assignments, and do not excuse late submission unless the excuse covers the entire period the exercise was available. See UA Policy (link) and UHAP 7.04.02 (link). Athletes or pledges who need a grade report must bring that request to Prof. Davis' office hours. Students needing special testing accommodations must register with Professor Davis in the first week of class.

GRADES:

Grades for most assignments are posted on D2L upon completion of the exercise, but some exercises require grading by the GTAs. The official grades are kept offline. The level and amount of material has been selected so that an average student can get a "C" if they do an average amount of work, and an "A" if they work hard: spend 9 hrs/week outside class reading and reviewing, read assigned material before class and workshop, review the notes before and after class, miss no classes, be on time, hand assignments in on time, attend and participate in review sessions. Students who already know the material covered in NATS 104 should contact Prof. Davis, regarding testing-out of the course (CLEP).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69-60%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Exams</td>
<td>300 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam questions</td>
<td>30 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D2L Lecture Quizzes</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Assignments</td>
<td>80 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignments</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>40 pts.</td>
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</table>

TOTAL 600 pts.

READ UofAz Code of Academic Integrity

There is NO CURVE, the grades will be awarded strictly on the basis of the percentages given in the table above. Extra-credit exercises may be given under exceptional circumstances, but only to the entire class, never to one student of a select group of students.

EXAMS

Our emphasis is on learning, not on testing. The purpose of the exams is to evaluate each student's understanding of all material presented in NATS 104, not to reward students for memorizing a portion of this material. All of the material is important, not just one or two figures or tables; this important material includes the assigned readings, the lectures and the D2L assignments. Each of the three lecture exams will include up to 50 questions, for a total of 100 points on each exam. You must be in your assigned seat to take the exam. No exam will be handed out after the first student to finish the exam has handed in their exam. The third exam will include 100 points covering material from the last third of the course. The third exam will also include 30 points (~15 questions) on “General Biology” taken from internet sources and other UA NATS104 courses.
LECTURE QUIZZES

5-point multiple-choice D2L quizzes cover the lectures. Missed opportunities will dropped as a lowest scores.

WORKSHOPS/HOMEWORK

UA Tier-One classes are writing-emphasis classes. The workshop/homework exercises will include both in-class exercises and online D2L exercises. Both will provide an opportunity to learn in a "hands-on" way the major themes of NATS 104. The workshops offer exposure to the scientific process, including research methods, analysis and compilation of data, library research, scientific debate, and the writing of research reports and papers. See "Don't put things off to the last minute," above.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

NATS104 includes two writing assignments: an “experiment report” in the first of the semester and a “science in the news” (clarification added 04/12/11) report due soon after the second 100-point exam. Both are worth 50 points. Both must be entirely your own words written for this class, only, and not handed in for any other class, including previous sessions of NATS104. Copied text is prohibited, unless in quotation marks, followed by a formal citation in the style accepted for NATS104, Life on Earth.

GhostWriting
It is a violation of the UA Code of Academic Integrity for you to use the services of a ghostwriter who in any way changes the wording of your written submissions. It is plagiarism if you copy-and-paste into your written submissions any text written by another person, unless it is in quotation marks followed by a citation.

TurnItIn.Com
If you decide to take or continue in this course, you are agreeing to submit your writing assignments online, when so instructed, to a plagiarism-prevention program called TurnItIn.com. When you set up your individual account with TurnItIn.com for this class, make sure you understand and consent to all the terms that the program provides you at that point. You should note that TurnItIn.com - always without your name and any personal information - will retain your paper as part of their database so that students who plagiarize from it can be detected. Because of this program, the vast majority of you who do your own work and cite your sources of information properly will not have to compete with students who commit undetected plagiarism. Anyone who has questions or problems with TurnItIn.com may talk privately about these with the instructor.

CELL-PHONES & LAPTOPS:

Do not text-message during class. Student-owned cell-phones and laptops should be turned off before class starts (except laptops in assigned areas). If you wish to change your seat in order to use your computer contact Prof. Davis (odavis@email...). NATS104 follows the 3-strikes policy of the Dean of Students: in addition to zero credit for attendance that day, “step 1” is an email serving as a written record of your FIRST warning. “Step 2” is the same penalty and an email serving as a written record of your SECOND warning. “Step 3” is a written complaint (form) to the Dean of Students asking that you be placed on academic probation.
Like other universities, the UA **does not allow laptops** in introductory classes, because of their negative results (*Chronical of Higher Education* 1/27/07). Laptops distract students from the lecture because students check email, surf the web and otherwise use their laptops inappropriately during lecture. Laptops *do* have the potential benefits, particularly students with vision and hearing special needs. Any student who needs and will agree to use their laptop **only** for lecture material and notes should contact Prof. Davis in writing ([odavis@email.arizona.edu](mailto:odavis@email.arizona.edu)) to be assigned seating at the tables in the back of the classroom or in the front row, reserved for use of laptops.

See also the Geoscience Department Guidelines for Academic Integrity [link](#).

Changes may be made to this syllabus, **additions and revisions will be highlighted**. This syllabus conforms with [UA Policy](#)

Revised by OKD 01/21/11