

# **BIOLOGY 400 History of Biology**

**Summer 2022**

**Department of Biology, University of Victoria**

## **Welcome back to normal life (almost)**

Biology 400 will be fully in-person this summer. This has not happened in this course since the summer term of 2019.

The virus has never tired of throwing us curve balls, and we should keep in mind that anything can happen, but there is good reason for optimism. As of this writing, the university maintains its policy direction from the PHO that masks are encouraged but not required.

## **A. Basic Course Information**

### **Course Description**

The historical development of the major techniques and ideas of biology, including the significance of the important contributors to biology. The treatment will be part chronological, part topical.

### **Meetings**

## **Readings**

I will post pdfs of selected readings on the Brightspace site when they become relevant as we progress through the course. There is no text or course pack to buy.

## **Course website**

Biology 400 has a Brightspace website. As a registered student in this course, you will automatically be enrolled in this site.

On the site you will find course business notices, lecture PowerPoints and pdfs, test results and so on. Please check the site before each class.

## **Course Topics (tentative; I might not get to all of these topics)**

- Ø Introduction
- Ø The roots of biology
- Ø Biology in the ancient world
- Ø The Islamic world and medieval Europe
- Ø Hidden and mythical organisms
- Ø The human body: the Scientific Revolution and after
- Ø The early days of microscopy
- Ø Biology and the emerging physical sciences: chemistry
- Ø Describing and arranging organisms
- Ø Biology and the emerging physical sciences: geology
- Ø Evolution before Darwin
- Ø Darwin
- Ø Cells, the units of life
- Ø Heredity
- Ø Evolution and genetics come together
- Ø The hereditary material
- Ø TD Lysenko and Soviet biology

## **B. Evaluation**

### **Components of your course grade**

Packback participation	25% (See C below)
Midterm exam (Friday, June 3)	30%
Final Exam (Friday, June 24)	45%
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	100%

### **Exam formats**

The midterm and final exam will be in-person.

The midterm will have both multiple choice and written questions (short answer to 2-3 sentences).

The final exam will have two parts:

- a noncumulative multiple choice section worth half of the exam points; these questions will be concerned with material we have covered since the midterm
- an essay question that will require a written answer of 500 ó 600 words or so; you will be asked to integrate various parts of the entire course in your answer to this question. This essay will be worth the other half of the final exam points.

The final exam is an essential component of the course; if you do not write the final exam, you will receive a grade of N.

### **Missed exams**

If you must miss the midterm exam because of illness, accident, family affliction, or competition as a UVic athlete, you must notify Dr. Beaulieu as soon as possible (gregoryb@uvic.ca). **You will not be required to provide a medical note or other documentation.**

The final exam can be deferred in cases of illness, accident, family affliction, or commitments as a UVic athlete. If you expect to miss the final exam for any of these reasons, please notify the course coordinator (Dr. Beaulieu) as soon as possible, either by phone, email or in person. **You will not be required to provide a note or other documentation.** You must fill out a Request for Academic

Travel plans are not a valid reason for missing the midterm exam or the final exam.

### **Grading Policy**

At the University of Victoria, grades are submitted by instructors as percentages. These will be converted to letter grades by administration, according to this grading scale:

A+	90 ó 100%	B+	77 ó 79%	C+	65 ó 69%
A	85 ó 89%	B	73 ó 76	C	60 ó 64%
A-	80 ó 84%	B-	70 ó 72%	D	50 ó 59%

The only circumstances under which I change a submitted course grade is if I have made a calculation error, or if a student has deferred the final exam, received an N, and then written a deferred final.

**Please do not ask me to raise your percent grade in order to qualify you for a higher letter grade.** I turn down all such requests.

You will receive an F in the course if your aggregate grade is less than 50% (rounded to the nearest whole number). It is not necessary to pass any individual course component in order to pass the course.

You will receive an N in the course if you miss the final exam in June and do not write a deferred final exam.

No supplemental final exam (second-chance final exam) will be given in this course, although, as described above, you may defer the final exam for any of the reasons given.

### **C. Packback**

#### **What is it?**

Packback is an online platform for discussion among students. You will probably have been contacted already by the company about signing up.

Since Biology 400 has only third-year standing as a prereq, there are students from many different academic backgrounds registered here. That has always been one of the strengths of the course and one of its pleasures to me. I am hoping that



## **Deadlines**

The deadline for your Packback posts each week is Saturday at 12:00 midnight, PST. The full list of deadlines:

Saturday, May 14, 12:00 midnight (PST)

Saturday, May 21, 12:00 midnight (PST)

Saturday, May 28, 12:00 midnight (PST)

Saturday, June 4, 12:00 midnight (PST)

Saturday, June 11, 12:00 midnight (PST)

Saturday, June 17, 12:00 midnight (PST)

## **Coupla more notes**

I will not be looking at all your posts and replies, but I will be reading some of the posts every week. Vj kú kú hqt o { qy p kpvgt gu0Ky kmpqv kpvgt hgtg y kj vj g u{ uvgo øu grading.

When you post either a question or a reply, please try to bear in mind the valuable academic habit of respectful, impersonal discourse.

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<https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2022-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>

The University of Victoria Department of Biology reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work.

**UVic official territory acknowledgement**

ōY g acknowledge and respect the n m p peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and Y Uf P G peoples whose