

## Biology 1B Laboratory and Discussion Syllabus

### Section 105, summer 2013

**Discussion:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 9AM – 10AM, 2005 VLSB

**Lab:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 10AM - 1PM, 2005 VLSB

**GSI:** Helian Ratsirarson <hratsirarson@berkeley.edu>

**Office Hours:** TBD, 2195 VLSB

Laboratory and discussion sections are crucial parts of Bio 1B. They will not only help you prepare for exams, but also give you opportunities to enhance and demonstrate your practical and biological knowledge. In addition, they will help develop your skill at working in groups. Lab and discussion together will count for 300 out of 750 points, or 40% of the total points for the class. Logistics and the different assessments in labs and discussions are described in this syllabus.

**SECTION WEBSITE:** <http://bspace.berkeley.edu> . Log in using your SID and passphrase.

Look for Bio 1b Section 105 Bio1b Summer 2013 tab. You should check this site often to explore its many features and to become familiar with its contents. It is your most valuable resource for the lab section as it contains lab related documents, announcements, links to videos, assignments, grades, etc. If the tab does not appear in your bspace account, e-mail me immediately.

**DISCUSSION:** Discussion attendance is required. Many assessments will happen during the discussion session and you will not receive a credit if you miss the discussion without a valid reason. Everyone is expected to participate actively (including doing any necessary preparation beforehand). You won't be judged by how much knowledge you show, so don't be afraid to ask any question – I strongly believe that there is no such thing as a dumb question! What matters is the effort you have made to prepare and take part. And remember, participation doesn't just mean talking a lot. Listening carefully and encouraging your classmates are also important aspects of participation.

**ASSESSMENTS:** The following table recapitulates the different assessments in discussion and laboratory sessions this semester. It is important that you understand the table and the explanations that follow.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Work as</b>	<b>Points</b>
Library Assignment	Online and Write up	Individual	10
<b>Evolution Section</b>			
Descent with Modifications DISC	Quiz	Indiv.	10
Descent with Modifications LAB	Pre-lab, worksheet and Post lab	Group	15
Phylogenetics DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
Phylogenetics LAB	Pre-lab, worksheet and Post lab	Group	15
Population Genetics DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
Population Genetics LAB	Pre-lab, worksheet and Post lab	Group	15
Macro Evol DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
Macro Evol LAB	Pre-lab, worksheet and Post lab	Group	15
<b>Plants Section</b>			
Algae,Bryophyte,Fungi DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
Algae,Bryophyte,Fungi LAB	Pre-lab and Worksheet	Group	10
Repod.Vascular Plants DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
Repod.Vascular Plants LAB	Pre-lab and Worksheet	Group	10
Reprod Angiosperms DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
Reprod Angiosperms LAB	Pre-lab and Worksheet	Group	10
M. & A. Vege. Body Flowers DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
M. & A. Vege. Body Flowers LAB	Pre-lab and Worksheet	Group	10
Lab Practical	Practical Worksheet	Indiv/Group	30
<b>Ecology Section</b>			
Pop Bio/Intersp.LAB	Pre-lab and Full Lab Report	Group	15
Pop Bio/Intersp. DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
Pred./Prey LAB	Pre-lab and Full Lab Report	Group	15
Pred./Prey DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10
Bio Indicator LAB	Pre-lab and Full Lab Report	Group	15
Bio Indicator DISC	Quiz/Miscellaneous	Indiv/Group	10

Bot Gardens Field Trip	Presentation/Report	Group	25
Bot Gardens Follow up	Answer Sheet	Indiv	10
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>300</b>

**LIBRARY ASSIGNMENT:** This will be introduced and explained by a library staff on the first day of class and is normally due a week later. You will need to learn and then show that you know how to use the multi-million dollar library resources we have here. You will have to complete online assignments after the tutorial. These are straightforward assignments and you will receive full points if you give complete and accurate answers to the questions. You are requested to answer your question set using your own words even though collaboration within your lab group and getting help from librarians are generally permitted.

**QUIZZES:** Quizzes will consist of 8-10 questions focusing on concepts from the previous and the current week. The questions will focus on lab manual and relevant material from lectures, so be sure to read your manual before coming to class. Quizzes will be given promptly at the beginning of each lab section (9:10 am). You will have only 10 minutes to complete the quiz, so be sure to arrive on time!

**PRE-LAB:** Some labs will require you to complete a pre-lab assignment before coming. It may consist of reading pre-assigned article and answer few questions about the research presented, or collecting samples and making sure you note the environment where you find the sample or simply answering sets of questions assigned before lab, in addition to reading the lab manual. Completing these assignments are important because they are not only graded, but they will also help you understand the lab better.

**WORKSHEETS:** They are sets of questions provided to you in the beginning of the lab. You need to observe the display materials and/or complete assigned computer simulation in lab in order to answer these questions. You may supplement your answers with notes from lectures and from your books. Your answer must demonstrate that you understand the main concepts of the lab. Worksheets should be completed as a group. It is crucial that all group members contribute equally throughout the semester; please include a signed copy of the group agreement with every worksheet. Lab worksheets are due at the end of the lab (1pm) unless announced otherwise.

**POST LAB:** Some labs will require you to complete a post lab assignment, which normally is a synthesis of what you learned from the lab you just had. These are graded assignments as well.

**FULL LAB REPORTS:** To receive full points on the lab reports, your group must not only collect the necessary data but also demonstrate in your write-up that you understand the main concepts of the lab. Clear scientific writing style, correct spelling and grammar, and neatness will also contribute to your grade. Each group member will receive the

same grade on the report. It is crucial that all group members contribute equally throughout the semester; please include a signed copy of the group agreement with every lab report. If you miss a lab, talk to me right away; you may be able to make it up later that same week, but only if you have a reasonable excuse. Lab reports are due in class one week from the day of the lab unless announced otherwise.

**MISCELLANEOUS ASSIGNMENTS:** These may include games, short essays, haikus, observation tasks, specimen collection, and/or brief presentations in discussion section. There will be few of them throughout the semester.

### **Logistics of assessment**

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Quizzes cannot be submitted late. Lab reports and other assignments will lose 25% per day late, starting at 9am on the day it is due (so please don't miss a discussion session to work on an assignment). If your group cannot complete a report because one of your group members is late, please turn in whatever you have by the deadline and tell me immediately what happens. If you must turn an assignment in late, let me know when you will be submitting it, and we can arrange to have you turn it later in our mailbox in 3040 VLSB.

**GETTING ASSIGNMENTS BACK:** Your weekly assignments (lab write-ups, quizzes and other written work) will be graded by the week after it was. They will be returned to you in class so we can minimize the use of the student mailboxes in 2013 VLSB, which are open to everyone. In the rare case that the use of these open mailboxes is unavoidable in order for you to get your assignment back, I will ask that you to not write your own name on your assignments. Use your group name on group assignments and your assigned letter on individual assignments (ask me for your assigned letter when applicable).

**REGRADES:** I strive to be fair and consistent in grading your work. If I appear to have made a significant error or overlooked something important, you may request a re-grade. However, this is only to be done in the case of serious discrepancies, not disagreement over half a point. Your entire assignment will be re-graded and your grade may go up or down. (Recalculating the sum of points is *not* considered a re-grade, so please tell me if you catch any calculation error.)

**NORMALIZING TO 85% MEAN:** To compensate for differences between GSIs, the mean score for each lab/discussion section is normalized to 85% (255 points) at the end of the semester. If the mean for our section ends up being higher than 255, the score of everyone in the section will be adjusted downward. If lower, everyone's score will be adjusted upward. This adjustment allows you to be compared to students who have had a different GSI (perhaps one who was stricter or more lenient). This is a class-wide policy

and you should talk to the course coordinator Dr Tami Mau if you have any questions about how this works.

**PLAGIARISM:** Whenever you include ideas or quotations that are not your own - whether they are from the lab manual, an article or book, a website, a fellow student, or somewhere else - you must include a citation to the source or you will be committing plagiarism. The only exception to this is “common knowledge” that is easily found from many different sources (e.g. “the Cenozoic Era began 65 million years ago.”) If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty, ask me or refer to the following resources:

[http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/rtf/guide\\_student.doc](http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/rtf/guide_student.doc)  
<http://gsi.berkeley.edu/resources/conduct/paraphrase.html>

Any instance of plagiarism, even if accidental, could seriously hurt your grade in this course. If you plagiarized part or all of an assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment. You must never copy text or ideas from another Bio 1B student (past or present) who is not in your group. Bio 1b staffs, including myself, are aware that there are some copies of old Bio 1B lab reports circulating, and we will be vigilant in looking for lab reports that are fully or partly copied from these. Be fair to yourself and your fellow students by doing original work!

**SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:** If you need disability-related accommodations in this class, if you have any medical condition that might require urgent care, or if you have any other special circumstances that you would like me to know about, please get in touch right away. Your confidentiality will be protected. We want Bio 1B to be a safe and inclusive environment for all.

**PLEASE TALK TO ME RIGHT AWAY IF:**

- You are unsure what constitutes plagiarism or cheating.
- You have any questions or concerns about how your work has been graded.
- You would like to discuss your cumulative score for your lab and discussion work to date. (This can be tracked on bspace under gradebook)
- You feel that some members of your lab group are contributing more than others.
- Medical and/or personal problems are compromising your work in the class.

- You are worried about your overall class score or your likely performance on an upcoming exam. (Once you have gotten a certain score there is nothing we can do to change it, but we can help you if you give me advance notice.)

The goal of all these different aspects of assessment, and my goal as your GSI, is to help you learn and make sure that you succeed in this complex class. With my many years of experience teaching Bio1b, I will do my best to help you navigate through the difficulties of this class in a fun and instructive way. I look forward to a great summer together.