



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2026	Instructor Name:	Dr. Daniel Gilison
Course Title & #:	General Biology: Molecules, Cells, and Genetics – BIOL 180	Email:	daniel.gilison@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20739	Webpage (optional):	https://imperial.instructure.com/
Classroom:	2734 (lecture) 2711 (lab)	Office #:	2770
Class Dates:	2/17 – 6/12	Office Hours:	M 1:30-2:30 PM (2770) T 1:30-2:30 PM (2711) W 1:00-2:30 PM (2770) R 10:30-11:00 AM (2711)
Class Days:	MTW	Office Phone #:	760-355-5759
Class Times:	4:20-5:45 PM (lecture) 2:40-5:50 PM (lab)	Emergency Contact:	daniel.gilison@imperial.edu
Units:	4	Class Format/Modality:	Face to face

Course Description

This is one of two entry-level courses designed for life science majors, health care, and science educators intending to transfer to four-year institutions. However, the course is open to all students. This course will introduce students to molecules of cells, cell structures and functions, cell division, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, molecular biology, and genetics. (CSU, UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

Successful completion of Intermediate Algebra or appropriate placement as defined by AB705.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to: demonstrate the ability to think like a scientist by coming up with a valid experimental design. (ILO2)

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic concepts of biology and explain and use the scientific method.
2. Describe the structure of atoms, and understand why chemical bonds form.
3. Explain the important properties of water molecules and carbon atoms for life.
4. Describe the different macromolecules in living organisms, and give examples of each type.
5. Understand the functions of cell organelles.
6. Explain the functions of the cell membrane.
7. Describe metabolism, and understand how enzymes assist in chemical reactions.
8. Explain the processes of cellular respiration and photosynthesis.
9. Understand the processes of cell communication.
10. Describe the processes of mitosis and meiosis, and how they are regulated.
11. Explain Mendelian inheritance, give examples of inheritance patterns, and work problems dealing with basic Mendelian genetics.
12. Describe chromosome structure and function, including DNA replication and repair, and give examples of genetic diseases at the chromosomal level.
13. Understand the processes of transcription and translation, and how DNA mutations cause changes in protein sequences.
14. Discuss modern DNA technologies, and their importance in life.



Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- Reece, J.B., Urry, L.A., Cain, M.L., Wasserman, S.A., Minorsky, P.V., Jackson, R.B. (2016). *Campbell Biology, Custom Edition* (12th/e). San Francisco Pearson/Benjamin Cummings. ISBN 9780135188743
 - **CLASS WILL BE USING A CUSTOM EDITION OF THE ABOVE TEXTBOOK**
- Morgan, Judith G., and Carter, M. Eloise Brown (2017). *Investigating Biology Lab Manual* (9th/e). San Francisco Pearson/Benjamin Cummings. ISBN 9780134473468
 - **CLASS WILL BE USING A CUSTOM EDITION OF THE ABOVE LAB MANUAL**

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

1. There will be **5 exams**, worth **80 points** each (**400 points** total). Exams will consist of 40 multiple choices dealing with lecture material. Figures from the lectures and textbook will appear on the exams. Scantron sheets will be provided, but make sure you bring good-quality #2 pencils with working erasers. If you are late for the exam, you will not be given extra time to finish it. These exams are closed book.
2. There will be **1 lab exam**, worth **130 points**. This lab exam will cover all lab activities during the course. For this exam, you will view some results or other aspects from the lab and then answer questions about them. Scantron sheets will be provided, but make sure you bring good-quality #2 pencils with working erasers. This exam is closed book.
3. There will be **17 on-line** homework assignments worth **10 points** each (**170 points** total). Homework will be due on the date in the schedule listed at 11:59 PM.
4. There will be **10 lab worksheets** worth **10 points** each (**100 points** total). Lab worksheets are due at the end of the lab.
5. There will be **5 on-line** review quizzes for extra credit, and they will be due on the date in the schedule listed at 11:59 PM.
6. There will be no make-up assignments, except for extreme circumstances. If you have a valid, documented reason for missing an assignment, it is **your responsibility** to tell me about it and provide valid documentation **as soon as possible (preferably, BEFORE it is due)**, otherwise, you will not have the opportunity to make it up and will be given a **zero** for it. Work issues, family issues, travel, or forgetting to turn in assignments do not count as valid excuses.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

5 Exams	400 points	Grade	Points
1 Lab Exam	130 points	A (90%+)	720 – 800
10 lab worksheets	100 points	B (80-89.9%)	640 – 719
17 homework assignments	170 points	C (70-79.9%)	560 – 639
Total	800 points	D (60-69.9%)	480 – 559
		F (0-59.9%)	0 – 479

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence - AI)

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own, the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the [General Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and



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will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Attendance Policies

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.
- Only bottled water is allowed in the classroom. No food or drinks are allowed at the bench tops of the lab room.
- **Electronic devices must be always turned off!** Ringing cell phones are a distraction both to me and to other students in the class. If you must use your electronic device during class, please take it outside, and then come back in when you are done. You should not be checking/using your electronic devices during lectures. If you are caught, you may be asked to leave for the day. This also includes using cameras to take pictures of slides or whiteboards during class.
- **No talking during class!** Talking is a distraction to me and other students in the class. If you have questions during the lecture, please ask me! If you are caught talking, you may be asked to leave for the day.
- Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.
- The deadline for dropping a course without appearing on transcript is **Sunday, March 1**.
- The deadline for dropping a full-term class is **Saturday, May 17**.

Additional Help

1. Make sure you come on time to all lectures and labs! Arriving late or missing a class for any reason (excused or unexcused) can cause you to miss lecture and lab material and will only put you at a disadvantage in this class.
2. Make sure you know what will happen each day for class! Keep the class schedule handy.
3. Skim through or read the chapter before coming to lecture, and lab activities before coming to lab. You will have a general feel for the subject matter, which will help your understanding of the material during lecture. You will also be more prepared to do the lab activity, and you can perform it better, quicker, and will be able to easily understand what is happening in the lab.
4. Pay attention during lectures! I will say things during lecture that are not written on the PowerPoint slides or the board that will be on the exams. Make sure you take good notes during lecture. Don't just mindlessly write down word-for-word what is on the slides. Listen to what I have to say and take notes on that also!
5. Make sure you're taking notes during the lab explanations! There is a comprehensive lab exam at the end of the semester.
6. Study, study, study! You should spend at least 6 hours studying for this class each week. You should study in an area where there are no distractions (television, radio, computers, music, other people, etc.). However, you should also spend time studying with other students (online, of course!). Nothing makes you learn the material better than having to explain it to someone else!
7. Spend time doing the homework! It is there to help you learn the material, so not doing it, or waiting until the due date to start the homework will only hurt your grade in the class.
8. Don't cram! It is better to spend some time each day studying as compared to saving it all until the night before the exam.
9. It is not enough just to memorize facts! On the exams, you will be responsible for using the information learned and applying it to new situations. You need to understand what these facts mean!

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

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IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week	Lecture (Monday)	Lab (Tuesday)	Lecture (Wednesday)
2/16	NO CLASS – WASHINGTON DAY	Introduction to the Class and Lab	Ch. 1.1,3,4 – Themes in the Study of Life
2/23	Ch. 2.1-3 – Chemical Context of Life	Metrics Lab	Ch. 2.1-3 – Chemical Context of Life Study of Life HW due
3/2	Ch. 3.1-3 – Water	Ch. 4.2,3 – Carbon	Ch. 5.1-5 – Macromolecules Chemical Context HW due
3/9	Ch. 5.1-5 – Macromolecules Water HW due	Pipets Lab Carbon HW due <u>Exam 1 review due</u>	Exam 1 – Ch. 1 – 4
3/16	Ch. 6.2-7 – Cells Macromolecules HW due	Got Protein? Lab	Ch. 6.2-7 – Cells
3/23	Ch. 7.1-5 – Membranes	Microscope and Cells Lab	Ch. 8.1-5 – Metabolism Cells HW due
3/30	Ch. 9.1-4 – Cellular Respiration Membranes HW due	Osmosis Lab <u>Exam 2 review due</u>	Exam 2 – Ch. 5 – 7
4/6	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
4/13	Ch. 9.1-4 – Cellular Respiration Metabolism HW due	Enzymes Lab	Ch. 10.1-3 – Photosynthesis
4/20	Ch. 10.1-3 – Photosynthesis Cellular Respiration HW due	Ch. 12.1-3 – Cell Cycle	Ch. 13.1-4 – Meiosis Photosynthesis HW due <u>Exam 3 review due</u>
4/27	Exam 3 – Ch. 8 – 10	Mitosis Lab	Ch. 16.1-2 – DNA Cell Cycle HW due
5/4	Ch. 16.1-2 – DNA Meiosis HW due	DNA Fingerprinting Lab (Ch. 20.1 – Restriction enzymes, Gel electrophoresis)	Ch. 17.1-5 – Gene to Protein DNA HW due
5/11	Ch. 17.1-5 – Gene to Protein	pGLO Lab 1 (Ch. 20.1 – Bacterial transformation)	Ch. 14.1-4 – Mendel and the Gene Idea Gene to Protein HW due <u>Exam 4 review due</u>
5/18	Exam 4 – Ch. 12, 13, 16, 17	PV92 Lab 1 (Ch. 20.1 – PCR) pGLO Lab 2	Ch. 14.1-4 – Mendel and the Gene Idea
5/25	NO CLASS - MEMORIAL DAY	PV92 Lab 2 (Ch. 20.1 – PCR)	Ch. 15.2-5 – Chromosomes Mendel HW due
6/1	Ch. 15.2-5 – Chromosomes	PV92 Lab 3 Lab Exam Review	Ch. 20.1,2,4 & 21.1,2 – DNA Technology & Genomes
6/8	Chromosomes HW due DNA Technology HW due	Lab Exam (all labs) <u>Exam 5 review due</u>	Exam 5 – Ch. 14, 15, 20, 21