



## Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Spring 2026</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>Charlotte Murray</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>Biol 100</b>	Email:	<b>Charlotte.murray@imperial.edu</b>
CRN #:	<b>21185</b>	Webpage (optional):	<b>NA</b>
Classroom:	<b>2713</b>	Office #:	<b>NA</b>
Class Dates:	<b>Feb. 17 – June 12</b>	Office Hours:	<b>Anytime by email or during class</b>
Class Days:	<b>Tue. Lec &amp; Thur. Lab</b>	Office Phone #:	<b>NA</b>
Class Times:	6:30 pm – 9:40 pm	Emergency Contact:	<b>Me – By email</b>
Units:	4	Class Format/Modality:	Lecture & Lab is face-to-face

## Course Description

(Letter Grade Only) --- This class is a comprehensive one semester general biology course for non-majors. Includes life from the molecular to the organismic level of both plants and animals and their interactions within the environment. Special emphasis is put on evolution, ecology and human biology within appropriate areas of study. Appropriate for general education as well as nursing, pre-professional, and higher level biology courses. Includes laboratory component. (UC credit limited. See a counselor.) (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 aptitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the steps of the Scientific Method.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the basis of Evolution.

## Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students with a grade of “C” or better will be able to:

1. Identify the basic characteristics of all living things.
2. Name basic chemical aspects that pertain to life and the concept of homeostasis
3. Describe the sub-cellular components for the cell including their structure and function
4. Explain the light and dark reactions of photosynthesis
5. Explain cellular respiration and its relations to the entire organism.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the structure and function of DNA and RNA.
7. Explain protein synthesis and site the central dogma of cell biology.
8. Compare and contrast the fundamentals of asexual and sexual reproduction.
9. Define ecology and the overall impact of ecology to conditions in the environment.
10. Solve problems in general genetics and in human genetics and relate advances in genetics to social responsibility of geneticists.
11. Identify and relate the functions of the major systems of the human body; the interrelationship among body systems and nature of disease.



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12. Classify organisms in the kingdoms of Protista, Plants and Animals; discuss their evolutions and their relationships.

### Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

- Lecture text is optional. I recommend that you do not purchase a lecture text until you are sure you need it.
- Lec. Text: Biology The Essentials (2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> edition) by Marielle Hoefnagels – ISBN 978-0-07-802425-2  
**The changes made in the newer editions are insignificant and not worth the extra money.**
- Or Fowler, S, Roush, and Wise, J. (2022) Concepts of Biology Rice University ISBN: 978794712036
- Lab. Information provided by instructor on the day of the lab.

### Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

**For the lab:** Students will learn to identify various species of algae, protozoa, plants and animals and their parts. They will also learn much of the taxonomy of these species. Students will dissect animals from 4 phyla. After the completion of each lab there will be fill-in-the-blank and short answer exams/quizzes worth 60-80 points each. **For the Lec:** Students will be able to describe various cellular processes like photosynthesis, aerobic cellular respiration, enzymatic reactions, mitosis, and meiosis. Students will acquire a general knowledge of genetics and how genetic information is passed on to offspring. Students will learn about the likely origin of life on Earth and how the original species underwent adaptation and evolution to give rise to life as we know it today. Students will be presented with a general review of all five Kingdoms with the greatest focus on eight animal phyla. The students will understand how over time phyla acquired characteristics that made them more advanced than those phyla without these characteristics. Study guides will be posted in Canvas for both the labs and the lectures to assist with studying and to fill in additional details and information useful for testing. There will be a multiple choice true false exam that may also have a short answer essay after the completion of each group of lecture chapters.

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Class grading will be based on points accumulated in the following ways.

- 12 Lecture Exams covering chapters assigned -> 70-120 points each Total points approximately 1000
- 12 Lab Exams 60-80 points each -> Total points 800
- 1 – 10 Quizzes on information covered 20- 30 points each – Max 200 points  
On previous lecture
- Approximately 2000 points possible

Lecture Quizzes are essay format. Exams are mostly true/false and multiple choice type questions. They may also include essay and/or short answer questions. Missed **Lecture** quizzes and exams may be made-up. **However,** they must be made-up at the next class meeting unless otherwise discussed. **This means you need to come prepared to take that quiz or exam the next time you come to class.** Asking to make-up missed quizzes or exams is your responsibility. Lab exams **cannot be made-up** as it takes a long time to give them. Grades will be calculated based on highest score in class being equal to 100%.

Grading: A = 100 – 90%

B = 89 – 80%

C = 79 – 70%

D = 69 – 60%

F = ≤ 59%

**There is no extra credit offered.** I need you to learn what I ask you to learn.



## Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills. We consider 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 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 Policies

All students that miss the first day of class will be dropped.

Missed quizzes and exams may be made-up. However, they must be made-up at the next class meeting unless otherwise discussed. **This means you need to come prepared to take that quiz or exam.** Asking to make-up missed lecture quizzes or exams is your responsibility. **Again, lab quizzes cannot be made up. You have to be there.**

## Other Course Information

The lectures and the labs will be posted in Canvas – this information includes study guides. The study guides for both labs and lectures concentrates most of the important information like functions and definitions. I will keep you updated with announcements through Canvas. I will respond to all emails sent to me as quickly as possible. Any lack of response to emails on my part is only because I did not see them or I was busy grading which takes priority.

## 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](mailto:finaid@imperial.edu).

## 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

**Spring 2026 Schedule -- \*\*\*Tentative, and likely to change without prior notice\*\*\***

Tuesday	Lecture Chapters	Thurs.	Lab. Subject
Feb. 17	1-- Sci. Study of Life, 2 – Chem. of Life	Feb. 19	Roots & Stems
Feb. 24	Chapter 2-- Continued	Feb. 26	Quiz Roots and Stems
Mar. 3	Complete Chapter 2 Start Chapter 3—Cells – Membranes	Mar. 5	Leaves, Flower Parts & Seeds
Mar.10	<b>Chapters 1 &amp; 2 Exam</b> Chapter 3 -- Organelles	Mar. 12	Quiz Leaves & Flower Parts & Seeds
Mar. 17	Complete Chapter 3 Chap. 4 – The Energy of Life & Enzymes	Mar. 19	Protoza & Algae Lab.
Mar. 24	<b>Chapters 3 Exam</b> Chapter 5 -- Photosynthesis 6 – How cells Release Energy	Mar. 26	Quiz Protozoa
Mar. 31	<b>Review of:</b> Chapter 5 – Photosynthesis and 6 – How cells Release Energy Start → Chap 8 – Mitosis	April 2	Quiz Algae
Spring {Easter} Break April 5 -11			
April 14	<b>Chapter 4, 5 &amp; 6 Exams</b> Finish chap 8 Chapter 9 – Meiosis	April 16	Cnidarians Lab  Platyhelminthes Lab
April 21	<b>Chapter 9 &amp; 10 Exam</b> Chapters 10 – Genetics	April 23	Quiz Cnidarians
Aprtl 28	Genetics Continued	April 30	Quiz Platyhelminthes
May 5	<b>Chapter 9 &amp; 10 Genetics Exam</b> Chapter 12 -- Forces of evolution 13 – Evidence of Evolution	May 7	Annelida (Earthworm) Dissection Lab
May 12	<b>Chapter 12 Exam</b> <b>Finish Chap 13</b> 14 – Speciation and Extinction	May 14	Annelida (Earthworm) Quiz
May 19	<b>Chapter 13 Exam</b> Finish Chap 14 – Start Chapter 7	May 21	Crayfish Dissection Lab
May 26	<b>Chapter 14 Exam</b> Chapter 7 continues	May 28	Crayfish Dissection Quiz
June 2	Chap 15 Evol. of Microbial life. (Prokaryotic life)	June 4	Amphioxus Lab Frog Dissection
June 9	<b>Lecture Final... Chapter 7 &amp; maybe Chapter 15</b>	June 11	Lab Final Amphioxus Quiz Frog Dissection Quiz

**\*\*\*Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\***

- March 1<sup>st</sup> Last day to drop without a “W” and with reimbursement of fees.
- March 17<sup>th</sup> Last day to drop with a “W”
- April 17<sup>th</sup> Deadline to petition to graduate with ceremony
- June 12<sup>th</sup> Deadline to petition to graduate without ceremony