

**BISC 101Lxg Cellular and Molecular Biology: from  
the cell to human life (August 23rd)**

**4 Units**

**Fall 2019-13102R**

**Wednesday and Friday— from 3:30pm to 4:50pm**

**Location: ZHS 159**

**Instructor: Raffaella Ghittoni, Ph.D**

**Office: ZHS 256**

**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 11am to 12pm**

**Contact Info: [rghitton@usc.edu](mailto:rghitton@usc.edu)**

Phone number office: 213-740-8352.

**Instructional Lab Manager: Eric Noakes, M.S.**

**Office: ZHS 353**

**Office Hours: TBD**

**Contact Info: [enoakes@usc.edu](mailto:enoakes@usc.edu)**

Phone number office: 213-740-6079.

**Teaching Assistant: Virginia Nunez Mir**

**Office: TBD**

**Office Hours: TBD**

**Contact Info: [nunezmir@usc.edu](mailto:nunezmir@usc.edu)**

## Course Description

This course has been approved to satisfy the GE-D, Life Sciences requirement.

It is designed to give undergraduates an introduction to structures and functions of the cell as the smallest form of a living organism. The course describes, at genetic and molecular level, cellular components, cell reproduction and mechanisms of cell regulation. For several of these topics, dysfunctional aspects (e.g. mutations, genetic diseases, cancer etc.) will be mentioned as examples, and basic techniques and methodologies currently used by scientists are introduced.

Although there is no prerequisite, general knowledge of introductory biology and chemistry at the high school level is helpful.

Please note that this course is not designed for those majoring in biology or the related health sciences.

## Learning Objectives

- Students will understand basic concepts of biological molecules and cell physiology.
- Students will acquire knowledge of structure and functions of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, as whole entities and in terms of their subcellular processes.
- Students will become familiar with cellular processes in terms of synthesis and functions of nucleic acids and proteins in both prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
- Students will be able to acquire basic knowledge of principles of inheritances and their dysfunctions.
- Students will appreciate the biological mechanisms behind cell division and asexual and sexual reproduction.
- Students will conduct experiments using laboratory techniques and methods to apply concepts presented in lectures.
- Students will develop the ability to analyze, present and critically discuss results of their experiments both in individual and teamwork activities

**Prerequisite(s):** No prerequisite

## Course Notes

### Online Course Materials:

Supplemental course materials and announcements will be posted on the Blackboard website. Your USC e-mail username and password will allow you to access the secure site: <https://blackboard.usc.edu> (if you have trouble with Blackboard, please contact [blackboard@usc.edu](mailto:blackboard@usc.edu))

Students are responsible for checking additional postings and announcements on Blackboard website on a weekly basis.

**Please see separate additional Laboratory Syllabus and Schedule posted on Blackboard.**

Syllabi may slightly change during the semester.

### Email Communication:

To ensure privacy, only student's USC email accounts may be used for email communications. Students are responsible for understanding the content of email messages that the instructor sends to their USC accounts. Therefore, each student must check their USC email regularly and make sure their account is not over quota, so new messages can be received.

## Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

**Lecture textbook:** Biology: Life on Earth by T. Audesirk, G. Audesirk and B. E. Byers. Pearson. 11th edition (available in different format: E-book copy - Loose-leaf - Paper copy)

E-book copy <http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/biology-life-on-earth-subscription-0134256247>

Mastering Biology – Pearson interactive website (**optional-not mandatory**)

**Laboratory:** Lab Manual will be posted on Blackboard

### **Description and Assessment of Assignments**

Exams. There will be 2 midterm exams during the semester and 1 final exam. Exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, matching or fill-in-the-blank questions. Exams are NOT open book nor open notes. A student is not allowed to start an exam after the first student has left ANY exam room.

### **Grading Timeline**

Grades for Midterm Exams will be posted within one calendar week following the exam date.

**Weekly Review Quizzes:** Part of your total grade will be online quizzes (20 pts). There will be 10 multiple choice quizzes (4 questions each quiz – 0.5 point each question) to be completed over the weekend on Blackboard (<https://blackboard.usc.edu>) during the semester. The quizzes will be posted at 6:00 pm on Friday and will remain available until 9:00am the following Monday on Blackboard. Answers to quiz questions will be posted on Tuesday afternoons.

## Grading Breakdown

The course grade will be based upon 400 possible points:

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Midterm I	100	25
Midterm II	100	25
Final Exam	100	25
Laboratory Assignments	80	20
Weekly Review Quizzes	20	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>

## Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

## Additional Policies

### **Course Policies:**

- 1) Exam dates are firm. There are no makeup exams in the course. Performance on the final may be prorated to substitute for a missing midterm exam, if an excuse considered valid by faculty is presented in a timely fashion. An acceptable written excuse or documentation must be provided to the faculty. The final exam will be administered only on the date and time set by the University.
- 2). Midterm exams will be returned to students by the professor during lectures. The TA will return lab tests to students during lab section. The final examination will not be returned but will be retained for one semester by the faculty.
- 3) Regrades: If you think an answer you have provided was graded incorrectly or if there is an arithmetic error, you may seek a regrade. You must provide a written explanation of why you think your answer was graded incorrectly. Regrade requests are to be submitted to your TA. If a regrade is agreed upon, then the ENTIRE EXAMINATION may be subject to a regrade. Your grade may therefore go up, go down, or remain the same. Regrade requests must be received within one week of when the exam key is posted for midterms, or by the second week of classes the following semester for the final exam.
- 4) No special assignments for extra credit are permitted.

5) The use of technology in the classroom is STRICTLY limited to course activities. Penalties will be applied to students for any infraction.

6) Academic integrity policies of the University will be strictly followed. Infractions can result in severe penalties. There may be assigned seating for exams. No student may be admitted to an exam after the first student has left the exam.

Statement on academic integrity: USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles.

Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

7) Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the professor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday thru Friday, Phone number: 213-740-0776.

8) It may be necessary to make adjustments to the syllabus during the semester. Check the course website or class announcements on Blackboard for updates. **Exam dates will not be changed.**

9) Any questions or concerns regarding these policies should be addressed to the faculty.

## Lectures and Exams Schedule BISC101Lxg Fall 2019

Weeks	Date	Topics Covered	Reading assignment
Week 1	28 Aug	Course introduction and syllabus description	Ch.1
	30 Aug	Exploring life on earth (Introduction to life on earth)	Ch.1
Week 2 Quiz #1	4 Sep	Sharing is Caring: covalent bonds and beyond (Atoms, molecules, and life I)	Ch.2
	6 Sep	Sharing is Caring: covalent bonds and beyond (Atoms, molecules, and life II)	Ch.2
Week 3 Quiz #2	11 Sep	Organic molecules: the Carbon supremacy (Biological molecules I)	Ch.3
	13 Sep	Fats, Sugars, Proteins and ...a pinch of Nucleic Acids: The recipe for Life (Biological molecules II)	Ch.3
Week 4 Quiz #3	18 Sep	The basic unit of life: The Cell (Cell structure and functions I)	Ch.4
	20 Sep	Inside the cell engine (Cell structure and functions II)	Ch.4
Week 5 Quiz #4	25 Sep	Two levels of complexity: prokaryotes vs eukaryotes (Cell structure and functions III)	Ch.4
	27 Sep	The Fluid Mosaic: a Biological Masterpiece (Cell membrane structure and functions I)	Ch.5
Week 6	2 Oct	Compartments: A Place for Everything and Everything in its Place (Cell membrane structure and functions II)	Ch.5
	4 Oct	<b>Midterm 1</b>	<b>Ch. 1-5</b>
Week 7 Quiz #5	9 Oct	From 1 to 2. Cell division and heredity: Mitosis (Cellular reproduction I)	Ch. 9
	11 Oct	Cancer: Losing Control (Cellular reproduction III)	Ch.9
Week 8 Quiz #6	16 Oct	Sex and the Cell: Meiosis (Cellular reproduction III)	Ch. 10
	18 Oct	<b>Fall Recess</b>	
Week 9 Quiz #7	23 Oct	Shuffling the deck. Cell division and genetic variability (Cellular reproduction IV)	Ch.10
	25 Oct	Gregor Mendel and the "magic peas" (Patterns of Inheritance I)	Ch.11
Week 10 Quiz #8	30 Oct	Mendel's laws (Patterns of Inheritance II)	Ch.11
	1 Nov	Inheriting from mom and dad (Patterns of Inheritance III)	Ch.11
Week 11	6 Nov	<b>Midterm 2</b>	<b>Ch.9-11</b>
	8 Nov	DNA: the blueprint of life (DNA molecules I)	Ch.12
Week 12 Quiz #9	13 Nov	DNA structure and replication (DNA molecules II)	Ch.12
	15 Nov	Message in a molecule (Gene expressions I)	Ch.13
Week 13 Quiz #10	20 Nov	The genetic code: Nature's Alphabet (Gene expressions II)	
	22 Nov	Cracking the code (Gene expressions III)	
Week 14	27 Nov	<b>Thanksgiving recess</b>	Ch.13
	29 Nov	<b>Thanksgiving recess</b>	Ch.13
Week 15	4 Dec	It's all about that "base" (Gene expressions IV)	Ch.13
	6 Dec	Biotechnology – Applied Science	Ch.14
<b>FINAL</b>	<b>16 Dec Monday</b>	<b>Final Examination from 02:00 pm to 4:00 pm - room ZHS 159</b>	<b>Ch.12-14</b>

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

### Support Systems:

*Student Counseling Services (SCS)* – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. [engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline* – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)* – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. [engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: [sarc.usc.edu](http://sarc.usc.edu)

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance* – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. [equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu)

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. [dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

*Student Support and Advocacy* – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

*Diversity at USC*

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. [diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

*USC Emergency Information*

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

*USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.*

Provides overall safety to USC community. [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)