

Profs. Watts & Herrera
BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology), Spring 2025
Schedule for MWF 9 am & 10 am Lectures (Sections 13011 & 13012)
Tentative Lecture Schedule – Subject to Revision

THIS IS A CONCISE VERSION OF THE FULL SYLLABUS. IT IS POSTED NOW TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE ESSENTIAL INFORMATION THAT YOU WILL NEED TO PLAN FOR THE COURSE WHEN IT BEGINS ON JANUARY 13TH 2025.

PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY AS IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT EXAM DATES ETC.

THE COMPLETE DEFINITIVE VERSION OF THE SYLLABUS WILL BE POSTED IN DECEMBER. IT WILL CONTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION THAT YOU WILL NEED AS YOU PROGRESS THROUGH THE COURSE.

Catalog Description

Biological Sciences 220Lg – General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology (4 units)

In-depth survey of key topics related to advances in our knowledge of cellular biology and physiology; cell composition/metabolism; gene action; organism structure and function. *Recommended preparation:* high school chemistry; BISC 120Lg or BISC 121Lg. Duplicates credit in BISC 110L, BISC 111L, and BISC 221L.

Instructors

For MWF 9:00-9:50 am (Section 13011) and MWF 10:00-10:50 am (Section 13012):

Prof. Alan Watts (watts@usc.edu)

Prof. Albert Herrera (aherrera@usc.edu)

Laboratory Manager

Dr. Brett Spatola, ZHS 362, spatola@usc.edu, Phone 213-740-6078

Textbooks

Campbell Biology, by Urey et al., either the 12th edition or 11th edition. The 12th edition has slightly newer content but the 11th edition would be less expensive. The figure numbers used in the lecture slides correspond to the 12th Edition.

Lectures

- All lectures will be held in-person in THH 101 at the specified days/ times unless otherwise noted in the lecture calendar. Lectures will also be streamed live and recorded via Zoom, and the Zoom meeting information will be made available on the course Brightspace page.
- Any recurring schedule conflicts with live lectures require a formal petition from the Registrar's Office and must be approved by all instructors involved. Please contact the course instructor and lab director if you anticipate that you will have this kind of conflict with the lecture (or laboratory) portions of the course.

Lecture Exams

	Date	Time	MWF Coverage
Exam 1	Friday, Feb 14	2:00-3:05 pm	lectures 1-11
Exam 2	Friday, Mar 14	2:00-3:05 pm	lectures 12-22
Exam 3	Friday, Apr 11	2:00-3:05 pm	lectures 23-32
Exam 4	Wednesday, May 5	TBD	lectures 33-43

- ***To balance the coverage on each exam, Exam 2 must be given on March 14, which is the Friday before Spring Break and a regular class day. Note that Spring Break does not begin until Sunday, Mar 16.***
- ***Be sure that any travel plans you make for Spring Break do not conflict with Exam 2.***

There are **no** assignment extensions, make-up exams/quizzes, or make-up lab assignments, except where there are exceptional extenuating (and documented) circumstances. Note that these have been exceedingly rare in the past.

- If you miss one exam in the course for a valid (documented) reason, your exam grade will be an average of your other three exam scores. Without valid documentation you will receive a "0" for the missed exam.
- If you miss the final exam in the course, you will receive an Incomplete (IN) grade for the course.
- If you miss two or more exams for valid (documented) reasons, you will receive an Incomplete (IN) grade for the course.

Laboratory

- The lab portion of the course will be offered in-person at various times, Tuesday - Friday. Please see the Schedule of Classes for times and locations of the lab sections.

Weekly Question & Answer Sessions

Drs. Watts and Herrera will host weekly Question & Answer (Q&A) sessions via Zoom each Friday between 3 – 4pm. Students enrolled in the course are encouraged to attend.

These sessions are intended to provide students with an opportunity to ask questions related to lecture content, and listen to questions from their peers. Some Q&A sessions may be recorded and these recordings will be made available on the course Brightspace page at the discretion of the individual instructor.

If students have questions about their own individual performance in the class and/or career and academic advising, they should schedule an appointment to meet with their instructor outside of the Q&A sessions.

Lecture Quizzes

Throughout the course, ten quizzes each worth 3 points, will be administered via Brightspace to assess your understanding of the material presented in lectures during that week. Quizzes will become available on Fridays at 10:00 am (PT) and will be due (and no longer be available) by the following Monday at 9:00 am (PT), unless otherwise noted on the quiz calendar (below). You may use your lecture notes, the textbook or other resources to complete these quizzes, however, we strongly encourage you to treat these quizzes as “mini” exams and prepare accordingly.

The style, format and difficulty level of the quiz questions are designed to be similar to exam questions, and thus, these quizzes are meant to serve as “problem sets” that provide you with an opportunity to practice and prepare for the exams. As with all other assignments in the class, there are no make-ups or extensions for quizzes, unless you provide a valid reason for missing a quiz in writing. Forgetting that the quiz is available or due etc, are not valid reasons.

Quiz Number	Posted by 10am on Friday	Deadline 9 am on ...
1	Jan 31	Monday, Feb 3
2	Feb 7	Monday, Feb 10
3	Feb 14	Tuesday, Feb 18*
4	Feb 21	Monday, Feb 24
5	Feb 28	Monday, Mar 4
6	Mar 7	Monday, Mar 10
7	Mar 28	Monday, Mar 31
8	Apr 4	Monday, Apr 7
9	Apr 11	Monday, Apr 14
10	Apr 18	Tuesday, April 21

**Note that the deadline is extended for quizzes 3 and 6.*

Grading Breakdown

Your final course grade will be broken down into the following categories/ point values, for a total of 1000 points. There are no extra credit opportunities in this course, so please do not ask about them.

Course Grading Breakdown			
Deliverable	Quantity	Points per Deliverable	Total Points
Lecture Exams	4	150	600
Lecture Quizzes	10	3	30
Laboratory Section			370
COURSE TOTAL:			1000

13-Jan	M	01 Introduction –	Chs 2-4	Watts
15-Jan	W	02 Biomolecules 1	Chs 4-5	Watts
17-Jan	F	03 Biomolecules 2	Chs 4-5	Watts
20-Jan	M	<i>Holiday (MLK Day)</i>	----	----
22-Jan	W	04 Biomolecules 3	Ch 5	Watts
24-Jan	F	05 The Cell 1	Ch 6	Watts
27-Jan	M	06 The Cell 2	Ch 6	Watts
29-Jan	W	07 The Cell 3	Ch 6	Watts
31-Jan	F	08 Cell membranes 1 *	Ch 7	Watts
3-Feb	M	09 Cell membranes 2	Ch 7	Watts
5-Feb	W	10 Cell communication 1	Ch 11	Watts
7-Feb	F	11 Cell communication 2	Ch 11	Watts
10-Feb	M	12 Metabolism 1	Ch 8	Watts
12-Feb	W	13 Metabolism 2	Ch 8	Watts
14-Feb	F	14 Metabolism 3 / EXAM 1 (lectures 1-11)	Ch 9	Watts
17-Feb	M	<i>Holiday (President's Day)</i>	----	----
19-Feb	W	15 Metabolism 4	Ch 9	Watts
21-Feb	F	16 Metabolism 5	Ch 9	Watts
24-Feb	M	17 Photosynthesis 1	Ch 10	Watts
26-Feb	W	18 Photosynthesis 2	Ch 10	Watts
28-Feb	F	19 Photosynthesis 3 **	Ch 10	Watts
3-Mar	M	20 The cell cycle	Ch 12	Watts
5-Mar	W	21 Mitosis	Ch 12	Watts
7-Mar	F	22 Meiosis	Ch 13	Watts
10-Mar	M	23 Intro to Physiology; Cardiovascular System 1	Chs 40.1, 40.2; 42.1 - 42.4	Herrera
12-Mar	W	24 Cardiovascular System 2	Ch 42.1 - 42.4	Herrera
14-Mar	F	25 Cardiovascular System 3 / EXAM 2 (lectures 12-22)	Ch 42.1 - 42.4	Herrera
17-Mar	M	<i>Spring Break</i>	----	----
19-Mar	W	<i>Spring Break</i>	----	----
21-Mar	F	<i>Spring Break</i>	----	----
24-Mar	M	26 Respiration 1	Ch 42.5 - 42.7	Herrera
26-Mar	W	27 Respiration 2	Ch 42.5 - 42.7	Herrera
28-Mar	F	28 Immunity 1	Ch 43	Herrera
31-Mar	M	29 Immunity 2	Ch 43	Herrera
2-Apr	W	30 Immunity 3	Ch 43	Herrera
4-Apr	F	31 Osmoregulation & Excretion 1	Ch 44	Herrera
7-Apr	M	32 Osmoregulation & Excretion 2	Ch 44	Herrera
9-Apr	W	33 Osmoregulation & Excretion 3	Ch 44	Herrera
11-Apr	F	34 Endocrine System 1 / EXAM 3 (lectures 23-32) ***	Ch 45	Herrera
14-Apr	M	35 Endocrine System 2	Ch 45	Herrera
17-Apr	W	36 Endocrine System 3	Ch 45	Herrera
18-Apr	F	37 Reproduction	Ch 46	Herrera
21-Apr	M	38 Nervous System 1	Ch 48	Herrera
23-Apr	W	39 Nervous System 2	Ch 48	Herrera
25-Apr	F	40 Nervous System 3	Ch 49	Herrera
28-Apr	M	41 Nervous System 4	Ch 49	Herrera
30-Apr	W	42 Motor System 1	Ch 50.5	Herrera
2-May	F	43 Motor System 2	Ch 50.5	Herrera
7-May	W	<i>Exam 4 (lectures 33-43)</i>		

* **Friday, January 31** is the last day to drop without a mark of W and with tuition refund

** **Friday, February 28** is the last day to drop without a mark of W and without tuition refund

*** **Friday, April 11** is the last day to drop with a mark of W