

BSC 103: Biology and Society

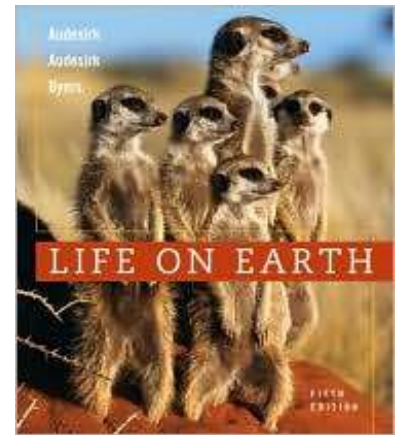
Spring 2009

Lecture information

Location: Walker Science 137

Monday and Wednesdays 2:00 – 3:15 pm

Text: *Life on Earth*, 5th edition by Audesirk, Audesirk, and Byers



Instructor

Donald Yee, Ph.D.

Contact information

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Office: WSB 136

Office Hours: 1:00 - 2:00 pm MW

www.usm.edu/biology/faculty/Faculty_Profile_Donald_Yee.htm

Overview

BSC 103: Biology and Society is an introductory course whose lectures are designed to acquaint the student with the scientific method and the basic concepts of biology. Because it is a course designed for nonmajors, special emphasis is placed on biological concepts relevant for your lives (both current and future). These concepts include evolution, biotechnology, disease, and environmental biology. My hope is that you will apply this knowledge to better your everyday life and environment.

Course Goals: Lecture

BSC 103 is part of the General Education Curriculum (GEC) of the University. As a consequence, the course fulfills the following GEC Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- demonstrate the ability to develop and focus on one topic in speaking and writing assignments and present ideas in an organized, logical, and coherent form.
- demonstrate the ability to use Standard English grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage.
- have a good understanding of the scientific method.
- have good knowledge of the basic concepts in the Biological sciences.
- have a good understanding of the current areas of concerns or emphasis within at least one science discipline.
- be able to interpret scientific data and reach a plausible conclusion.
- have a good understanding of the techniques used in science.

Course Logistics

Attendance

While I won't be taking attendance, it is in your best interest to attend all lectures. As adults, it is up to you to decide when to attend class, but when you do please minimize your disruptions when arriving and leaving. PowerPoint lectures will be posted on-line (see below) although videos will not, so there is a great advantage in coming to class.

Technology Issues

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and MP3 devices during lecture. Feel free to use your laptop to take notes, but please don't web surf or engage in other non-course related activities during class.

Drop Policy

Please be advised that I will not approve permission to drop this course after the designated 'last day to drop' unless extenuating circumstances justify my doing so. A failing grade or a decision that the course is too difficult does not represent extenuating circumstances.

Academic Honesty

My view of cheating

1. Don't
2. See 1

directly from the Undergraduate Bulletin

"When cheating is discovered, the faculty member may give the student an F on the work involved or in the course. If further disciplinary action is deemed appropriate, the student should be reported to the Dean of Students. In addition to being a violation of academic honesty, cheating violates the Code of Student Conduct and may be grounds for probation, suspension, and/or expulsion. Students on disciplinary suspension may not enroll in any courses offered by the University of Southern Mississippi."

Disability Accommodation

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act and requests accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disabilities Accommodation (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Mailing addresses: 118 College Drive # 8568, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-8568. Telephone: 601-266-5024; TTY: 601-266-6837; FAX: 601-266-6035.

Course Evaluation (Lecture only)

Lecture Exams	250 points (3 Exams @ 125 points each, dropping the lowest score, thus NO Make up exams)
Final Exam	125 points (comprehensive, mandatory, will not be dropped)
Lecture points	50 points (Several short/brief quizzes or feedback questions will be given during the semester. These assignments/quizzes will not be announced prior to class)
Project	125 points. Each student will prepare a collection of print media (e.g., magazine, newspaper) articles related to the Biological Sciences. This project satisfies the General Education Core writing requirement. See attached sheet for more details. <u>This assignment will decrease by 15% each day it is late!</u>

Course grade (550 points available)*

A: 550-495

B: 494-440

C: 439-384

D: 383-328

F: < 328

*No extra credit is available.

Studying

I am confident that you can do well in this course. Take accurate notes in class and find time soon after lecture to make sure that you understand your notes, which might involve comparing your notes to the text and slides. Be advised that your lecture notes will be your most important study aid because test questions derive largely from lecture material, and **some material will not be found within your text.** I suggest that you read the material assigned in the text before you come to lecture, that way you can anticipate information about subject matter not well understood.

Readings will be assigned at the end of the previous lecture period. Some lectures will be based on material from chapters from another text (H. Tak Cheung, *Biology, Your Place in the Universe*, 2nd edition, with permission from Vermilion Press). You will receive these in class free of charge.

Lectures will be delivered within a PowerPoint format, and the PowerPoint presentations will be available online. Videos presented in class will appear no where else.

Date	Topic*	Activities
January 12	Welcome and Introduction	
	<i>Universe</i>	
14	Science, Atoms	
19	Energy	
21		→ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day--No Class
26	Chemistry	Last day to drop (no financial penalty)
28	Environment	
February 2	Time	
4	Origins	
9	Exam 1	
	<i>Organism</i>	
11	Commonality	
16	Complexity	
18	Plants	Preliminary Project Due
23		→ Mardi Gras Day--No Class
25	Basic Forms	
26		Last day to drop (no academic penalty)
March 2	Diversity	
4	Coexistence	
	<i>Unique</i>	
9	Variation	
11	Exam 2	
16		→ Spring Break--No Class
18		→ Spring Break--No Class
23	Map	
25	Development	
30	Sex	
31	Union	
April 1	Behavior	
6	Populations	
7	Exam 3	
	<i>Intelligence</i>	
13	Brain	
15	Memory and Perception	
20	Genetic Disorders	
22	Mind and Addiction	
27	Evolution	Project Due
29	Loose Ends...	
May 6	Comprehensive Final Exam	

*subject to change

note: topics in bold will reflect handouts given in class

Student Project

Each student will prepare a collection of 24 print media articles (e.g., magazines, newspapers) related to biology. Articles from online sources are **NOT** acceptable. The collection of articles must represent the range of scientific activity in the biological sciences. This range of activity is reflected in the textbook and the syllabus, which includes the following four areas covered in class (*Universe, Organism, Unique, Intelligence*).

You should collect 6 articles in each topic, and then organize your collection of 24 total articles by category. If you find that some articles fit into more than one category then choose one.

You will have no trouble finding articles in *non-scientific* print media sources, whether newspapers or magazines. Articles from scientific journals (e.g., *Nature, American Journal of Botany*) and science magazines (e.g., *Scientific American, Science News, Discovery*) are **NOT** to be included. Articles should come from a wide variety of sources. A project with all articles from a single source or just a couple of sources will receive less credit. Length of articles may vary from a single column in the newspaper (at least a few paragraphs) to several pages in a magazine.

Collect and organize your articles in a 3-ring binder.

Include with your set of articles the following:

- (1) **Cover sheet** that includes your name, course title, and semester.
- (2) **Table of Contents** (list of article titles grouped according to topic)
- (3) **Articles** (or copies, if you use a library copy or a dentist's magazine, etc.), each followed by
- (4) **Typed or computer-printed page with (a) title of article, (b) source of article** (e.g., *Hattiesburg American*, 16 Jan. 2006, pp. A6-A7; *Rolling Stone*, June 2005, p. 18), **and (c) a synopsis that paraphrases the article, including the main point of the article and your thoughts on the subject.**

The length of your synopsis should be one-third a page to a whole page, double-spaced, at 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font with title and source at top on two lines. Your cover sheet and 6 articles and synopses are due on 18 February. These should be in the correct format and placed in the binder. No table of contents is needed. These will be corrected for grammar and content to improve your writing skills. If the assignment is turned in on time, you will receive full credit. *These synopses should be included in your final project, along with your corrected and re-written version* (so that I can see how you improved).

The final project is due *in class* on 27 April. Projects will not be returned.

Evaluation of your project is based on the following:

Preliminary Assignment

36 !!!! On-time delivery (6 articles and synopses and cover sheet in binder)

Final Assignment

- | | |
|----|--|
| 36 | 1.5 points per article (6 in each subject area) |
| 10 | Source variation (5 or more different sources for full credit) |
| 24 | Quality of synopses (including titles and sources) |
| 10 | Inclusion of corrected copies from first assignment |
| 3 | Title Page |
| 3 | Table of Contents |
| 3 | Neatness |

125 possible