I. REQUIRED of all freshmen and transfer students during one of their first two semesters. This is a prerequisite to moving along in the Biology Core program. Open to all.

II. WHY DOES THIS COURSE EXIST? (Course Objectives) Many Biology majors, perhaps most, don’t know what biologists actually do and are often misinformed about the careers they think they want to enter. So first of all, the course is to help you learn about opportunities and careers that may have never crossed your mind. Many students reach graduation and only then begin to think about how they will find a job or enter graduate or professional school. So the course will make you look ahead.

History shows that almost half of entering freshmen and many transfer students will never receive a bachelor’s degree from SJSU (or anywhere else!). This statistic can be changed, and there are ways to improve your personal chances of graduating. So the course will help you learn how to succeed in the Biological Sciences Major.

It is possible, and not a bad idea, to have a degree in biology even if you do not do it as a career. You will be well informed about health and about environmental issues. You will learn to think critically, analyze data, write scientifically, and use computers as tools for gathering, organizing and evaluating information. These are all skills that are highly valued by employers and post-graduate schools.

Over 50% of college graduates do not work in jobs directly related to their majors. So keep in mind that no matter what your major is, you need to get those skills that are universally valued by employers, medical schools, doctoral programs, and other postgraduate training programs. If you stay in Biology and do well, you will have an outstanding education, one that matches or exceeds what you would receive from any university in the country.

III. WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?

- People that can get along with other people
- People who can work in teams
- People who can solve problems and deal with new and unexpected situations
- People who have good oral and written communication skills
IV. WHAT DO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS WANT?

□ Much the same as what employers want

V. ASSIGNMENTS

1. Eight to 10 Semester Course Plan (10 Points): Create an 8-semester to 10-semester (or shorter if you are a transfer student), detailed, course plan that will take you to graduation. Indicate the following:

   • Indicate what semester courses are offered (for example, some courses are only offered in the Spring, others only in the Fall, and some are only offered every other year). Use an F to indicate a course that if offered in the Fall, an S to indicate a course that is offered in the Spring, and a B to indicate a course is offered both semesters.

   • List the pre-requisites for all the biology courses on your plan (on a separate page). Use a flow diagram to show pre-requisites. For example, Bio 1→Bio 2→Bio 3

   • You must have one of your classmates review your course plan and sign off on it prior to turning it in.

   See examples of 4-year graduation plans for frosh and the frequency of course offerings on the Department of Biological Sciences webpage. www.sjsu.edu/depts/Biology (Due Date: October 6)

2. Interview a Working Biologist (25 Points): Interview at least one working biologist NOT on this campus. See the detailed information about what is required for this interview on the Biology 4 web page. (Due Date: November 17)

3. Thank You Letter (5 Points): Write a thank you letter to the working biologist you interviewed. Turn in a copy of the Thank You Letter. (Due Date: December 1)

4. Report on Best Practices for Interviewing for a Job (10 Points): Prepare a 2 to 3 page report on the “Best Practices for Interviewing for a Job.” Your report should include at least 3 references. References from the web are acceptable but the report must be in your own words. See information about interviewing for a job on the Career Center webpage. http://www.careercenter.sjsu.edu/ (Due Date: November 3)

5. Resume and Cover Letter (Not graded): Each student should prepare a resume and a cover letter. See the sample resumes and cover letters on the
Career Planning and Placement Center web page. You will provide your resume and cover letter to your team during the Mock Job Interview. Your team members will evaluate your resume and cover letter and give you feedback during the interview. You do not need to turn in the resume and cover letter.

6. **Mock Job Interview (20 Points):** As a team of 3 to 5 students, interview each member of the team for a “fantasy job.” Each person interviewed should provide the team with her or his resume and cover letter. The team will provide feedback on the resume and cover letter during the interview. The team should turn in a 2-page description of the interview process, indicating what the job candidates did well and what they could improve. (Due Date: December 1)

7. **Final Exam (50 points)** You will have a final exam covering the content of the course (i.e., presentations and course materials) during the final exam period.) You will also have a pre-test of your knowledge of biology during the final exam period.

8. **Calculate your Grade Point Average (GPA) (10 points) (Due Date**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Grade Points Per Unit</th>
<th>Total Grade Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bio 1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bio 5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>x 2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English 1A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>x 4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art 10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>x 3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[ \text{GPA} = \frac{\text{Total Grade Points}}{\text{Total Units}} = \frac{39}{13} = 3.0 \]

9. Read the Kite Runner by Khaled Hossseini and attend one of the campus discussion sessions. Turn in a one-page summary of the book and a one page summary of the discussion session indicating the date of the session and the discussion leader. **(20 points)**(Due Date: December 15)

**VI. ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TO GET FROM GUEST SPEAKERS**

Name of Speaker___________________
Profession ________________________

What are the requirements to enter this profession?
How does one best prepare oneself to enter this profession?
What jobs are available in this profession?
What are the positive aspects of this profession?
What are the negative aspects of this profession?
What are the characteristics of someone who would be successful/happy in this profession?
VII. GRADING:

A-- You must do ALL out-of-class and in-class assignments carefully and thoughtfully and turn them in ON TIME. Sloppy work or work with spelling, typographical, or grammatical errors will be returned and must be redone. You must get a 90% average or above the exam and assignments. You must take the final exam.

B-- You must do ALL out-of-class and in-class assignments carefully and thoughtfully. No matter how you do on the exam, if you are late with 1 assignment, you can earn no grade higher than a B. You must get no less than an 80% average on the exam and assignments. You must take the final exam.

C-- You must do ALL out-of-class and in-class assignments carefully and thoughtfully. No matter how you do on the exam, if you are late with 2 assignments, you can earn no grade higher than a C. You must get no less than a 70% or above average on the exam and assignments. You must take the final exam.

D-- You must do ALL out-of-class and in-class assignments carefully and thoughtfully. No matter how you do on the exam, if you are late with 3 or more assignments, you can earn no grade than a D. You must get no less than a 60% average on the exam and assignments. You must take the final exam.

F-- If you do not turn in ALL assignments by the last day of class, you will receive an F. If you earn less than a 60% average on the quizzes and assignments, you will earn an F.

VIII. Academic integrity statement (from Office of Judicial Affairs):
“Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San José State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at (www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

IX. Campus policy in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:
“If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities who wish accommodations register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.”
Save ALL your assignments. They are your proof that you did all required work!!!!

Class meets in Sci 142 from 1:30 am to 2:30 pm every other Friday

September 8, and 22
October 6 and 20
November 3 and 17
December 1 and 15