Biology 115 Fall, 2006

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Office Hours: will be announced when determined

PREREQUISITES: Students should have completed the Biology Core (Biol 1, 2, and 3) with a grade of C or higher before enrolling in Biology 115. Transfer or nonSJSU students should have an equivalent preparation. It is expected that students will have already been exposed to topics in genetics covered in the core biology courses and Bio 115 will build upon this background.

TEXTS:

It is possible to use other genetics texts instead of the above but students who do so are responsible for finding the appropriate reading assignments themselves.

LECTURES: Course lectures will include material the instructor feels is most important in a general genetics course. It will be extremely beneficial to have completed the assigned reading before the relevant lecture and to work problems related to the lecture material soon after the lecture.

Lectures will not cover most of the material from chapters 8, 9, 11 and 12 because of the lack of time. Students are expected to learn this material and do the suggested problems on their own. Much of this material is covered in Biology 3 and should be review. If time permits we will solve problems involving these topics in the Discussion sections.

GRADING: A comprehensive final exam contributes 30% toward the final course grade that will be based upon a curve. The final grade curve cannot be determined until all the exams are completed including the final exam. However a student with a final course average of 90% or higher will receive at least a course grade of A or A-, a student with a final course average of 80 to 90% will receive at least a B or B-, etc. 50% of the final grade will be based upon three lecture exams given during the session. The two highest scores on these lecture exams will be counted toward your final grade and the lowest discarded. There are no makeup exams given. If you miss an exam, this will be the one discarded. The remaining 20% of your grade will be determined on the basis of four quiz grades with the lowest quiz grade dropped.

University and Department guidelines require serious and compelling reasons to drop a course. Grades, alone, do not constitute a reason to drop a course. (See catalogue.)