

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts & Sciences
Department of Biology
Fall 2008 Syllabus**

Course number: Biology 106
Course title: Contemporary Issues in Biology
Meeting time & location: T, Th: 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Biology 004

Instructor:

Name: Imad Saoud, PhD
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Textbook: Human Biology: Concepts and Current Issues, 5th ed. By Michael D. Johnson. Pearson, USA.

Course description:

The course introduces students to the general concepts of biology, including origins of life, evolution and organic building blocks. Moreover, the course will cover socially important contemporary topics such as human evolution, fresh water issues, ecology, environmental conservation, cloning, stem cell research, GMOs, diseases and nutrition. Topics will be added and removed as new discoveries are made and news changes.

Learning objectives:

This course should give non-science students a basic understanding of biological issues of importance today.

Course learning outcomes:

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of common biological vocabulary.
- Have a basic understanding of various contemporary issues in biology.
- Be able to converse intelligently in the topics discussed in class.
- Be able to define common biological terms.

Means of evaluation

	% of final grade
Exam I	25 (After evolution)
Exam II	25 (After diseases)
Final exam	30
Recitation	10
Drop Quiz	5
Attendance	5

Course policies

Attendance

Class attendance is highly recommended. Absence of a student does not exempt him/her from the responsibility of the work done or from any announcement made during the missed session.

Students who miss classes excessively will be asked to drop from the course (AUB catalogue p 116)

Readings

Handouts will be given and are required reading even if not discussed in class. The book contains sections about most of the topics that will be discussed and these are also required reading. The students will look them up and be responsible for reading them.

Exams

Students are required to take all exams at the scheduled day and time. Failure to take an exam will result in grade of zero for the said exam.

No make up exams will be given. An alternative arrangement **may** be done, the nature of which is at the discretion of the instructor.

N.B. Students are expected to be familiar and adhere to the student code of conduct (<http://pnp.aub.edu.lb/general/conductcode/index.html>). Cheating will be seriously penalized

Course content: Subject to change as new topics arise to prominence in the media.

Topic

Darwin / Wallace
Origins of life
Water
The cell
Evolution
Diversity of life
Human Evolution
Environmental biology
Population increase
Climate change

Diseases

Macromolecules
& Food

Genetic engineering
CSI Beirut
Jurassic Park Jounieh
GMOs

Addictions to feelings
Ageing
Lifespan, men vs. women
Scents and sensitivity