

Course requirements for

"Humans and their environments" Biology 1604

Fall Semester, 2022 (not offered Spring Semester): 3:30 pm sharp to 5:00 pm, T-Th, Leidy Laboratory 10 (the large auditorium in the center of the building).

Instructor: Professor Daniel Janzen, Room 11, Leidy Labs (basement); tel 215-898-5636; djanzen@sas.upenn.edu

Teaching Assistant:

Eeman Abbasi. Office hours by appointment; eabbasi@sas.upenn.edu

THERE ARE NO RECITATION SECTIONS FOR Bio. 1604

Web site: <https://apps.sas.upenn.edu/caterpillar/index.php>

Lectures:

There will be a first full lecture on Tuesday 30 August 2022, which is the first lecture of the course (and not a good one to skip, please). The lectures are listed on the course home page.

The lectures are given as digital image projected essays, mounted on a power point background (digital images inserted into blank power point pages). All images used by Janzen in lecture are also present on the course web site (unless he has to turn on lights and use blackboard for something or unless he posts a special image); we post the lecture material for visiting lecturers when possible. Most images on the web site <https://apps.sas.upenn.edu/caterpillar/index.php> are accompanied by a text paragraph approximating some substantial portion of the comments made about that image in lecture, but certainly not all of them. The text paragraph will contain additional course material that there is not time to cover in lecture, but **that you are responsible for in the exams**. Click on the image to get to the text.

However, I do NOT recommend attempting to take this course simply by browsing the images and their associated text. The web site images and text are the only way to "make up" a missed lecture (there are no "makeup lectures" or make up exams), I do not recommend doing the course just from that source. It is becoming more

and more the case that in the lectures, I try to add to what is already on the web site as well as emphasize what is there with other thoughts and facts (science is ever shifting search for more accuracy).

Textbook:

There is no textbook. I am attempting to have some relevant readings listed for each lecture, and since there is no textbook, I am assuming that you will try to really absorb the punch lines and major thoughts from each one of them.

Syllabus:

The list of anticipated lecture titles is on the home page for the course <https://apps.sas.upenn.edu/caterpillar/index.php>

Many lectures have pdf files listed at their beginning right under the title on a given lecture's home page on the web site (and more will be added). **All students are responsible for having read these pdf files**, just as if they were part of a textbook or text captions for the images. I do not expect you to absorb and be able to regurgitate the details of all of this reading. Rather, I expect you to attempt to read it and absorb as many of the punch lines, rationale, questions being addressed, etc. as your vocabulary and background allows. There will be 1-2 questions on the exams about each pdf reading.

Examinations:

There are two mid-semester exams (see syllabus for dates) and one final exam (on the regular campus-assigned date, and in Leidy 10). All questions in all examinations will be multiple-choice and the entire class period is available to complete them. **A pdf file of a final exam from year 2015 has been uploaded to the pdf files for the date of the first mid-semester exam (click on lecture 6 to get it), so that you can have a feeling for the structure of the exam.** These exact questions will not reappear on the 2022 exams, and recall that in previous years, lectures about other topics may have been discussed. No letter grades will be assigned to the numerical scores on the two mid-semester exams, but you can compare your score with that of the curve that will be posted.

There are no make up exams. Under extenuating circumstances (written medical leave) we will drop your lowest grade on one of the exams, and assign a grade based on how you would have done based on how you do on the other two exams (a mid-semester exam and the final).

Unfamiliar terminology:

This course is likely to occasionally use unfamiliar terminology. I recommend that you keep a list of such words and ask your Teaching Assistant about them during an appointment, but also Google and Wikipedia can be useful to triangulate. Part of becoming bioliterate is in figuring out how to extract information from the web rather than fully depending on a human interface.

Questions: If you have questions, please ask the TA. Do not rely on rumor.

Names: ALWAYS put your first and last names on emails - there are many of you with the same first name (human taxonomy still acts like we are a little village).

Thank you.

Dan Janzen 29 August 2022 djanzen@sas.upenn.edu

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