Studying the Biological Sciences
Course Syllabus
Inter-Departmental Studies 96
Molecular & Cell Biology, Integrative Biology, & Plant Biology
Fall 2013

Description

IDS 96 is an introduction to the culture of the university & university biology. You will learn concepts, skills, and information that will assist you in the short term with your courses, and in the long term, as you progress through a major toward a science career. The overall goal of the course is to allow you to make informed decisions that will help you best express your interest in the biological sciences. The course content will be a balance between 1) conceptual models that will help you understand the larger societal issues that surround the study and practice of biology, and 2) practical information that will be immediately useful to you.

Instructor

Dr. John Matsui

Meetings, Units, & Grades

Mon. & Wed. 12-1 PM 2040 Valley Life Science Building

1 Unit Pass/Not Pass

Format

The course will consist of assigned readings from scholarly and popular journals, presentations by guest speakers, a library research project and presentation, several short "feedback" assignments, lectures, and discussion. The format will be interactive and will involve your questions, opinions, and participation.

Topics Covered Will Include:

1. Learning Styles
2. Time Management
3. Problem Solving
4. Reading Science Texts
5. Test Taking
6. History of Science Education
7. Diversity & the Future of Science
8. Groups in the University & in Biology
9. Research
10. Questions in Biology
11. Collaboration in Biology
12. Predictors of Undergraduate Success in Science
13. Computers & Biology
14. Science & Society Interactions
15. Disciplines as "Cultures" & the Culture of Biology
16. Career & Major Options in Biology

Specific Objectives

1. Provide models and opportunities for you to develop your analytical and communication skills.
2. Present information and further develop your skills to improve your performance in math and science courses.
3. Provide a conceptual and factual overview of biology and the university, to help you make informed choices regarding your major and career.
4. Introduce scholarly studies which examine the "culture" of academia, in general, and that of biology, in particular, so that you can become a more effective participant in the scholarly community.
5. Assist you to integrate the university experience with other aspects of your life.

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Grading

The Pass/Not Pass grade will be based in part on your completion of and performance in all of the assigned exercises (details will follow)

To receive a "Pass," you must satisfy all of the evaluation criteria below:

1. Complete **all** of the exercises.
2. Have no more than two (2) "unexcused/no-contact" absences during the semester