# BSC 2010 Laboratory Syllabus: Summer 2024

**Instructor:** Michele Yeargain

**Email:** Michele.[Yeargain@ucf.edu](mailto:Yeargain@ucf.edu)

**Office Hours:** Same as lecture office hours

The laboratories in BSC 2010 are designed to supplement student acquisition and retention of the biological concepts taught in the lecture component of this course. Laboratory experiment modules and post-quizzes are held on our virtual campus using the Second Life platform. You are required to log in during your laboratory section as shown on your class schedule. Only during your scheduled lab time are you guaranteed access to the virtual environment.

**“Failure to Launch/Complete” Penalty**

Any student who has not purchased laboratory access and registered with UniVirtual by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, July 9th, will automatically receive a zero (0) grade for the laboratory portion of this course. In addition, failure to complete four (4) or more laboratory modules (experiment module and post-quiz), for any reason, will automatically result in a zero (0) grade for the laboratory portion of this course. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Please note that the laboratory grade accounts for 22% of your overall semester grade in this course, receiving a zero (0) grade for the laboratory will likely result in an F grade for the entire course.

**Background Material**

Each lab has an accompanying background material file which will provide you with three things: 1) biology concepts associated with the laboratory, 2) pertinent information about the virtual laboratory module, and 3) virtual campus navigational information. You must read this background file prior to logging in to our virtual campus each week. You will be quizzed on this information in the pre-laboratory quiz, and your performance in the laboratory module will be affected by how well you read and comprehend this information. The background material file for each lab can be found in the Background Material for Second Life Labs module in Webcourses, and it will be attached to the weekly CNDG email. It is recommended that you have each background file handy when you take the pre-quiz and while completing the laboratory module.

**Laboratory Modules**

* You are required to complete each laboratory module according to the schedule provided below.
* There are 9 laboratory modules
  + Each module is worth 5 points each
    - total of 45 points
* You must complete the entire laboratory module to earn the 5 points, and to gain access to the post-quiz.
* Each laboratory module must be completed during the week that it is open, according to your scheduled laboratory time
* **There are no make-up laboratories.**

**Post-Laboratory Quizzes**

* There is a post-quiz for each laboratory module
  + 9 post-quizzes
    - Each post-quiz is worth 10 points
* The lowest scoring post-quiz will be dropped.
* Post-laboratory quizzes total 80 points (8 highest scoring post-quizzes x 10 pts each).
* Some post-quizzes will contain a “Critical Thinking” question; if answered correctly it is worth 1 extra credit point.
* Post-quizzes will test your understanding and retention of the procedures and concepts in the associated laboratory module.
  + The quiz questions are application based; not merely factual recall.

**Grading Information**

* **Semester Point Total: 125 points**
  + See schedule/assignments below.
  + The laboratory grade accounts for 22% of your overall semester grade.
* **How to view your grades:**
  + Grades will be uploaded weekly to Webcourses
* Any grading discrepancies must be brought to the attention of the Michele Yeargain **within one week** of the grades being posted on Webcourses. **Semester-end grade review will not be permitted.**

**Laboratory Hours of Operation**

* **Scheduled laboratory times:**
  + Monday/Wednesday: 1:30 pm – 5:20 pm
  + Tuesday/Thursday: 1:30 pm – 3:20 pm
  + Can log in **ONLY** during **YOUR** scheduled laboratory time
  + Full TA and UniVirtual support
* **After Hours:**
  + Monday/Wednesday: after 5:20 pm
  + Tuesday/Thursday: after 3:30 pm
  + No TAs or UniVirtual staff present
  + If you choose to complete your lab during this time, **you are accepting full responsibility for any and all problems you may encounter during this time**.
* **Virtual Campus Closed:**
  + Tuesday 5:30 am – 1:30 pm for maintenance of environment
  + Thursday 7:30 pm – Monday 1:30 pm



**Absence Policy**

Laboratory modules and quizzes are available online and can be accessed from any location with sufficient internet connectivity. Since all students have access to the laboratory modules Monday-Thursday, there will be no excused absences. All laboratory modules and quizzes must be completed by the due date. The only exceptions to the “no absence” policy are: hospitalization, jury duty, etc. extending longer than the opening period of the missed laboratory. In such a case, you must provide valid, official documentation to Michele Yeargain within 48 hours of the due date of the missed laboratory module. In the rare case of an excused absence, your grade for the semester will be calculated based on the labs you completed. We **DO NOT** accept excuse notes from family members (even if those family members are doctors, lawyers, etc.).

**How to retrieve your UniVirtual username/password**

Go to <https://lms.univirtual.com> to reset your Second Life Viewer password.

**Student Responsibilities**

You must own a PC or Mac computer or laptop. Tablets are incompatible with the UniVirtual platform. You are responsible for sufficient internet connection (>10MB/second), computer function, time management, etc. Failure to complete laboratory modules or quizzes due to lack of/insufficient internet access, computer malfunction, proper planning, etc. will result in a zero for the missed work. Time will not be extended for any assignment. *Campus WiFi is not strong enough to stream UniVirtual.*

**Tech Commons Computer Labs**

The UniVirtual viewer is installed on the computers in the following Tech Commons computer labs. Locations & hours of operation are:

* Tech Commons 2 room 117: Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm
* Classroom Building 1 room 101: Monday – Friday 8 am – 5 pm

**Virtual Laboratory Code of Conduct**

* The UCF Golden Rule applies to the UCF Virtual Campus
  + Cheating of any kind will result in a ZF grade and referral to the UCF Disciplinary Action Committee
  + Derogatory/Offensive/Abusive behavior will result in expulsion from the UCF Virtual Campus as well as the Second Life world. Students displaying such behavior will be referred to the UCF Disciplinary Action Committee

**Technical Support:**

* If you are logged into UniVirtual and are experiencing technical difficulties, you should send a help request using the help button.
* If you are logged into UniVirtual and need assistance with the laboratory module, you should IM one of the TAs.
* If you are having difficulties logging into the UniVirtual environment, check that your internet connection is active, that you have downloaded all required software. If you still have problems, email [help@univirtual.info](mailto:help@univirtual.info). If you do not receive a response, you can email Michele Yeargain at [michele.yeargain@ucf.edu](mailto:michele.yeargain@ucf.edu)

**Summer 2024: Laboratory Schedule (and point distribution)**

**June 24 - 27: Virtual Laboratory Registration**

**July 1 - 4: Orientation**

*Virtual Orientation Module: 5 points*

*Post-quiz: 10 points*

**Cellular Organelles Laboratory** **(note that Thursday, July 4 is a holiday and UCF campus will be closed. The lab will be open on Thursday, July 4, but without tech support or TA support)**

*Laboratory Module: 5 points*

*Post-quiz: 10 points*

**July 8-11: Enzymes Laboratory**

*Laboratory Module: 5 points*

*Post-Quiz: 10 points*

**Cellular Respiration Laboratory**

*Pre-quiz: 5 points*

*Laboratory Module: 1 point*

*Post-quiz: 10 points.*

**July 15 - 18: Mitosis Laboratory**

*Laboratory Module: 5 points*

*Post-quiz: 10 points*

**Osmosis/Diffusion Laboratory**

*Laboratory Module: 5 points*

*Post-quiz: 10 points*

**July 22-25: Mendelian Genetics I Laboratory**

*Laboratory Module: 5 points*

*Post-quiz: 10 points*

**Mendelian Genetics II Laboratory**

*Laboratory Module: 5 points*

*Post-quiz: 10 points*

**July 29-Aug 1: DNA Synthesis, Transcription, and Translation Laboratory**

*Laboratory Module: 5 points*

*Post-quiz: 10 points*