

Course Title (Code)	LAI103 Introduction to Natural Life/Science	Instructor(s)	Jason Adachi Melody Muguerza
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Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours	
Track	General Education	Mode of Instruction	Team Teaching
Credits	2	Allocated Year	2026
Active Learning	Interactive Pair and group work Experimental work Field study work	Compulsory or Elective	Elective for TC track
Course Overview	Introduces concepts, experimental techniques, and scientific methodologies for exploring a natural life system. Examines aspects of the theory of evolution, morphology and physiology of the organisms composing the natural life systems, i.e., Monera, Protista, Animalia, Plantae and Fungi.		
Course Objectives	Content Objectives: - Be familiar with the basic principles of evolutionary ecology (e.g. adaptation, natural selection, sexual selection, and biological interactions), - Be familiar with similarity and diversity as the two faces of evolution, - Be familiar with diversified organisms around us. Language Objectives: - Know the vocabulary, and sentence structures necessary to discuss topics related to natural science, - Know how academic science papers and reports are organized in English, - Learn how to write a scientific report in English.		
Prerequisite			
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework
	1	What are the characteristics of living things and how do you determine if a thing is alive? (Asking yes/no and WH questions.)	Read the text and answer comprehension questions.
	2	What is the scientific method? What is spontaneous generation?	Read the text and answer comprehension questions.
	3	What do we know about the first life (the first thing displaying these characteristics)? How might it have formed?	Read the text and answer comprehension questions. Field Assignment #1
	4	Why are there differences among living things? How are prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells different? How are unicellular and multicellular organisms different?	Read text and answer comprehension questions.
	5	How are anaerobic/aerobic, heterotroph/autotroph and asexual/sexual different?	Read text and answer comprehension questions.
	6	What are the light reactions in photosynthesis?	Read text and answer comprehension questions. Experiment Report #1

	7	Why do organisms change over time? What are evolution and adaptation?	Prepare for the midterm review and exam
	8	Midterm Review Midterm Exam	Read text and answer and comprehension questions.
	9	How are features passed from parent to offspring? What are the principles of basic genetics?	Read text and answer comprehension questions.
	10	What is Darwinian natural selection?	Read text and answer comprehension questions.
	11	What is sexual selection?	Read text and answer comprehension questions.
	12	Phylogeny and more on adaptation	Read text and answer comprehension questions.
	13	Animal Behavior and Communication	Reading text and answering questions Field assignment #2
	14	Microorganisms and the Invisible World	Read text and answer comprehension questions.
	15	Human Biological Adaptations	Read text and answer comprehension questions. Preparation of Final Exam
Grading	Grades will be determined as follows: Homework. 20% Quizzes 20% Participation and activities 10% Written Reports 10% Exams 40%		
Textbooks	Course materials will be provided by instructors		
References			
NOTES	Late Arrival: Arriving up to 20 minutes late is counted as a late arrival. Absence: Absence includes being missing for the entire class period, arriving more than 20 minutes late, or leaving more than 20 minutes early. Failure Policy: Missing the equivalent of 5 classes, including accumulated late arrivals and early departures, will result in an automatic failure. Note that absence or tardiness will generally not be accepted as a valid excuse for incompleteness or late submission of any task or assignment. Appropriate and timely communication by students to the instructors is expected.		

