

# **BIOLOGY 400 – History of Biology**

Online Edition, Summer 2021

Department of Biology, University of Victoria

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## Course Description

The historical development of the major techniques and ideas of biology, including the significance of the important contributors to biology. The treatment will be part chronological, part topical.

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## Instructor

Dr. Robert St. Clair

Email: robertstclair@uvic.ca. If you send an email, please put "Biology 400" in the message line. I will also have Zoom office hours and I will be available for Zoom appointments outside my office hours.

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## Prerequisite

Third year standing.

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## Readings

I will post pdfs of selected readings on the Brightspace site when they become relevant as we progress through the course.

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## Evaluation and Grading Policy

Online Midterm (TBA)	40%
Online Final Exam (June final exam period)	60% (cumulative)

The midterms and the final exam will be accessible through the Quiz tool on Brightspace. You can find Quizzes under the Course Tools tab.

All three exams will be open to you from 2:30 PM to 4:20 PM on the exam days; within this time window you will have 2 hours on your personal clock to complete the exam.

The exams will be open book. **However, you may not consult any other person, either in the course or not, about the exam while you are writing it.**

The midterm exam will be all **multiple choice**.

The final exam will be **mixed format**. There will be a noncumulative multiple choice section worth half of the exam points; these questions will be concerned with material we have covered since the second midterm. The final exam will also have an essay question that will require a written answer of 500 – 600 words or so; you will be asked to integrate various parts of the entire course in your answer to this question. This essay will be worth the other half of the final exam points.

The final exam is an essential component of the course; if you do not write the final exam, **you will receive a grade of N**.

- You will receive a grade of F if you do not achieve an aggregate score of 50% or better on the three exams.
- You do not need to pass every exam to pass the course.
- You do not need to pass the final exam to pass the course, but you do need to write it; otherwise your course grade will be N. If you cannot write one of the midterms or the final exam due to illness or crisis, please get ahold of me as soon as possible at robertstclair@uvic.ca. I can arrange either a deferred writing or a redistribution of your marks.

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## Structure and scheduling of the course

The university has scheduled this course for Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 2:30 – 4:20 PM. I will be delivering the lectures synchronously, and I will be using these times for lectures.

The course will have these five elements:

1. Synchronous Lectures – The lectures will be delivered on Zoom. Please attend because immediate student feedback is very important.
2. Lecture notes and slides – I will post skeletal lecture notes in pdf form that will supplement the lectures. These lecture notes will have space for you to elaborate and jot down questions. I'll also post the slides I use in lecture.
3. Readings – I will post pdfs of the readings as they become relevant to the course material.

4. Online office hours – These will take the form of Zoom sessions (Fridays 12:30-1:20). If you have something pressing or something personal or confidential to discuss, you can email me directly with your questions or schedule a personal Zoom appointment. My email is robertstclair@uvic.ca.
5. Online Exams – see the information about the online exams, above.

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### Outline by Week (tentative)

Week	Topic	Topic	Topic
May 10	Introduction	Roots of Biology and Ancient World	Ancient World
May 17	Ancient World	Islamic World and Medieval Science	Hidden and Mythical organisms
May 24	Human Body		Microscopy
May 31	Chemistry	MIDTERM	Describing and arranging organisms
June 7	Geology	Evolution before Darwin	Darwin
June 14		Cells and Heredity	
June 21	Evolution and Genetics		Hereditary material