Welcome to Biology 3         Section 7401

I want to welcome you to this Hybrid version of Biology 3. In this course we will cover everything that is covered in the face to face version of the class. We meet every Friday (except for holidays) from 8-12:10pm. The remainder of the course will be accessed through Etudes.

Beginning Friday, February 1st, your “virtual portion of the class” will be available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The syllabus will be available on ETUDES starting 2/1/13.

Required Materials

LECTURE:
2. Scantrons – Form 882-E
3. Color pens/pencils – lab and lecture

LAB:   1. Biology 3 Lab Manual (Revised Fall 2012) by Marroquin

The Class

The online portion of the class will consist of lectures. You will need to print out the available handouts and then listen to each lecture (making sure to take notes). From 8-8:50am each Friday we will discuss the lecture material. Be sure to view all lectures prior to the Friday we are discussing them (so that you can ask questions). All lecture exams will be taken in class (see syllabus) on Fridays starting at 8am.

The lab portion of the class will meet from 9-12:10pm every Friday (except during holidays). At 9am you will have a quiz and will then proceed to the lab material. Do not forget your lab book.

Remember, if you were taking the entire lecture at the college in a regular class, you would be spending an addition 2 hours per week in class. Keep in mind that doesn’t include reading the text, studying and doing homework. Then add to that drive time to and from the college and you may spend up to 4 - 6 hours a week in class. So I expect you to be online often and spending time reading the material. You will be responsible for any changes or updates made during the semester.
Myths - I just want to warn you about two myths often heard from students:

Myth 1: An online/hybrid class is easier than a face to face class.

Many online/hybrid classes may actually take more time than a strictly face to face class. You are expected to log on regularly so that you can participate and get the lecture material.

The good news is you may work on the class anywhere you can find an Internet connection and at any time of day or night.

Some students enjoy spending time at Starbucks drinking coffee and connecting to the Internet with their laptop and coffee.

Myth 2: I can do my schoolwork at entirely my own pace.

You do have the freedom of deciding when and where you review the lectures, but there will be deadlines for every assignment and they will be due on Fridays. This means that you will have to follow a schedule.

Online/hybrid courses require that you possess the self-discipline needed to make sure you go online to do your work in a timely manner.

Technical problems, on your end, will not be accepted for late materials or lectures that were not reviewed. Do not leave assignments for the last minute.

Getting Started

To enter the class you will need to go to the class portal at:

https://myetudes.org

The log-in instructions can be found at:
http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/loggingonline.htm

The class officially begins on Monday, February 6th.

Help Desk

If you have any problems with logging in or concerns about taking an online class, you can find help at the Valley College Help Desk. I may not always be in my office to offer help, but the people at the Help Desk are available to come to your aid.

• Their phone number is (818) 778-5834
• Their email address is: etudeshelp@lavc.edu.

You can also receive help in person at the Computer Lab at BJ103.

A complete listing of times of operation can be found at the website:

http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/helpdesk.htm
Making Sure Your Computer is Ready

One of the biggest problems students have in taking this class is with their computer system. There is a link on the left hand side of the Etudes portal that is titled, “System Requirements.” Follow the instructions to make sure that your system will work well with the college’s online learning system called Etudes. The instructions there include those for the “cache” settings and setting up your “cookies,” “java” etc. (don’t worry setting this up is easier than it sounds). Your computer will then be ready to go. Follow these instructions and you will experience much less frustration and headaches.

If you are using a Mac, you will notice that the Safari browser will not work well. Instead you will see instructions on downloading the Firefox browser.

First Assignment

The first few days are designed to get you used to using the Etudes Classroom System, and become comfortable in taking an online class. The information on these assignments is listed in your introduction module. You need to complete this module by Tuesday night, February 5th at 8:00 pm (PST). If you do not finish by then, it is likely you will be dropped from the class so those on the wait list can be enrolled. You must get started early.

When you “enter” Etudes, you will see the first announcement on the right hand side with complete instructions.

Very Important

The first day you can log on is Friday, February 1st, at 8:00 a.m. If you have not logged on and participated in the first discussion by Tuesday, February 5th at 8:00 pm (PST), then I will assume you do not want to take the class. It is just like attending the first day of class. You miss it, you are dropped. So remember, you need to log into the class and participate before Tuesday, February 5th at 8:00 pm (PST). I am looking forward to meeting all of you the Friday, February 8th at 8 am.

Mrs. S. Baldwin
baldwisl@lavr.edu