

Hello! Welcome to the halfway point of the quarter!!! It's gone by quickly!!! A few things that I want to make you aware of.

1. My website is now up!!! You can find me at www.deanza.edu/faculty/bramjason/
2. Extra credit – some of you need it! You can earn up to 75 points in 3 ways.
Much of this is described in my greensheet as well.
 - a. Come to class – those of you who haven't missed more than 3 classes (lectures and labs) get 25 points extra credit. If you miss 4 classes (lectures and labs), you'll receive 20 points extra credit. If you miss more than that, you are not eligible for this extra credit.
 - b. Do a presentation for the class – This can be a group project (up to 4), and you will receive a group grade. You are required to orally present (as a group) a 7-10 minute seminar based on a topic in biology. The goal of this project is to help you learn both how scientific studies are conducted, as well as to learn how scientific research is presented. The first half (3-5 minutes) will be an introduction to a topic (i.e. whales, cancer, etc.). The second half (3-5 minutes) will be your summarizing of a SCIENTIFIC paper from a SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL for the class. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you have a scientific paper. If you're not sure, YOU need to come to my office hours to get help! You don't have to have a scientific paper. You will just lose points on your presentation (see greensheet for grading rubric). These presentations will take place the week of November 15th during lab. Even if you choose not to give a presentation, you must attend lab or you will be marked absent and lose participation points. Please DON'T HESITATE to ask me any questions about these presentations!
 - c. Go exploring!!! Either come on my field trip on Nov. 6th – 7th or go out on your own. If you go on my field trip, that's all you need to do. No written work is necessary. Just make sure I write your name down during the trip! If you're not coming on the field trip, you can go somewhere biologically related (i.e. aquarium, zoo, etc.) on your own and write me a 1.5 - 2 page report (double spaced) telling me about your experience. You also must include a picture of yourself at the place you go. If you can't go anywhere biologically related, an alternative assignment will be given to you. Please let me know if you have any concerns/questions.
3. Remember that you have a quiz on Monday 10/25 – it's open note!
4. Remember that you have an assignment due by 10/31. Some of you have already e-mailed it to me. The assignment is posted on my website.
5. Your study guide for the next lecture exam is coming. It is high on my priority list to get this to you ASAP! Your next lecture exam is Wednesday, Nov. 10th.
6. If you ever want to go over how you are doing, drop by my office hours. They are listed on your greensheet, and on the website! Remember that I don't have a

straight 80% B, 70%C, etc. Look at your greensheet for the more generous scale that I have for this course.

7. Remember that the drop deadline is November 12th. If you drop, you will receive a W, but a W is MUCH better than a D or F. Your 2nd lecture exam is right before the drop deadline. I will HAPPILY go over with you your grade and discuss where you are after that exam or at anytime before then so you can make an informed decision on whether or not you should drop the course!
8. Unfortunately, due to a family emergency, I won't be grading your lab books. I've had to go to another part of the state over the weekend, and have had to leave your lab books behind (too many to carry!). I will be returning the lab books to you at your lab, and will just do one lab book grading after your final lab exam (the week of Nov. 29th). The total points haven't changed. The only thing that has changed is that I will be grading all of the labs at once.