

## Welcome to the Fall 2025 semester of the Science of Living Organisms (BIO 11)!

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Dear Students,

Welcome back to the new Fall 2025 semester at CCSF! I hope this letter finds you all having a safe and happy summer so far. I am writing to give you a bit of insight into our upcoming semester, and to let you know that I am super excited to be working with you this upcoming Fall semester at CCSF!

Thank you for signing up for our Science of Living Organisms HYBRID ONLINE course (BIO 11, CRN 70177-961, 4 units), which officially starts Tuesday, September 2, 2025. This 16-week course is designed to provide you with an introduction to the general biological principles needed to understand life on earth. To do this, we will study life at all levels, from the atoms that comprise all matter on earth to the interactions of organisms with their environment. We'll tackle questions such as how human DNA is 96% identical to chimpanzees but yet we are so different, what it means to "discover" a new species on our planet, and why we are more closely related to a sea star than we are an insect – all while learning the process of science!

Whether this is your first hybrid online course or whether you are a seasoned online student, I want to set you up for success in this course. Keep reading for more information about the course and how to contact me! Looking forward to seeing you soon!

### Course structure

**This section of BIO 11 is a HYBRID online class with scheduled on-campus laboratory meetings on the Ocean Campus in the new STEAM Building, Room 206, every Wednesday from 10:00-1:00PM. Mark your calendars as our first in-person meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 10:10AM! Please note that because this is also a hybrid course, you will have online assignments due the week of September 2 so please be sure to complete these online AND to show up during our first in-person meeting in order to NOT BE DROPPED FROM THE COURSE.**

Again, this is a 16-week semester, **online course with mandatory face-to-face laboratory meetings every week!** Our course will follow a module schedule that runs Monday through Monday. Weekly online assignments will be due throughout the week (on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays). Be sure to look at the schedule at the bottom of our CANVAS home page to understand how this now more flexible, modular course will work. While this allows for flexibility in accessing the material, note that **this is NOT a self-paced course and weekly participation in lecture and lab is required.**

How much time will this course take?

- Hours in *online "virtual" lectures*: 3 hours/week
- Hours for *online assignments* (e.g., *discussions, quizzes, etc.*): 1-2 hours/week
- Hours in the *laboratory*: 3 hours/week
- Hours for *ACTIVE study*: 4-9 hours/week
- How to succeed: [Video of Advice for Success](#) or [Handout Advice for Success](#)

I will have open office hours to answer questions regarding lecture content and to help with laboratory investigations (e.g. you can find my office hours information on our course homepage). Please read the [Bio 11 course syllabus](#) for more details about the course, including grading policies and general requirements for your success. You may also want to check out (and print out!) the [BIO 11 Class Schedule](#).

***Are you ready for a hybrid online class?***

Success in an online course requires excellent time-management and self-discipline. You should expect to spend the same amount of time (in and outside of the classroom) as you would in the regular, face-to-face course, at least 9 hours per week on the lecture part of the class and 6 hours for the laboratory section. Your time commitment will vary based on your experience with web technologies and level of personal commitment. If you are not sure this course is for you or just want to make the most of learning online, please check out these [tips for succeeding in an online course!](#)

***You have my support!***

If this is the class for you (and I hope it is!), please check out the various resources we have to get you started and to maintain your success in this online course.

CCSF's [Online Course Support Center](#) is a wonderful resource to help with all the important information needed regarding your computer compatibility, login help, and/or Canvas support.

**The Canvas course will be available on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.** Be sure you can login at <https://ccsf.instructure.com/> prior to our first in-class meeting and take a look around! Your username should be your CCSF ID and your Canvas password should be your RAM ID password. Contact the CCSF Help Desk if you need help with this, either via email ([helpdesk@ccsf.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ccsf.edu)) or by phone (415-239-3711 or toll free at 877-379-2491).

If you are new to Canvas, this [Canvas video](#) will help provide a general overview of how Canvas works. For more detailed information about the specific features of Canvas, you can check out the [Canvas video guide list](#).

If you need special accommodations for this course, we are happy to help! Please visit the [Disability Services and Programs for Students \(DSPS\)](#) website or call (415) 452-5481 for more information.

***Welcome to this class!***

I hope this information has been helpful in orientating you with the overview of this BIO 11 course. Be sure to read everything thoroughly and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at [eliza.woo@mail.ccsf.edu](mailto:eliza.woo@mail.ccsf.edu) or through the Canvas inbox once you've logged into the course. I'm really looking forward to seeing you online the week of September 2<sup>nd</sup> AND in-person on September 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Cheers!

Dr. Eliza Woo