

BILD 3: Organismic and Evolutionary Biology **Spring 2021 MWF 10-10:50AM (Course E00)**

PROFESSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Jess Gambel (jgambel@ucsd.edu)

Office hours: Mondays during class time 10 - 11AM (beginning Week 2)

Zoom Meeting ID for office hours: 916 5008 0450

or use <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/91650080450>

COURSE IAs

See IA Contact Info at end of syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

BILD 3 is an introduction to the biological fields of evolution and ecology. Evolution is the study of how populations of living organisms change over time. Ecology is the study of the relationships between living organisms and their environment. The earth holds an array of diverse organisms that interact with each other in unique and complex ways. We will study how this diversity developed over time, and what processes, both natural and human-caused, impact earth's biota.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Explain the major concepts behind the processes of evolution and ecology.
- Demonstrate how these concepts apply at various levels, including individual organisms, populations, species, communities, and the environment as a whole.
- Apply these concepts to the understanding of the history of life on earth, organismal diversity, and system functioning.
- Deduce how these concepts apply to critical issues we currently face, such as environmental change and species extinctions, and plan ways to address these important ecological challenges in our own lives.

COURSE WEBSITE

The class will run from the Canvas site, canvas.ucsd.edu (click on BILD 3 link). If you have not used Canvas before, refer to the student help guides and videos, which are located on the left-side menu's help section (the question mark icon). Should you need any technical assistance with Canvas, please send an email to servicedesk@ucsd.edu. Make sure to include your name, course title and section, and contact information in the email. Instructions on how to access your account for logging on to UCSD's Canvas sites can be found here: <http://acms.ucsd.edu/students/accounts-and-passwords/index.html>.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Computer or tablet and internet connection

To participate in this course, which is entirely remote this quarter, you will need a computer or tablet and an internet connection. You might be able to get by with a smart phone but it will make things substantially more difficult, and some things may not work via the phone, possibly including quizzes. Computer labs and libraries on campus may not be available. **If you don't have a computer/tablet at home and are concerned about affording one, email vcsa@ucsd.edu to ask if they can help.** And make sure that you check out this website for resources on how to learn remotely:
<https://digitalllearning.ucsd.edu/learners/learning-remote.html>.

Access to Canvas (see previous page of the syllabus) and Zoom

You will need to set up your Zoom account. UCSD has purchased a Zoom site license for all students, staff, and faculty. You will need to install Zoom on whatever device you plan to use for the quarter. Go to <https://ucsd.zoom.us/> to get started. **All links to LIVE course Zoom sessions will be listed under the Zoom LTI Pro link in the left-side menu on Canvas.**

Textbook

There is NO textbook assigned for this course.

iClicker

You do NOT need an iClicker for this course.

ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Important enrollment deadlines for the quarter can be found here:

<https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/enroll/calendar20-21.html>. Administrative, advising, or registration questions should be submitted via the Virtual Advising Center (vac.ucsd.edu).

HOW THE COURSE WILL WORK REMOTELY THIS QUARTER

NON-LIVE (asynchronous) course schedule

Pre-recorded lectures

I will post a video lecture for each class day. **You will need to watch the lecture by the start of that scheduled class period.** For example, before Week 1 of the quarter I will post the first pre-recorded lecture, History of Evolutionary Thought and Charles Darwin (1A), which you will need to watch by the scheduled lecture time at 10AM on Friday April 2.

Lecture slides and learning objectives

I will post **lecture slides and learning objectives that go along with that day's pre-recorded lecture**. The slides are only outlines of the lecture, and important material will be presented in lecture that does not appear on them. **Therefore, it is essential that you watch the recorded lectures (and takes notes) in order to succeed in this course,**

Learning objective assignments

To help focus your studying on the main ideas from the lectures, I have written learning objectives for each topic we cover. **The learning objectives are the key to the course and the basis for the quizzes**. They will also be used to help keep you on-track with the lectures. **Each week, you will need to turn in a learning objective assignment from each pre-recorded lecture. For this assignment, you will write a short response to one of the learning objectives from each of the pre-recorded lectures that week and submit it via Canvas by class time (10AM) on Friday**. Use appropriate terms to respond to the learning objectives **in your own words—do not just copy answers from other sources** (see Academic Integrity policy below). Each learning objective assignment will be graded based on completion (2 points each). **Late learning objective assignments will not be accepted.**

Learning objective assignment spotchecks

To encourage you to invest thoughtful effort into the learning objective assignments, **the IAs will also be spot-checking 8 of your learning objective assignments (1 randomly selected per week during Week 2 through Week 9)**. IAs may spot-check more than 8 learning objective assignments for each student, especially if they find that a student is consistently turning in irrelevant or minimal answers. Spot-checked learning objective assignments will be graded as such:

- 0 points: not turned in, or answer is very minimal/irrelevant.
- 2 points: incomplete or partially wrong answer.
- 4 points: answer is a thoughtful effort and mostly correct.

Answers will not be marked down for grammar/language errors unless they are severe enough that the grader can't understand what you mean.

Practice exam questions

To help you prepare for the quizzes, I will post two practice exam questions for each class day. **You will need to answer these exam questions via Canvas by class time (10AM) each day**. These will be graded on completion (1 point each). **Late submissions will not be accepted**. You will be able to continue submitting an answer to each question until you get it correct. **However, I strongly encourage you to monitor how well you do on these. If you find that you often get them wrong on the first try, change your study strategy**. If you get the

completion points for 75% of the practice exam question submissions during the quarter, you will get full credit for completing them all.

Discussion section assignments

Some discussion sections will have assignments associated with them that you will turn in for a grade by the end of day the following Friday. These assignments are required even if you don't attend section that week. I will post more information about these assignments on Canvas as we go through the quarter. Note that material from these assignments is fair game for quizzes.

Muddiest points

The muddiest point is the topic from the lecture that you consider most confusing. **Please post your muddiest points from the most recent lectures on each week's Muddiest Points Discussion Board on Canvas by Wednesday's class time (10AM).** If you don't have any muddiest points then you do not have to post anything on the discussion board. During the LIVE class on Wednesday (see below), Dr. Gambel will review these confusing concepts with everyone. If you have any muddiest points that are not covered during class, then please bring them up during discussion sections or office hours with the IAs and Dr. Gambel.

LIVE (synchronous) course schedule

Dr. Gambel's Office Hours Monday 10-10:50AM (LIVE)

Zoom Meeting ID: 916 5008 0450

Instead of holding a regular class meeting during our scheduled class time on Mondays, Dr. Gambel will hold office hours during this time. Please come chat with me about questions you have on course logistics, material, career advice, science in general, etc. These meetings will be held one-on-one for student privacy so please remain in the Zoom waiting room until it's your turn to chat. Thanks for your patience.

Class Wednesday 10-10:50AM (LIVE)

Zoom Meeting ID: 976 9028 0953

During our scheduled class time on Wednesdays, we will meet over Zoom to answer everyone's recent Muddiest Point submissions on the Canvas Discussion Board. We will work through questions in small groups in breakout rooms, as well as go over questions together as a class. We will also use class time to check in about course logistics and discuss Scientist Spotlights on current research being conducted in the subjects we cover in this course. **Live class Zoom sessions will be recorded and made available to students.**

Class on Fridays with Quizzes 10-10:50AM **(LIVE)**

Zoom Meeting ID: 927 6972 4911

On Fridays when we have quizzes (Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8), class time will be used for answering any questions that come up while you are taking the quiz on Canvas. We will not hold a normal class meeting that day. This session will be a way for you to get any technical quiz questions answered while you are taking the quiz (please ask questions via chat). You do not have to join this Zoom session, but I recommend that you do and actually join Zoom before starting the quiz just in case a question or problem arises for you, especially if you have any technical issues. **For the other Fridays (Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9), we will not have any class meeting. During Week 10, we will have a review session for the final quiz during this time on Friday. We will also use this Zoom meeting for any questions that come up during the final quiz on Monday June 7.**

Quizzes **(LIVE)**

We will have 5 quizzes taken on Canvas throughout the quarter, including the final quiz. Each quiz will be 40 minutes long and worth 36 points (18 questions, each worth 2 pts). The quizzes will have a similar format as the practice exam questions. Use an internet browser other than Safari to take quizzes as quiz images will not show up properly on Safari. If you have technical problems taking the practice exam questions, update your web browser or use Chrome, and if that fails, email servicedesk@ucsd.edu.

The quizzes will start at 10:10 AM and end at 10:50 AM. This time frame is during the class time for BILD 3 as scheduled by the Registrar, so you should not have class conflicts during these times. The last quiz (on Monday June 7) will also start at 10:10 AM and end at 10:50 AM. This is during the final exam time for BILD 3.

The quizzes will be scheduled as follows:

- Quiz 1 Friday of Week 2: April 9
- Quiz 2 Friday of Week 4: April 23
- Quiz 3 Friday of Week 6: May 7
- Quiz 4 Friday of Week 8: May 21
- Final Quiz Finals Week: Monday June 7

Each Friday quiz will cover the material since the preceding quiz through the Wednesday before the current quiz. For example, the quiz on the Friday of Week 2 will cover the lectures and learning objectives from MWF of Week 1 and MW of Week 2. **Refer to the Course Schedule for more information on what each quiz will cover.** Note that the quiz during finals week will cover material from throughout the quarter (i.e., this quiz will be cumulative).

Take the quizzes on your own, without help from other people or websites. You can, however, use your own notes while taking the quiz. You may also use a calculator if needed. **Even though the quizzes are open-book, you will still need to study for them**—if you just rely on looking up answers in your notes during the quiz you will not perform well and will not complete the quiz on time. Please do not discuss or share information about the quiz with other students in the class until everyone has finished the quiz.

I will drop your lowest quiz score out of the 4 first quizzes (not including the final quiz), so the overall quiz score will be out of 144 points (your top-scoring 3 quizzes plus the final quiz). So if your computer malfunctions or you're sick and therefore can't take one of the quizzes, you don't need to email me about it, instead that will just be your quiz that will be dropped. I **strongly** recommend that you study for and take all the quizzes so you have an insurance policy against something going wrong for one.

If you can't take ONE of the quizzes at the scheduled time: that's OK, that will be the score that gets dropped. **If you know in advance that you absolutely cannot take 4 of the quizzes at the scheduled times, email me before the first quiz.** During the quarter, if you become unable to take a quiz due to serious illness or other emergency AND you have already missed one quiz, email me before the quiz (the earlier the better) and we will discuss your options.

Discussion Sections (LIVE)

Zoom Meeting IDs listed in IA Contact Info and Schedule at end of syllabus

Your IA will host a Zoom meeting at the day and time of your discussion section.

You will receive 2 points each week for attending and participating in your discussion section. This is your main opportunity to discuss the class material and to work on assignments with fellow students. To accommodate students in different time zones and with different work/childcare/etc. schedules, you may "attend" a different discussion section than the one for which you are registered. (Note: this policy may change if it turns out everyone is piling up in a couple discussion sections. Please attend the section you're registered for if you can.)

Sections will meet beginning in the second week of classes (Week 2). You can find a link to your discussion section's Zoom meeting on the Zoom LTI Pro area of the Canvas site.

IA Office Hours (LIVE)

Zoom Meeting IDs listed in IA Contact Info and Schedule at end of syllabus

The IAs will have weekly office hours via Zoom. This is the best way to have a one-on-one conversation with your IA. You can find links to all office hours on the Zoom LTI Pro area of the Canvas site. You can go to the office hours of any IA. **Office hours will begin in the second week of classes (Week 2).**

Supplemental instruction (LIVE)

The Academic Achievement Hub offers an optional peer-led study group every Thursday 5:30-6:50PM starting Week 1, led by Noah Gaitan (ngaitan@ucsd.edu).

These meetings are open to all students. Find links to the LIVE study session and the session materials (made available for students in different time zones) on Canvas under Course Information.

CANVAS DISCUSSION BOARDS

In addition to posting your Muddiest Points on the Canvas discussion boards, there will be additional discussion boards on Canvas for you to post and answer each other's questions related to course content and logistics. IAs will monitor these but I encourage you to help each other! Please be respectful and kind.

GRADING

- 40 points: Learning objective assignments
(20 total, each worth 2 pts)
- 32 points: Spot-checks on 8 learning objective assignments
(each worth 4 points)
- 50 points: Practice exam questions
(2 per class day, each worth 1 pt; full credit for completing at least 75% on time)
- 80 points: Discussion section assignments
(4 total, each worth 20 pts)
- 16 points: Discussion section participation
(8 total, each worth 2 pts)
- 144 points: Highest-scoring 3 out of 4 quizzes + final cumulative quiz
(each worth 36 pts)

TOTAL: 362 points

There will be a small number of extra credit points available; details announced later.

NOTE: Week 1 assignments (learning objective answer and practice exam questions) will just be for practice. Graded assignments will begin Week 2. Your final letter grade will be based on your TOTAL number of points. If you get over 90% of the points you will receive an A, over 80% you will receive at least a B, etc. If needed, grades may be based on a curve, which will only be used to move letter grade thresholds down, so it can only help your grade, not hurt it.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY

Late discussion section assignments will be marked down 10% for each calendar day (or part of a day) that they are late, so if assignments are >9 days late they will receive 0 points. **If you register late for the course (i.e., during Week 2), you will have until the end of Week 2 to submit late learning objective assignments**

and practice exam questions for credit. Afterwards, all late assignments will not be accepted. If an emergency arises during the quarter, please contact Dr. Gambel immediately to discuss options for receiving an extension on assignments.

EMAILING THE INSTRUCTOR AND IAs

Please email your instructional assistant (IA) or the head IA (see contact list at end of syllabus) first for all inquiries. Please email me only in case of an emergency. I will do my best to answer emails within one day during the week and two days over weekends. In all emails, please put “BILD 3” in the subject line and include your first and last name in the body of the email. Because there are so many students in this course, we cannot answer individual questions about course content and these emails will be deleted. To get your course content questions answered: attend LIVE Zoom sessions with Dr. Gambel during the scheduled class time, attend Zoom discussion sections with the IAs, go to IA and professor office hours via Zoom, and participate in the discussion boards on Canvas.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

What I expect of you

- A reasonable amount of effort exerted to understand course content and complete assignments on time.
- The room to allow yourself to make mistakes and be challenged in order to expand your learning.
- To seek out help from the resources presented to you, including the instructor, IAs, and fellow students, to get your questions answered about the course structure and content in a timely fashion—earlier is better!
- To act ethically and with integrity in your approach to the course, taking responsibility for the effort you put into your work, being honest about the work you submit, and treating everyone in the class with respect.
- To be fair, kind, and forgiving to yourself and others during this insane time in the world.

What you can expect of me

- To be organized, prepared, and enthusiastic while teaching and managing the course.
- To challenge your minds in order to increase your learning abilities.
- Clear and responsive communication with you about course content, course structure, and your needs as students.
- To be honest, open, respectful, inclusive, and engaging with all students.
- Fairness in dealing with any issues that arise this quarter.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please don't cheat. It sucks...it makes life harder for me, for you, for the IAs, and for your fellow students. Please be honest with yourself and with me about the effort you put into this course. Communicate with me and your IAs to ask for help before you consider cheating. We want you to succeed, and cheating will not help you to succeed.

Students are expected to do their own work, and to not plagiarize others' work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity. **You can learn more about academic integrity at academicintegrity.ucsd.edu.** Academic misconduct is broadly defined as any prohibited and dishonest means to receive course credit, a higher grade, or avoid a lower grade. Academic misconduct misrepresents your knowledge and abilities, which undermines the instructor's ability to determine how well you're doing in the course. Please do not risk your future by cheating. **Please do NOT post my lectures or class documents on public websites** like Course Hero or others. **Students suspected of academic integrity violations on quizzes will be invited to Zoom follow-up meetings where they will be asked to (in real time, on video) justify their answers. If the instructor isn't convinced during the meeting, or if the student refuses to participate, the violations will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office.** Any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying, or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result in sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in this class and suspension or dismissal from the University. It's not worth it, so please don't cheat!

INCLUSION STATEMENT

I support the goals of the UCSD Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: "We believe that true excellence is achieved through productive relationships among people of diverse perspectives. When the collective talents of our students, faculty, and staff at UC San Diego are united in an environment that is open and inclusive, creativity and innovation prosper." Accordingly, I encourage our class to uphold these values by being inclusive of everyone despite differences in race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, or nationality.

STUDENT RESOURCES

UC San Diego (as an institution) and I (as a person and as the instructor of this course) are committed to full inclusion in education for all people. Services and reasonable accommodations are available to students with temporary and permanent disabilities, to students with DACA or undocumented status, to students facing mental health issues, other personal situations, and to students with other kinds of learning needs. Please feel free to let me know if there are

circumstances affecting your ability to participate in class. Some resources that might be of use include:

- The HUB Basic Needs Center: <https://basicneeds.ucsd.edu/>
- Office for Students with Disabilities: <https://students.ucsd.edu/well-being/disability-services/index.html>
- UC San Diego CAPS (Counseling & Psychological Services): <https://wellness.ucsd.edu/CAPS/Pages/default.aspx>
- Triton Concern Line: <https://blink.ucsd.edu/instructors/advising/concern/index.html>
- Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination: <http://ophd.ucsd.edu>
- Sexual Assault Resource Center: <http://care.ucsd.edu>
- UC San Diego Undocumented Student Services: <https://uss.ucsd.edu/>
- Black Resource Center: <http://brc.ucsd.edu/>
- Raza Resource Centro: <http://raza.ucsd.edu/>
- LGBT Resource Center: <http://lgbt.ucsd.edu/>
- Student Veterans Resource Center: <https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/veterans/>
- Women's Center: <https://women.ucsd.edu/>
- Learning Strategies Center: <https://commons.ucsd.edu/academic-support/learning-strategies/index.html>
- Online Content Tutoring for BILD 3: <https://aah.ucsd.edu/content-tutoring/online-tutoring.html>
- Tutoring and Study Strategies through OASIS: <http://oasis.ucsd.edu/>
- The university allows medical withdrawals in serious cases. Contact the Biology Student Affairs Advising Services Office at 858-534-0557 or go to <https://biology.ucsd.edu/education/undergrad/advising/index.html>

Portions of this syllabus adapted from Dr. Sarah Stockwell.

IA CONTACT INFO AND SCHEDULE

Name	Email	Discussion Section	Discussion Section Zoom ID	Office Hours	Office Hours Zoom ID
Tori Rodriguez Head IA	vyrodrig@ucsd.edu	Mon 3-4PM E04 Mon 4-5PM E05	914 1355 7176 994 7910 9110	Thur 3-4PM	952 2390 3455
Aditya Arora	aarora@ucsd.edu	Wed 5-6PM E03	999 9230 5042	Mon 1:30-2:30PM	953 3984 2807
Sara Bassiri	snbassir@ucsd.edu	Mon 9-10AM E01	972 7987 9314	Fri 11AM-12PM	974 4761 8555
Theodore Vuong	tquuong@ucsd.edu	Wed 2-3PM E02	925 5687 5101	Tue 12-1PM	992 0190 8352

Note: You can join discussion sections and office hours by launching Zoom and entering the Zoom ID. You can also use a web browser and enter a URL in this format:

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/<meeting ID with no spaces or dashes>>

For example, for Dr. Gambel's office hours (Zoom Meeting ID 916 5008 0450), you would use the URL: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/91650080450>

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. Any schedule changes will be posted on the Canvas site. Make sure to frequently check the Canvas site to keep updated.

And congrats on making it through this entire syllabus...sorry it's sooooo long : (