

## Welcome to BILD 4 Spring 2020!

### Principles of Community

Letter from the Chancellor on April 1, 2020: “COVID-19 Campus Update, Commitment to Community  
Times of crises define who we are. As Tritons, we must embody our principles of community and always practice empathy, compassion and kindness. Today, these principles direct us to look after not only our own wellbeing but also that of our campus and the San Diego community.”

In this course, we want to expand on a few principles and values given this unprecedented global situation. The following course statement of values is adapted from Dr. Brandon Bayne at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

1. Nobody signed up for this, and we are all in this together
  - Not for social distancing, not for the sudden end of our collective lives on campus
  - Not for an online course, not for learning from home, not for teaching remotely
  - Not for mastering new technologies, not for varied access to learning materials
2. The humane option is the best option
  - We are going to prioritize supporting each other as humans
  - We are going to prioritize simple solutions that make sense for the most
  - We are going to prioritize sharing resources and communicating clearly
3. We cannot just do the same thing online
  - Some expectations are no longer reasonable
  - Some assignments are no longer possible
  - But we will continue to engage intellectually in ways that make sense given the circumstances
4. We will foster intellectual nourishment, social connection, and personal accommodation
  - Accessible asynchronous content for diverse access, time zones, and contexts
  - Encouraged but optional synchronous classes and sections to learn together and combat isolation
  - Discussions and chats on Canvas to create a collaborative learning community
5. We will remain flexible and adjust to the situation
  - Nobody knows where this is going and what we will need to adapt
  - We will adjust along the way with everyone’s best interests in mind
  - Everybody needs support and understanding in this unprecedented moment

### Learning in this course

BILD 4 aims to develop an understanding for research in the biology. Specifically, we will:

- Collaborate with one another to learn foundation biological concepts and skills
- Engage in research and learn to construct scientific arguments: conclusions with evidence and reasoning
- Learn about research opportunities and other resources on campus

BILD 4 is designed to be a collaborative environment for everyone to learn together and construct a shared understanding of the material. Instead of memorization, we will focus on developing an understanding of fundamental concepts and skills as they apply to different examples and learn to draw conclusions based on evidence and reasoning. We will utilize class and laboratory time to construct and apply our knowledge, troubleshoot challenging topics, practice problem solving, and develop skills in critical thinking. Assignments will challenge us to think critically about data and experiments.

## Course logistics

The core learning components in this course are comprised of independent and team work on studying and completing assignments. Course materials, announcements, and other important details will be available on the Canvas (<https://coursefinder.ucsd.edu>). Please check the course website and your @ucsd email regularly.

## Class Schedule

Class	Day	Time	Location	Instructor	Email
A00	Tuesday	5:00p-6:20p	Zoom	Stephanie Mel	smel@ucsd.edu

Sections	Day	Time	Location	Instructional assistant	Email
A01 and A02	Wednesdays	9:00a-11:50a	Zoom	Teresa Chou	techou@ucsd.edu
				Quoc Tran	qbt001@ucsd.edu
				Nguyen Do	ntd005@ucsd.edu
A03 and A04	Wednesdays	9:00a-11:50a	Zoom	Vivian Hua	vkhua@ucsd.edu
				Lillian Sau	lsau@ucsd.edu
				Kaitlyn Quach	k7quach@ucsd.edu
A05 and A06	Fridays	9:00a-11:50a	Zoom	Teresa Chou	techou@ucsd.edu
				Quoc Tran	qbt001@ucsd.edu
				Nguyen Do	ntd005@ucsd.edu
A07 and A08	Fridays	9:00a-11:50a	Zoom	Vivian Hua	vkhua@ucsd.edu
				Lillian Sau	lsau@ucsd.edu
				Kaitlyn Quach	k7quach@ucsd.edu

Exam	Day	Time	Location	Notes
6/11	Thursday	7:00p-9:59p	Canvas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This will be the last quiz, not a final exam</li> <li>- The time will be flexible like the other quizzes</li> <li>- More details will be posted on Canvas</li> </ul>

## General Course schedule

A general outline for the course is provided below. More specific details for each week will be posted on Canvas. We may also adjust the schedule as necessary, while still focusing on learning the important concepts and laboratory skills intended for this course.

We encourage everyone to join us synchronously online to be part of real-time learning community of the course. We also understand that may not be possible for everyone. Therefore, all class sessions and laboratory sections on Zoom will be recorded and made available to students in the course asynchronously. We also encourage the use of the discussion board and chat features on Canvas for additional interactions.

Week	Topic	Due dates and quizzes
1	Introduction	
2-3	Beginning basics	Writing Assignment #1 and Quiz #1
4-5	Soil properties	Writing Assignment #2 and Quiz #2
6-8	Genomic biodiversity	Writing Assignment #3 and Quiz #3
9-10	Functional biodiversity	Writing Assignment #4 and Quiz #4

## Mel Office hours

I will be available regularly before class on Tuesday evenings between 4 – 5 PM on Zoom for office hours (see Canvas for Zoom link). I will also be happy to set up other Zoom appointments if you'd like to talk to me "in person". Please email me if you need to set up a different office hour meeting time.

## Grading

Our course grade has the following components: contribution (16%), writing assignments (40%), quizzes (40%), and professionalism (2%). Because different people may excel in different aspects, the writing assignment or quiz component, whichever is higher for each individual, will be scaled to 42%, bringing the total to 100%. There are no opportunities for extra credit beyond what is assigned.

The general grading scheme is as follows, although it may be adjusted to improve everyone's grades if necessary. Exact boundaries will be determined based on final grade distributions: Because course assessments are not perfectly precise, grade cutoffs will be identified by large gaps in between individual scores. However, our course is not graded on a curve, i.e. 20% of students getting A, B, C, and such. Thus, the ability to do well in this course is not dependent on others doing poorly.

A+	97-100%	B+	87-90%	C+	77-80%	D	60-70%
A	93-97%	B	83-87%	C	73-77%	F	0-60%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%		

**Contribution:** Active intellectual engagement and contribution throughout the quarter is essential to learning in this course. There will be a number of contribution items on Canvas, and they are low-stake assignments designed to engage everyone in thinking about the course materials. Contributions will be graded on a scale 0, 0.5, and 1 for thoughtful completion and not accuracy. Because individuals may have different competing schedules, completing 90% or more of all contribution items will earn the full contribution grade. For example, if there are 20 contribution items, completing 18 or more items will result in 20/20; completing 17 items will result in 17/20.

The best way to learn how to solve problems and deepen our understanding is to work through the course materials and discuss them with fellow classmates and the instructional team. To do so, we will discover and construct an understanding together instead of directly giving answers to the problems.

**Writing assignments:** These assignments will focus on analyzing research data in the biological sciences and drawing conclusions that are supported by evidence and reasoning in the form of scientific arguments. Please see Canvas throughout the quarter for more details.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be cumulative and will focus on the most recent material. They will be timed and online, although everyone will have some flexibility in when they log into the quizzes. Please see Canvas throughout the quarter for more details.

**Professionalism:** This portion of the course grade is intended to engage everyone in considering the impact of their actions on their own learning and the learning of others in the course. Unprofessional interactions consume time yet have no meaningful benefits.

Professionalism can be demonstrated through individual (2% described in this section) and community efforts (extra credit described in the section below). The individual component is to account for demonstrating maturity and professionalism. By default, everyone is assumed to be professionally mature. Hence, this component is awarded at the beginning of the quarter. During the quarter, based on observations by the instructional team, which includes but is not limited to one-on-one interactions, electronic communication, and follow-up conversations on different correspondence, professionalism credit may be deducted.

Example interactions with meaningful benefits that:

- Developing deeper insight into course material, concepts, biology, and/or society in general
- Working collaboratively to improve in skill building and future opportunities
- Learning conceptually and meaningfully why full credit was not awarded for an assignment
- Clarifying course material that facilitates deeper learning
- Carrying out procedures safely and paying attention to waste disposal in the laboratory

Example interactions that have no meaningful benefits and thus should be avoided:

- Contributing inequitably to team work in class, in section, or on quizzes
- Being disruptive to fellow students in class, in section, or on quizzes
- Harassing and/or bullying other students or the instructional team, either in person or online
- Ignoring the directions or requests from the instructional team, especially in relation to safety
- Neglecting safety in the laboratory and not paying attention to waste disposal in the laboratory

**Extra credit:** The 0.2% extra credit is based on community professionalism, which can be earned by completing course evaluations and related surveys that are aimed to improve the course and the educational experiences of your future peers. If 90% or more of all students complete CAPEs, instructional assistant evaluations, and other course surveys in a mature and professional fashion (i.e. taking them seriously and providing timely and constructive feedback), 0.2% will be added to everyone in the course. Other than the community professionalism component, there are no other opportunities for extra credit beyond what is already assigned as part of the course by the instructor.

**Late or missing assignments:** In general, we are unable to accept late or missing assignments because of the large size of the course. This means that no late contribution items will be accepted; completing 90% of contribution items will earn the full contribution grade. However, we acknowledge that emergencies do occur. For missed quizzes or writing assignments due to documented short-term illness or serious family emergency, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible or reasonable to do so. We are here to help you succeed in the course!

**Regrades:** If a grading error has been made, please submit a regrade request to the course instructor within one week of the assignments being returned. In the request, please include a concise description or explanation for the regrade request. Regrades are submitted with the understanding that the instructional team may: (1) regrade the entire assignment, and (2) compare the submitted paper to a copy of the original assignment. As a result, the overall grade may go up or down or remain the same after the regrade.

## Academic integrity

Website: <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic learning community. In this course and at the university, we expect that both students and the instructional team will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of our intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. The instructional team will exercise care in planning and collaborating with students on academic work.

When people collaborate to work toward a common goal, shared values must be established so that everyone understands the acceptable ways for working together. In this course, we are using a statement of values to describe the behaviors for maintaining and protecting these values. The statement is open to discussions and possible alterations based on mutual agreements among all students and the instructional team. In collaborative work, each team should discuss these values and agree on mutual expectations.

The following course statement of values is adapted from the Academic Integrity Office:

	As students, we will ...	As the instructional team, we will ...
Honesty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honestly demonstrate knowledge and abilities according to expectations</li> <li>Communicate without using deception, e.g. citing appropriate sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give honest feedback</li> <li>Communicate honestly about expectations and standards through the syllabus and course materials</li> </ul>
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete assignments on time</li> <li>Be on time and fully contribute to team learning and activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give timely feedback</li> <li>Be on time and mentally present</li> <li>Create relevant activities for learning</li> </ul>
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speak openly with one another while respecting diverse perspectives</li> <li>Provide sufficient space for others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respect different perspectives</li> <li>Help facilitate respectful exchanges</li> </ul>
Fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute fully and equally to collaborative work</li> <li>Not seek unfair advantage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create fair assignments and exams and grade them in a fair and timely manner</li> <li>Treat all students and teams equally</li> </ul>
Trustworthiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on relevant work while in class</li> <li>Not distribute course materials to others in an unauthorized fashion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be available to all students when we say we will be</li> <li>Follow through on our promises</li> </ul>
Courage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Say or do something when we see actions that undermine these values</li> <li>Accept consequences for upholding and protecting the above values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Say or do something when we see actions that undermine these values</li> <li>Accept consequences for upholding and protecting the above values</li> </ul>

All course materials are the property of the instructor, the course, and University of California San Diego and may not be posted online, submitted to private or public repositories, or distributed to unauthorized people outside of the course. Any suspected instances of a breach of academic integrity will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office for review.

**Principles of community** | Website: <https://ucsd.edu/about/principles.html>

Our campus is dedicated to learning, teaching, and serving society through education, research, and public service. Our international reputation for excellence is due in large part to the cooperative and entrepreneurial nature of the UC San Diego community. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to be creative and are rewarded for individual as well as collaborative achievements.

To foster the best possible working and learning environment, we strive to maintain a climate of fairness, cooperation, and professionalism. These principles of community are vital to the success of the University and the well-being of its constituents. Faculty, staff, and students are expected to practice these basic principles as individuals and in groups.

**Accessibility and inclusion** | Website: <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> | Contact: [osd@ucsd.edu](mailto:osd@ucsd.edu)

Any student with a disability is welcome to contact us early in the quarter to work out reasonable accommodations to support their academic success. Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with the instructor and OSD liaisons in the program in advance of any exams or assignments.

Whenever possible, we will use universal designs that are inclusive. For example, colors used in this syllabus are distinguishable by most colorblind and non-colorblind people, and this font is designed to be dyslexic friendly. If you have feedback on how to make the course more accessible and inclusive, please get in touch!

**Discrimination and harassment** | Website: <http://ophd.ucsd.edu> | Contact: [ophd@ucsd.edu](mailto:ophd@ucsd.edu)

The Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD) provides assistance to students, faculty, and staff regarding reports of bias, harassment, and discrimination. The mission of OPHD is to educate the entire UC San Diego community about these issues and to assist with the prevention and resolution of these issues in a fair and responsible manner. In collaboration with other UC San Diego resources, OPHD promotes an environment in which all members of the UC San Diego community can work, learn and live in an atmosphere free from all forms of bias, harassment and discrimination.

Students may feel more comfortable discussing their particular concern with a trusted employee, such as a student affairs staff member, faculty member, department chair, or other university official. These individuals have an obligation to report incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment to OPHD. This does not necessarily mean that a formal complaint will be filed. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, ask for help. Our campus is committed to upholding policies regarding discrimination and harassment.

## Campus Resources

### Academic support

<a href="#">Academic integrity</a>	Policy and strategies to excel with integrity
<a href="#">Geisel Library</a>	Research tools and eReserves
<a href="#">Learning strategies</a>	Metacognitive support to address learning challenges
<a href="#">Library guide for BILD 4</a>	Starting point for navigating campus library resources
<a href="#">OASIS</a>	Support for intellectual and personal development
<a href="#">REAL Portal</a>	Internships and other hands-on experiential learning opportunities
<a href="#">Remote learning</a>	Preparing to learn remotely
<a href="#">Student Success Coaching</a>	Peer mentor program with information, resources, and support
<a href="#">Technical support</a>	Assistance with accounts, network, and technical issues
<a href="#">Writing Hub</a>	Peer writing mentors and support to improve writing skills

### Student resources

<a href="#">Basic needs</a>	Access to food, housing, and financial resources
<a href="#">Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)</a>	Confidential counseling, consultations for psychiatric services, and mental health programming
<a href="#">Community centers</a>	Programs for students and resources toward a socially just campus
<a href="#">Equity, diversity, and inclusion</a>	Toward a campus climate of respect, fairness, and cooperation
<a href="#">Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)</a>	Support for students with disabilities, including accessibility resources and reasonable accommodations
<a href="#">Triton Concern Line</a>	Support for students of concern at (858) 246-1111