An Artifact of Learning Experiences  
Biology 201, Spring 2013

Students encounter many unfamiliar concepts over the course of the two-semester Foundations in Biology series at Palomar College. As we study taxonomy (of bacteria, fungi, plants and animals), geochemical cycling, ecology, anatomy and physiology, ecosystem dynamics and other topics, students often find the material confusing, abstract, and just plain overwhelming. Biology 201 isn’t just about learning biology - it’s also about learning how to learn!

You’re going to create an **Electronic Artifact**, to share your experiences of Biology 201. This isn’t just *what* you’ve learned, but *how* you learned it - how you overcame the challenges of the unfamiliar material.

The Artifact of Learning Experiences Project has the following guidelines:
- Students will work in groups of 2 to 3 people
- There are three “deliverables”:
  - A **Project Proposal** paper. This paper describes the participants in the Project Team, who they are and what each member will be doing, as well as the essential research or learning issue being addressed in the project. Length: 2 pages (single-spaced), or 600-900 words. **15 points**
  - The **Artifact** (see below for details). **50 points**
  - A **Project Summary** paper. This paper describes the problems you encountered during development of your project, and how you overcame those problems. Further, this paper should also describe how you would expand your “message”, given more time and unlimited resources. Length: 2 pages (single-spaced) or 600-900 words. **15 points**

The Artifact may be created in one of the following forms:
- A **Web site** (with a minimum of four pages of *original* content). These pages can be created with Apple’s iWeb, Microsoft’s SharePoint Designer, RapidWeaver, or similar web authoring tools. **NOTE**: If you use Weebly, wix.com, webs.com or other “free” web-based services, you might not be able to deliver a complete set of web pages, graphics, style sheets, etc. **If you do not submit the actual and complete Electronic Artifact, you will receive a maximum of only 20 points for the presentation portion of your Project.**
- A **video**. This artifact can be created with Apple’s iMovie or Final Cut Pro, or other video-editing software (students must provide their own video camera).
- A **PowerPoint or Keynote presentation** (with a minimum of eight pages of content).
Due Dates

• The **Project Proposal** paper is due on Thursday, 14 February 2013. The Proposal topic must be pre-approved by the professor - and must also include the selected presentation date (see the Syllabus for possible dates).
• The actual delivery of your **Electronic Artifact** includes a five- to ten-minute presentation, done at the start of a lab session. Each project team selects their presentation date from open time slots (teams must coordinate schedules with the professor).
• A copy of the **Electronic Artifact** and the **Project Summary** paper (both copied onto a CD-ROM, along with all supporting images, PDFs, etc.) are due the next class date following the presentation date.

Important Points

• *The Artifact of Learning Project is not a research project!* It’s not about how much information you can dig up on the Internet!
• Everyone - *all project team members* - must be involved in the presentation. Presentations of videos must be introduced by a team member, while PowerPoint/Keynote presentations and Web site walk-throughs are done by the entire team.
• Graphics, videos, music, etc. must be original content, or obtained from a royalty-free source (e.g., Wikimedia, Public Health Information Library, etc.). To repeat: *you may not use copyrighted material* in your Artifact! If you do use outside graphics or other resources, you MUST cite their sources or otherwise provide attribution and credit.
• Videos must have open captions, or a transcript.
• Web sites must use labels for images and hyperlinks.
• Again, if you create a web site, you MUST turn in a complete, working set of materials (all HTML, CSS, scripts, images, etc.) on the CD-ROM.

Possible Topics for your Electronic Artifact

Some possible topics include (but are not limited to - use your imagination!):

• How are organisms (plants and animals) responding to climate change? Focus on a particular geographic region.
• How do you keep all of those insect Orders straight??
• How do you sort out all of the Eubacteria clades?? Or plant divisions? Or fungi?
• Describe Phenotypic Plasticity v. Adaptation v. Evolution
• What are your tricks, techniques and tips for learning the bones of the hand, the foot, the skull?
• Describe the details of the Ciliophoran Life Cycle, or of the Anthophytes, etc.
• Describe the interactions of endocrine system products (*i.e.*, hormones) involved in the uptake of nutrients.
• Etc.