Welcome to the hybrid section of BIOSCI 215, General Zoology. In this course, we will survey the animal kingdom with an emphasis on integrating mechanisms at the cellular, organismal and population levels. Laboratories will include both in-class activities and a couple of field trips on the weekends. I look forward to meeting you at the mandatory orientation meeting on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014, at 9:00am in room CCC-310, just prior to our first lab meeting (labs are every Thurs. 9:00am-12:05pm).

Please note that if you do not attend this orientation meeting you will lose your spot in the class. At our orientation meeting you will receive a complete syllabus and course schedule as well as your course login information and a tour of our virtual classroom.

If you are interested in adding this course, please make sure you attend the mandatory orientation meeting. Students are added into the online course account directly from the admissions office, but it may take 1-2 business days before the changes take effect. If you plan on taking the class, it is important that you don’t miss any of the lab meetings even if your enrollment into the course has not been finalized yet.

Technology and Course Materials that you will need:

You will need:
1. A canyons.edu email address that you will check regularly and use for classroom communication.
2. Access to a computer with reliable internet connection.
3. A web browser such as Chrome or Firefox.
4. A word processing program (such as MS Word)
5. Course texts:
6. Three blank scantrons - Form 882, #2 pencil, eraser and calculator (for exams)
7. Safety goggles and disposable gloves (for lab dissections)
8. A binder to organize your lab exercise handouts.

What is different about an online class?

The instruction of this class is delivered in a hybrid online format. This means that the lecture portion will be presented online through Blackboard; our virtual classroom. The course URL is: https://bb9.canyons.edu/. The lab portion, and all exams, will be presented “on-ground” at the Canyon Country Campus. Lab sessions will be held every Thurs. 9:00am-12:05pm in room CCC-310. There are obvious advantages to an online class—no traffic, work at your convenience, and no nodding off in the back row (at least no one will know if you are!). So, if you work well independently and have fairly good computer skills (can send and receive emails, copy and paste word documents, search the web, add
attachments, etc.) then online learning is a great adventure. However, it is important to keep in mind that this online class is not designed to be easier or harder than a traditional class, just different. You will need to log in at least once a week to keep up with assignments, announcements, and postings. You will also be required to complete online assignments every week. You may also be working in small groups online, and may be required to respond to others' postings on our discussion board.

When deciding to take an online course, please keep in mind that while there is technical assistance available for Blackboard, COC doesn’t offer computer technical support for students, so if you have any technical difficulties with your personal computer, such as software or hardware problems, you will need to either troubleshoot on your own, or find an outside resource to help you with your questions. In order to determine whether you are ready to take an online course, please visit the main distance learning web site at http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/OnLine/Pages/FAQ.aspx to take a number of self-assessment surveys designed to help you determine your readiness.

Don’t hesitate to contact me!

I am available via email and will see you every Thursday in lab. My e-mail address is: dilek.sanver-wang@canyons.edu. I will do my best to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours, however, please keep in mind that I do not monitor my e-mails 24/7, so there may be times where it takes me longer to reply. Please do not panic if you don’t hear back from me right away.

I look forward to meeting you and embarking on this exciting class together! See you Thursday Aug. 28th at 9:00am in room CCC-310 (at the Canyon Country Campus), at the orientation meeting!

Sincerely,

Dilek Sanver-Wang
Assistant Professor, Biology