

Sierra College
Bio. Sci. 10 - Introduction to Biology
Jim Wilson, Instructor

Information About Your Instructor

Since I will soon learn about you through our conversations and your work, it seems only fair for you to know something about me. I am not sure what you, as students, may want to know about your instructor. Before I start, if you want to know something not listed here, feel free to ask me.

I enjoy learning anything new, especially biology related information and discovering who I am. I love sharing what I have learned with others. I enjoy providing opportunities for others to discover our world. Biology is defined as the study of life. Life is important. I consider all life a wondrous thing, which can be explored, studied, appreciated and respected. We can learn so much from observing and learning biology that directly relates to our lives, every day. It gives one a special, perhaps bazaar, yet realistic perspective that, if nothing else, provides much humor.

I have seen changes in many places (ecosystems) and have a clear understanding our direct dependence on the earth. I see stability in life and its processes, and yet, I see the fragility of its existence. Life is special throughout the universe, and we have an important role as a member of the earth's living systems. More than anything, we still need to learn to share. In the long and short term, it is to our benefit to do so, as well as a clear benefit to the others on this Earth that we all learn to share.

More specifically, I am currently the Instructional Assistant for the Biological Sciences Department, in addition to working as a part-time biology instructor. As a result, I am often on the Rocklin campus of Sierra College and often can be found easily.

Actually I have spent many years at Sierra College, beginning my college education there. I was not one of Sierra's "greatest" students, in the beginning. I had to learn how to study and to discover why was I in college. That took a while. I did succeed in receiving my A.A. degree from Sierra. I then transferred to CSU, Chico and obtained my B.A. degree in Biological Sciences. My experiences at Sierra set the course of my life, for which I will always be grateful. More recently, I completed my Masters thesis on foothill ecology (Folsom / Pine Hill's rare plants) receiving my M.A. in Biological Sciences at CSU, Sacramento. I am a field biologist/ecologist and enjoy teaching students and learning for myself. In addition, I have noticed that most people do not seem to give our microbe "friends" credit for how much they do for all of us - our "unseen friends" living all around us.

More recently I have continued to take classes in many disciplines emphasizing art, photography and geology. I play computer games with my kids, backpack, eat, swim, travel, buy plants, eat, buy books, watch movies, eat, take care of my Mac, photograph, cook, eat what I cook, build the Bio. Sci. Department's Web site, eat, walk my dog... did I mention eating? At Sierra, I have been serving on Sierra's governance committees and statewide community college leadership

organizations in hopes of making us even better at what we do. So, occasionally, I travel out of Rocklin and see the world. Actually, I have spend many years wandering around, looking at biology, photographing anything and everything, and having a great time helping others when I can.

I hope this information is useful to you in some way. I look forward to this coming semester.

Jim