

Prof. Lester's BIOL 210

Hints for the first Unknown:

Be efficient and don't waste time! Come prepared. Print the unknown grade sheet on my web site and bring it with you. Make a table or chart of characteristics with all of the bacteria we have used so far. Write down procedures on note cards for making smears, Gram stain, spore stain, and acid fast stain. Bring your lab manual.

Where is the best place on a slant to get bacteria for making each of those stain slides?

When you get your microscope, what is the first thing you should do with it?

How do you adjust the light properly?

- open the rheostat (light control on the base of the microscope) all the way!
- use iris diaphragm to control light

You will be given one slant culture. You will do EVERYTHING using that one slant culture. Your objective is to describe and characterize the one organism growing on that slant culture.

This will be a practical test of your skills at making smears, staining them, interpreting them, and using the microscope. You may use any non-living resource. That means you may use your books, notes, internet, previously stained slides for comparison etc. You may NOT talk to anyone!

The actual identification of the organism is for bonus points. Your unknown can be anything that we have used so far in this course **or** that is found in your lab manual.

You must complete all of the work and turn in your paper before you leave!