Instructor: Dr. Josephine Taylor/Dr. Bea Clack  
Department: Biology  
Email: jtaylor@sfasu.edu/ bclack@sfasu.edu  
Phone: 468-2268/468-1017  
Office: S106/S113  
Lab: S110, S219B, S205  
Office hours: Dr. Taylor - 9:30 – 11:30 MW, 10:00 – 12:00 F or by appointment  
Dr. Clack - Monday and Wednesday: 1:30-3:00 PM;  
2) Student Access Kit for Mastering Biology (www.masteringbiology.com)  
3) Course ID: MBCLACK1010636  
Course time: Monday, Wednesday 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM, Science 233  
Course Description: Bio121 is a concepts oriented course for the non-science major. Within this course the student will study the origin of life, the cell, growth and reproduction, genetics and evolution.  
Number of credit hours: 3  
General Education Core Curriculum  
This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.  
Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in your LECTURE sections Brightspace d2L, through a Dropbox.  
The chart below indicates the core objective addressed by this course for Spring 2019, the assignment that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to DROPBOX this semester. Your instructor will notify you when the assignment must be submitted semester. Failure to complete the assignment will result in a 5% reduction in your overall course grade.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Spring 2019 Ex. 7 Inheritance</td>
<td>See lecture instructor’s syllabus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Although you will collect data during lab, your Empirical and Quantitative Skills assignment will be coordinated by your lecture instructor. THEREFORE, THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL BE TURNED IN THROUGH A DROPBOX TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER TIME.

**Program Learning Outcomes:**
There are no specific program learning outcomes for this major addressed in this course. It is a general education core curriculum and/or a service course.

**General Education Core Curriculum**
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**Student Learning Outcomes:**
Students who complete Concepts of Biology will be able to:
1. Explain the scientific method and critically evaluate scientific information (EEO 1, 2, 5).
2. Identify the chemical basis for life and the characteristics that distinguish living things from inanimate matter (EEO 3, 4, 5).
3. Illustrate how genetic information is passed from parents to offspring and how this genetic information is expressed by cells (EEO 2, 4, 5).
4. Classify the diversity of life forms from the species to kingdom level (EEO 2, 4).
5. Analyze biological interactions that occur from the sub-cellular to the ecosystem level of organization (EEO 1, 2, 4, 5).
6. Discuss the role of evolution in the history of life on Earth (EEO 1, 3).

**Course Requirements:**
- Concepts of Biology Lab (BIO 121L) is a co-requisite with BIO 121 Lecture. The lecture grade comprises 2/3 of the total grade, with the lab contributing 1/3.
- Three 100 point major exams will be given in lecture. The fourth test is the final exam which will be 100 questions. Dates of exams are shown on the course calendar.
- Lecture exams will be objective in nature, consisting of multiple choice using a scantron to answer.
- Information from lecture notes, text chapters, and assigned homework will be included on exams.
- There will be weekly quizzes covering information provided in lecture for the previous week of lectures. Each quiz will be worth 10 pts. The pts will be added through the semester and normalized to 100 pts and can replace one of the lowest exams (excluding the final exam).
- Weekly homework assignments will be completed using Mastering Biology (www.masteringbiology.com). Homework will be worth a total of 100 points. To earn these points you must purchase a Student Access Kit for Mastering Biology. You'll need to join the course once you've registered for Mastering Biology (instructions are in the Access Kit) using the following course ID: MBCLACK1010636
Participation in the on-line student evaluations for both BIO 121 lecture and BIO 121L is a mandatory course requirement. You will be given extra points for completion of the evaluation. Instructions for meeting this requirement will be given towards the end of the semester.

**Tentative Course Calendar:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-23</td>
<td>course policies, intro to biology</td>
<td>4-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-28</td>
<td>themes in biology, basic chemistry</td>
<td>10-18, 24-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-30</td>
<td>water, pH, organic chemistry, carbohydrates</td>
<td>28-32, 38-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>lipids, proteins</td>
<td>43-48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>nucleic acids, cells</td>
<td>49-50, 56-61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-13</td>
<td>cellular organelles</td>
<td>62-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-18</td>
<td><strong>Lecture Exam I</strong> – covers all material since beginning of class</td>
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***updated topic schedule will be provided for remaining lectures***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/13</td>
<td>Wed Lecture Exam II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/18</td>
<td>Mon Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/21</td>
<td>Wed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/27</td>
<td>Wed Last Day to Drop With W</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/15</td>
<td>Mon Lecture Exam III</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/13</td>
<td>Mon Final Exam (4:00-6:00PM)</td>
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**Grading Policy:**
Your lecture average will be calculated as follows:
Points earned on 4 exams (400pts max), attendance points (100 pts max) & homework (100 pts max).
Up to 600 lecture points averaged then normalized to a max of 100%
After receiving grades from the lab, your course average will be calculated as follows:
   Lecture avg + Lecture avg + Lab avg/3
Course grades will be assigned as follows:
Course average of 90% = A, 80 - 89% = B, 70 - 79% = C, 60 - 69% = D, Below 60% = F
Extra credit will be assigned as a study aid for exams and possible additional attendance.

**Attendance Policy:**
Students must attend lecture. Your attendance is 1/6 of your lecture grade.
There are no makeup opportunities for in-class points, regardless of the reason for the absence.
Only students with an excused absence will be allowed to make up an exam. Makeup exams will be of a different format than the original test, consisting primarily of completion and short answer questions. Excused absences will be granted for: students participating in university sponsored events, serious illness, or a family emergency. Otherwise, you will need to bring written confirmation of illness or emergency from a doctor or family member to be granted an excused absence. The office of the Dean of Student Affairs (dosa@sfasu.edu) can assist you in notifying your instructors should an emergency arise. University policy states that students with acceptable excuses will be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of 3 weeks of a semester. ONCE YOU HAVE MISSED 9 CLASS DAYS DO NOT EXPECT TO MAKE UP AN EXAM, OR FOR THE INSTRUCTOR TO PROVIDE ANY MAKEUP MATERIALS. Students with unexcused absences will receive a 0 for missed exams.
Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty:
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment Students exhibiting unacceptable behavior will lose attendance points for the class session, may be asked to leave class, and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.