BIOLOGY 1308-004 (Biology for Non-Science Majors I -lecture): Fall 2020 Course Schedule  
Dr. J. Van Kley (jvankley@sfasu.edu)  
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm TR (online, mostly asynchronously at times of Student’s convenience) 
Textbook: Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology (IV ed.)

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<th>Week (M)</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Text Reading:</th>
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| Aug 24   | Introduction  
What Living Cells are Made of: The Molecules of Life (Ch. 2, 3) |
| Aug 31   | Tour of the Living Cell (Ch. 4, 5)  
Multi-cellular organisms: An example from the Plants (Ch. 28) |
| Sep 07   | Cell Reproduction: Mitosis (Ch. 8)  
Meiosis & Sexual Reproduction (Ch. 8)  
Patterns of Inheritance (Ch. 9) |
| Sep 14   | The Chromosomal basis of Inheritance & Human Genetics (Ch. 9)  
The Structure & Function of DNA (Ch. 10) |
| Sep 21   | Film: 'The Hidden Kingdom'  
Test 1. |
| Sep 28   | The 'Central Dogma': Flow of genetic information From DNA to RNA to Proteins (Ch. 10)  
Controls over Genes (Ch11) |
| Oct 05   | DNA Technology: Studying & Manipulating Genomes (Ch 12)  
Cell Respiration: Energy from Food (Ch. 6) |
| Oct 12   | Film: 'Doctors in the Death Zone'  
Test 2. |
| Oct 19   | Photosynthesis: Sunlight to Make Food (Ch. 6)  
How the Theory of Evolution Explains the Diversity of Life-forms  
Classification & Diversity (Selections from Ch. 13-14) |
| Oct 26   | Viruses (including COVID19)  
Microbial Life & 'Protists' (Ch 15)  
Plant Evolution & Diversity (Ch. 16) |
| Nov 02   | Film: 'Sexual Encounters of a Floral Kind'  
Test 3. |
| Nov 09   | Fungi (Ch 16)  
Animal Evolution & Diversity (Ch 17) |
| Nov 16   | Communities and Ecosystems (Ch. 20)  
The Biosphere: Land and Water (Ch. 18) |
| Nov 23   | Thanksgiving Holidays |
| Nov 30   | The Ecological Regions of Texas  
Film: 'Blue Planet: the Deep” |
| Dec 07   | Final Examination Week: (Final = Test 4) |

Week-begin dates shown above are Mondays.
WELCOME TO BIOLOGY 1308!

Instructor: Dr. James Van Kley

Course Description: We humans are living organisms and we interact with other organisms on a daily basis. Moreover, the ecological future of the earth may depend on decisions made by humans from our generation. For these reasons, a basic knowledge of life-processes and an awareness of the biological world is a vital part of education regardless of what profession one is preparing for. During our Semester we will explore a variety of Biology Concepts including the Cell, the function of our DNA and genes and the proteins that they create, the concept of Evolution by Natural Selection, and Ecosystems, Ecology, and the amazing diversity of different life forms that we share our planet with. Since we ourselves are living organisms on Earth, the story of life on earth is also our story and we are linked to all other life by a common heritage!

Course Venue- D2L Brightspace: Access your Brightspace frequently! With the exception of your textbook, D2L will serve All of our course content – including the lectures, copies of lecture PowerPoints, links, study quizzes, tests, important course announcements, this syllabus, your test and quiz scores, and the course’s email. Pay particular attention to the D2L news items. I will use them for important course announcements!

Office: Room 115 Miller Sci. As the course is offered online and my office hours are virtual, only in rare cases will I schedule face-to-face meetings in the office. Face masks and social distancing are required in the unlikely instance of such a meeting. Zoom or telephone meetings are preferred.

Course format: In the interest of reducing the spread of COVID 19 the course will be taught online and following an introductory ZOOM meeting, mostly asynchronously (you will be able to access the course content and do course activities at your convenience within a given time-period. Lectures will be in the form of screencast-videos where I lecture using PowerPoints just as I would do in a face-to-face class. I will also show a ‘nature documentary’ video relevant to topics covered to conclude each of the 4 units of our course. Each screencast or video will be accompanied by a required ‘study quiz’.

Email: jvankley@sfasu.edu (permanent) AND the D2L Brightspace email for this course. I will monitor both emails but using the course’s D2L email may be preferable as you will not be competing with other (often numerous) non-course messages and I will be monitoring the D2L email more frequently especially during office hours. While I may monitor and answer emails during weekends and holidays, I will do so less diligently than on workdays and will not always answer as promptly, possibly waiting until the next workday.

Office hours: Tues & Thurs, 8:30-11:00 am. To reduce the spread of COVID 19 my office hours will be virtual: I will be present in a course chatroom (see your D2L Brightspace), monitoring email frequently, and available to initiate a ‘one-on-one’ ZOOM meeting or phone call upon demand (requested via email or chat).

Textbook: Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology (4th edition). See the course schedule in this syllabus for the required reading assignments.

Major Tests: There will be four non-cumulative major tests, 3 of them worth 1/5 of the lecture grade, your best score doubled to be 2/5 of the grade. Tests will be given through D2L brightspace and will be available to take during a limited time-slot corresponding to our formally-scheduled class meeting time (see schedule). Once you start a test you will have a limited time (typically 40 minutes) to complete it. Tests are ‘open-book-open-notes’. Students with disabilities that require them to spend more time on tests are should contact Disability Services to arrange such accommodations. The exact test date will be also announced in D2L Brightspace during the week prior to the test. Study quizzes (see below) will not be timed.

A student cannot properly prepare for a profession by cheating. Cheating includes any form of communication regarding the course with anyone except myself during the 4 online major tests. Tests are ‘open book’ so accessing your notes, the lectures or any other relevant materials during a test does not constitute cheating (but it does consume your valuable test-time so be careful!). The MINIMUM penalty for cheating is a ZERO (see University policy A-9.10, below).

Study Quizzes: Each lecture presentation or video will be accompanied by a required study quiz-exercise. Since the quizzes are as much for study aids as for evaluation, you will be able to take the quiz multiple (typically up to 10) times and the highest score earned will be the one counted. Each quiz will have a deadline. Quizzes taken after the deadline (I may allow a grace period of several hours) will count as an “absence”. I also will deduct ‘late penalty’ points from late quizzes. Second and subsequent attempts may be done after the deadline without penalty as long as the first attempt was on time. Access to the quizzes will ‘end’ the evening before the next test. You will no longer be able to access and get credit
for a quiz after the end time -and will be given an additional ‘absence’ for missing it. Take the quizzes and deadlines seriously; your quiz scores for a given test-unit contribute 10% of your total test grade!

**Bonus points:** I will give regular SI attendees (>50 of sessions in a given test unit) a 1% bonus toward the next test. I also may award bonus points for other benchmarks such as good ‘attendance’ high quiz scores, correct answers to certain questions etc. If such bonus points are made available, the means of earning them and the specific number of points will be announced beforehand in D2L.

**Final Grades:** When calculating your lecture score I will **double your best test**: \( \text{Lecture Score} = \frac{2 \times \text{T-best} + T_2 + T_3 + T_{\text{worst}}}{5} \). The lecture grade (Biol 1308) will constitute 2/3 and the lab grade (from Biol 1108) 1/3 of the **total grade** for the entire non-major’s Biology lecture and lab course sequence and will be the posted grade for both Biol 1308 and 1108. After calculating your total percentage \( \frac{2/3 \times \text{percentage of points from lecture} + 1/3 \times \text{lab percentage}} \) final grades will be determined as follows: Total percentage > 90% =A; 89% - 80% =B; 79% -70%=C; 69% - 60% =D; <60% = F.

There will be no extra credit assignments in this course. Make-up tests will be allowed only for students with excused absences. Quizzes will “end” the evening before a given test and you will not be able to take them after that. Only students participating in University-sponsored events or those with a serious illness, family emergency, or a serious conflict will be granted an excused absence. You must provide verification from a family member, University official or doctor to be excused. Please inform me beforehand if you know you must miss a test. I am **much more flexible** when I know of an absence beforehand. Students with unexcused absences will receive a ZERO for any missed tests.

**Attendance, etc:** Regular participation in the course and engagement with the content is essential to success in this course. I will be monitoring course engagement and assigning ‘virtual absences’ for missed activities. These will include 1) not having entered the course on D2L at least once in a given week (excepting thanksgiving week), 2) missing any required ZOOM meetings, 3) missing the deadline for a study quiz for a lecture or video, and 4) failing to take a quiz at all and missing its ‘end-date’ (thus each quiz can potentially trigger 2 absences, one for missing the deadline, one for never taking it.

I will consider attendance for students with borderline grades: Fore example, a student with excellent attendance and a score of 79 may receive a "B" rather than a "C". University and Departmental policy states that instructors may fail students who miss more than 3 weeks of class for ANY reason; I therefore reserve the right to fail any student with 10 or more ‘absences’ for the lecture section.

Student evaluations help us improve courses; participation in the anonymous on-line course evaluation at the end of the term is required. Students who do not participate will receive a 1% deduction from their final score.

**Supplemental Instruction (SI):** We will have SI for this course. Meetings will be virtual, most likely via ZOOM. Our SI instructor is **Victoria Davis**, who has already done a excellent job assisting this course for several semesters and will be a valuable aid to success in this course. Bonus points (1% point per test) will be awarded to regular SI attendees.

**Core Curriculum Assessment:** University policy requires selected BIO 121 sections to participate in Core Curriculum Assessment. If we are required to, further details regarding the assessment assignment will follow.

**Program Learning Outcomes for Biology 1308:** There are no specific program learning outcomes for this major addressed in this course. It is a general education core curriculum course and/or a service course.

**Texas Core Curriculum Objectives for Biology 1308:** Texas State Core Curriculum Objectives (COs) addressed by this course are:

- CO 1. Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- CO 2. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- CO 3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- CO 4. Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

**Student Learning Outcomes for Biology 1308:** Students who complete Concepts of Biology will be able to:
1. Explain the scientific method and critically evaluate scientific information (CO 1, 4).
2. Identify the chemical basis for life and the characteristics that distinguish living things from inanimate matter (CO 1).
3. Illustrate how genetic information is passed from parents to offspring, how this genetic information is
expressed by cells, and how humans are utilizing this information for the benefit of society (CO 1, 3, 4).
4. Classify the diversity of life forms from the species to kingdom level (CO 1).
5. Analyze biological interactions that occur from the sub-cellular to the ecosystem level of organization (CO 1, 2, 3, 4).
6. Discuss the role of evolution in the history of life on Earth (CO 1).

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

Students caught cheating in this course will, at a minimum, be given a ZERO for the test/quiz in question. I will also formally report all cheaters to the administration.

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. 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 or online 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 including ‘trolling’ will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class or be blocked from online resources 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, chatroom, or online forum. Students who do engage in the course regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/tests 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.

Masks & COVID19 Precautions: This particular course section is online and automatically socially distanced. However, any face-to-face activities in this class, however unlikely, are subject to the following policy: Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in class or office meetings and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html

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