Physiology (BIOL 3390) Syllabus
MWF for Video postings (11:00 am Friday for live Zoom lecture)

Fall 2020

I. Instructor Information:

Dr. Jason Bruck
Office: 112 Miller Science Building
E-mail: Jason.Bruck@SFASU.edu

Appointments:
⇒ Please feel free to drop by my office anytime; I don’t have “office hours” per se. If I am in, I
should be able to make time to visit with you.
⇒ You may also schedule an appointment via email if you prefer.

II. Lecture Materials:

Education, Inc. (A variety of formats are available, e.g., new, used, e-book, paperback). 8th ed. is also available but
page numbers in lecture will not correspond correctly to this book.

III. Course Objectives for BIOL 3340:

Core Content Knowledge
1. Students will acquire an understanding of the basic principles of physiology, including the
organ systems of the human body, how they function to maintain homeostasis, and what
pathologies can arise when homeostasis fails.
2. Students will gain an appreciation for the essential role of comparative animal research in our
understanding of human physiology.
Research and Communication Skills
3. Students will understand the scientific method and its application to physiology, including the
concept of peer-review and how to access peer-reviewed literature.
4. Students also will demonstrate the critical thinking ability to summarize and evaluate basic
scientific information published in the peer-reviewed literature.
Career, Ethical, and Social Awareness
5. Students will understand the central role of science in documenting how the world works.
6. Students will be able to formulate evidence-based arguments on matters of science that
generate controversy, including the role of evolution in unifying all of the life sciences.

IV. Grading:
Overall grade to be determined out of 500 points. The grade will come from FOUR semester exams (100 points each; lowest score dropped) and a semi-cumulative FINAL Exam (100 points; can NOT be dropped):

Exam 1 → Sept. 13 40-50 questions, 2-5 points each, 100 points total  
Exam 2 → Oct. 6 40-50 questions, 2-5 points each, 100 points total  
Exam 3 → Oct. 27 40-50 questions, 2-5 points each, 100 points total  
Exam 4 → Nov. 20 40-50 questions, 2-5 points each, 100 points total  
Final Exam → TBA (50% new material, 50% identical/similar from Exams 1-4, 100 pts. total)

Exams will be multiple-choice format, designed to assess your understanding of the material discussed in lecture. Exams are open book and will be conducted through Brightspace.

Make-up Exam Policy:  
There will be NO MAKE-UP OR EARLY EXAMS given for Exams 1-4*. If you miss one of these exams for ANY reason, it will count as your dropped score, thereby not penalizing you. Note that this does not apply to the Final Exam – this exam cannot be dropped. Everyone must take the Final Exam.  
You will have 24 hours to complete exams on D2L.

*If you have to miss more than one semester exam for official, documented University-related absences, you will be allowed to make-up the missed exam(s) after the first drop.

Extra Credit Points: Extra credit questions MAY be available throughout the semester. More details to follow.

Final Course Grades: The scale for your final course grade is shown below (out of 500 pts):

A =  > 90%  > 446 points  
B =  80-89%  396-445 points  
C =  65-79%  321-395 points  
D =  55-64%  275-320 points  
F =  < 55%  < 275 points

V. General Class Information:

COVID-19 MASK POLICY
Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. 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.

**Course Management:**
We will use Brightspace by “Desire2Learn” (D2L) in this course; here you will find the syllabus and course announcements, pre-lecture handouts (powerpoint files posted before lecture), recordings of lectures already given if/when available, supplementary materials related to class topics, and discussion forums designed to increase student-student and student-faculty interaction. We will also use D2L to post exam grades. **Regarding exam grades, any concerns about your score on a particular exam (e.g., questions you think may have been graded incorrectly, issues with the D2L, etc.) MUST be addressed prior to the next exam.** It is to your advantage to check your scores carefully and see me promptly if you have any questions or concerns.

**Important Dates, Course Policies Established by SFA:**
Please see the SFA website for questions regarding add, drop, & withdraw dates, final exam overloads, where to go for help, etc.

**Student 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/.

It is your responsibility to inform the professors of your needs, if you so desire. You must do this in a timely fashion so that we can make the necessary arrangements. I am legally bound to treat such information as confidential and I will be happy to work with you.

**Attendance:**
I will try and offer zoom lectures around 11:00 am on Fridays for students to ask questions if they have any. These lectures will be recorded live in case you miss the Zoom meeting. A permanent Zoom link will be available on D2L. Attendance is not mandatory.

**Academic Integrity:**
Cheating will absolutely not be tolerated. Cheating on an exam can result in a failing grade for that exam, a failing grade for the course, or even expulsion from the university. Be sure to review the university’s academic integrity policy which can be found at http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs/academic_integrity.html

Below is SFA’s statement regarding academic integrity.

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.

**Final Thoughts:**
- It is the responsibility of the professors to maintain a productive learning environment where every student has the equal opportunity to perform their best, and we take this responsibility very seriously.
- If at any time you have a problem with an instructor, a member of the class, or the course in general, please do not hesitate to inform me so I may have the opportunity to address the problem.

**Good luck and have a great semester!**

**VI. Tentative Semester Schedule (dates and topics subject to change)***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Activity</th>
<th>Corresponding Silverthorn Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 24</td>
<td>Introduction; What is physiology?</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>Science &amp; non-science</td>
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<td>Aug. 28</td>
<td>Human evolution &amp; the comparative approach</td>
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<td>Aug. 31</td>
<td>Human evolution &amp; the comparative approach – cont’d</td>
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<td>Sept. 02</td>
<td>Physiology basics – biomolecules, cells, &amp; tissues</td>
<td>Chapters 2-5</td>
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<td>Sept. 04</td>
<td>Physiology basics – bioenergetics &amp; metabolism</td>
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<td><strong>Sept. 07</strong></td>
<td><strong>No class – Labor Day</strong></td>
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<td>Sept. 09</td>
<td>Membrane transport &amp; cell communication</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Endocrine system</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>Endocrine system – cont’d</td>
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<td><strong>Sept. 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>Sept. 18</td>
<td>Endocrine system – cont’d</td>
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<td>Sept. 21</td>
<td>Nervous system physiology</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Nervous system physiology – cont’d</td>
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<td>Sept. 25</td>
<td>Central nervous system</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Sept. 28</td>
<td>Central nervous system – cont’d</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Central nervous system – cont’d</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 02</td>
<td>Sensory physiology</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>Oct. 05</td>
<td>Somatosensory system</td>
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<td>Oct. 07</td>
<td>Taste &amp; olfaction</td>
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<td><strong>Oct. 09</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Vision</td>
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About your professor:
Dr. Bruck was born On Long Island and mostly raised in Syracuse, NY (with stints in Ohio and Texas). He received his B.S. in Biology/Psychology from Long Island University (Southampton, NY) in 2002. After working for a year as an Adjunct Professor at LIU, he went to The University of Chicago for his M.A. and Ph.D. in Comparative Human Development specializing in Behavioral Biology, earning those degrees in 2007 and 2013 respectively. He then spent a year serving as an educator in an inner city public school system. In 2014 Dr. Bruck was hired as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Integrative Biology at OKState. After one year teaching in Oklahoma Dr. Bruck received a two-year Marie Curie Fellowship to study dolphins at the Sea Mammal Research Unit of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland (Est. 1410). In 2017 Dr. Bruck took a position as a Teaching Assistant Professor back at OKState. He has joined SFA this year as an Assistant Professor and is happy to be in TX. Dr. Bruck is married and has one daughter in Hudson public schools.