### BIOLOGY 1308-003 (Biology for Non-Science Majors I -lecture): Fall 2021 Course Schedule

**Dr. J. Van Kley (jvankley@sfasu.edu)**  
**TR 11:00 am - 12:15 pm; Rm 137 Miller Sci.**

**Week (M)  Lecture Topic & Text Reading:**

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture Topic &amp; Text Reading</th>
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| Aug 23 | Introduction  
What Living Cells are Made of: The Molecules of Life (Ch. 2, 3) |
| Aug 30 | Cell Reproduction: Mitosis (Ch. 8)  
Meiosis & Sexual Reproduction (Ch. 8)  
Patterns of Inheritance (Ch. 9) |
| Sep 06 | Cell Reproduction: Mitosis (Ch. 8)  
Meiosis & Sexual Reproduction (Ch. 8)  
Patterns of Inheritance (Ch. 9) |
| Sep 13 | The Chromosomal basis of Inheritance & Human Genetics (Ch. 9)  
The Structure & Function of DNA (Ch. 10) |
| Sep 20 | Film: 'The Hidden Kingdom'  
**Test 1.** |
| Sep 27 | The 'Central Dogma': Flow of genetic information From DNA to RNA to Proteins (Ch. 10)  
Controls over Genes (Ch11) |
| Oct 04 | DNA Technology: Studying & Manipulating Genomes (Ch 12)  
Cell Respiration: Energy from Food (Ch. 6) |
| Oct 11 | Film: 'Doctors in the Death Zone'  
**Test 2.** |
| Oct 18 | 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 25 | Viruses (including COVID19)  
Microbial Life & 'Protists' (Ch 15)  
Plant Evolution & Diversity (Ch. 16) |
| Nov 01 | Film: 'Sexual Encounters of a Floral Kind'  
**Test 3.** |
| Nov 08 | Fungi (Ch 16)  
Animal Evolution & Diversity (Ch 17) |
| Nov 15 | Communities and Ecosystems (Ch. 20)  
The Biosphere: Land and Water (Ch. 18) |
| Nov 22 | **Thanksgiving Holidays** |
| Nov 29 | The Ecological Regions of Texas  
Film: 'Blue Planet: the Deep’ |
| Dec 06 | **Final Examination Week:** (Final = Test 4) |

**Week-begin dates shown above are Mondays. Our first class (T) is held a day later.**
**WELCOME TO BIOLOGY 1308!**

**Instructor:** Dr. James Van Kley

**Office Hours:** Th 12:30-1:30pm, W 12:00-4:00pm Room 115 Miller Sci. Phone (936) 468-2068.

**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! This Lecture section is the 3 hour portion of a 4 semester-hour course (Biol 1308 supplemented with its co-requisite, Biol 1108). It meets for 3 hours a week and students should also plan on spending about 6 additional hours a week on the course.

**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.

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

**D2L Brightspace:** Access your Brightspace frequently! D2L will provide much of our course content – including copies of lecture PowerPoints, links, review materials, study quizzes, course announcements, this syllabus, test/quiz scores, and the course’s email. Pay attention to D2L news items: I will use them for important course announcements! If enhanced COVID 19 precautions are instituted, we may need to pivot to recorded lectures in D2L instead of live lectures; the remainder of the course will be unchanged.

**Major Tests:** There will be four non-cumulative major tests, and a cumulative final examination each worth 1/5 of the lecture grade. You will take the fourth test and the cumulative final together as a single two-part exam during Finals Week. It will collectively be worth two test grades.

**Study Quizzes:** Each lecture will be accompanied by a series of ‘study quizzes in D2L. 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 have a ‘late penalty’ typically 10% of the points) deducted from them. Second and subsequent attempts for a given quiz 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. Take the quizzes and deadlines seriously; your quiz scores for a given test-unit contribute 10% of your total test grade!

**Final Grades:** When calculating your lecture score I will double your best test and drop your worst (but read the ‘fine print’: I offer this benefit only to those who attempt all the tests and the final, not to those who ‘zero’ a test because they failed to take it! The lecture grade (Biol 2361) will constitute 2/3 and the lab grade (from Biol 2061) 1/3 of the total grade for the entire lecture-lab course series and will be the posted grade for Biol 2361. After calculating your total percentage (2/3 x percentage of points from lecture + 1/3 x 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:** Regular attendance and participation is essential to success in this course. I will be monitoring attendance and course engagement and assigning absences for missed lectures for missed classes or activities. I will calculate a ‘participation’ grade based on attendance course engagement. Missed lectures, late study quizzes, and missed study will result in deductions from your participation grade. The median deduction score score for the class will be set at 80%. Those
with the fewest deductions will have a score of 100%. All other scores will be calculated relative to the median and maximum down to a minimum of zero. Your participation grade will provide the ‘quiz’ (10%) portion of the cumulative part of the Final. I will consider attendance for students with borderline grades: For 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 who misses 7 or more lectures.

Supplemental Instruction (SI): SI plans for this course are pending. If it goes forward, 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.

A student cannot properly prepare for a profession by cheating. Offline tests are closed book and accessing any external materials or devices as well as communicating with other students constitutes cheating. If I choose to administer tests online, cheating includes any form of communication regarding the course with anyone except myself during a tests. Online Tests are ‘open book’ and timed so accessing your notes, the lectures or any other relevant materials during an online test or quiz does not constitute cheating (but it does consume your valuable test-time so be careful!) The MINIMUM penalty for cheating is a ZERO.

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, 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/](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.

**Student Mental Health:** SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFASU Counseling Services  
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices  
3rd Floor Rusk Building  
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic  
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp  
Human Services Room 202  
936-468-1041

**Crisis Resources:**
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343  
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)  
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Masks & COVID19 Precautions:** Since COVID19 is again, a serious issue this Term 1 STRONGLY urge all students to decide to do the right thing and wear masks (cloth face coverings) over the nose and mouth at all times in class or office meetings. If you are not already, get vaccinated. The vaccines are effective: At this time vaccines are >90% protective against hospitalization with severe COVID! Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing are selfishly endangering others; even if you are vaccinated you can contract mild or asymptomatic COVID and spread it to others perhaps more vulnerable than yourself! Masks and vaccines are NOT a political statement; they are an expression of respect for Human life by individuals who choose to use the best science-based tools available to reduce the impact of this dangerous disease!