Biology of Non-Science Majors I – BIOL 1308.xxx - On-line

INSTRUCTOR:  
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Office Hours:  
TBA, Consult the appropriate section in the D2L course page.  
I encourage you to contact me for help. If my office hours are impossible for you to meet, I will arrange an alternate time to meet.

Text and Materials:  
• Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology, 6th edition, Simon, Dickey & Reece;  
  ISBN 9780135162101  
• Mastering Biology (Mandatory by 4th class day)

Course Description: A concepts-oriented course for the non-science major. Study of the origin of life, the cell, growth and reproduction, genetics and evolution.  
48 hours in class time  
48 hours homework/Mastering Biology  
28 hours exam studying plus exam completion (3 exams + final)  
124 hours

Program Learning Outcomes:  
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:  
Texas State Core Curriculum Objectives (COs) addressed by this course are:  
  o CO 1. Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.  
  o CO 2. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.  
  o CO 3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.  
  o 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:  
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).
General Education Core Curriculum
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: 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.

By enrolling in BIOL 1308 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the core requirements as determined by the THECB. The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed

Core Curriculum Objective Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
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Course Requirements:
Biology for Non-Science Majors I, Lab (BIOL 1108) is a co-requisite with BIOL 1308

Nature of All Exams
Typically, the exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. At my discretion essay and short answer questions testing your reasoning skills may be included in the exams. The fourth test is the final exam and is not cumulative.

Grading Policy:
Four one-hour exams worth 100 points each will be administered throughout the semester, with additional homework and quizzes worth 260 points. Therefore, you will attempt 660 points in lecture.

- 4 exams at 100 points each = 400 points
- Mastering Biology Homework = 100 points
- Participation = 160 points

Total 660 points

Lecture will count at 75% of your final course grade, while lab will comprise 25%. I do not round-up grades at the end of the semester (an 89.97 is still a ‘B’). Extra credit is not available to improve your grade.
A = 100-90.0%; B = 89.99-80.0%; C = 79.99-70.0%; D = 69.99-60.0%; F = 59.99% or below

You will receive the same letter grade for lecture (3 credit hours) and lab (1 credit hour). There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

**Mastering Biology Homework:**
Mastering Biology (www.masteringbiology.com) assignments will be posted at the beginning of new exam material. Please consult Mastering Biology Course page for deadline and due dates. The percentage of total points earned will be multiplied by 100 to determine your total homework points.

**Participation:**
Participation will be measured and assessed based on the postings in each discussion section. For each question a student should be posting substantive posts and contributing to the discussion in a unique and professional way.

**Attendance Policy:**
The value of a college education depends upon the student’s full participation. Because students are expected not merely to receive information passively or to pass examinations but to participate actively in class, it is important that student actively involve themselves in the course. Students will be responsible for all missed work.

Some appropriate reasons for absenteeism are: an illness with dated medical notes; death in the immediate family with clippings from a newspaper announcing the death; scheduled athletic events; scheduled academic events. Other reasons can be discussed, but may not be excused. You are responsible to know what was announced and what material was covered in class during your absence. Lecture notes are not available from your instructor.

**Make-Up Exams**
Make ups for hour exams will only be allowed in the case of a University approved absence (illness with a doctor's note, a family crisis, or a religious holiday). It is your responsibility to inform me that you missed the exam and why as soon as possible. **YOU MUST NOTIFY ME IN WRITTEN FORM WITHIN 24 HOURS OF A MISSED EXAM TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MAKE UP EXAM.** Written documentation (hard copy only) must be submitted directly to me that thoroughly support you missing an exam. This document must be turned in no later than 3 business days following your return to class.

You must contact me to schedule a makeup exam. The make-up exam will be of a different format than regularly scheduled exams. The only exception to this is if you know you are going to miss class (e.g., University outing or field trip) then you will take the exam a day or two early. If you will miss an exam due to a University sponsored outing you must notify me before the exam date. I will use a different format for makeup exams than the exams given to the rest of the class. **THERE IS NO MAKEUP EXAM GIVEN FOR THE FINAL EXAM!** Missing or arriving late for the final exam is not an acceptable excuse. Set two alarm clocks, have friend call, or your mom/dad to wake you up in time to take the exam. Missing of an exam will result in a zero for the missed exam.

**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 D34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment 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.

**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](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 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/).

**Mental Health and Wellness**

SFA 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:
SFA Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
936.468.2401

SFA 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

Course Calendar
See Course Timeline posted in BrightSpace by D2L.