Biology 3017.001  
Biology Content (Grades 4-8)

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Office Hours: M&W 9:00-11:00; R 9:00-10:00  
Class meeting time and place: TR 2:00-4:50; S120

Course Description:  
This course provides instruction in the main areas of biological science for which science teachers (Grades 4-8) are expected to demonstrate competency for teacher certification. Students seeking certification in Early Childhood-Grade 6 Generalist are also encouraged to enroll. Topics include basic principles of science, structure and function of living things, reproduction and heredity, adaptation and evolution, regulatory mechanisms and behavior, and organisms and environment. This course may not be used to meet graduation requirements by a student majoring/minoring in the College of Sciences and Mathematics.

Number of Credit Hours: 4 semester hours – 3 hours lecture and 2 hours lab per week.

Course Prerequisites and Corequisites:  
Prerequisites: None; Corequisites: 3417

Program Learning Outcomes:  
There are no specific program learning outcomes for this major addressed in this course. This course is a general education course and a service course.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives:  
There are no specific general education core curriculum objectives in this course. This course is not a core curriculum course.

Course Objectives:  
To train science teachers, in grades four through eight, on the basic concepts of biological principles. To demonstrate the applications of these concepts in the classroom, especially by the use of appropriate hands-on exercises.

Student Learning Outcomes:  
Upon completion of this course, the students are expected to:  
- Understand that investigations require a research question, careful observations, data gathering, and analysis of the data to identify the patterns that will explain the findings.  
- Understand that scientific investigations are used to learn about the natural world.  
- Understand that all living organisms are made up of smaller units called cells.  
- Understand that all cells use energy, get rid of wastes, and contain genetic material.  
- Understand the internal structures within plant and animal cells that allow them to obtain energy, get rid of wastes, grow, and reproduce in different ways.  
- Understand that cells can organize into tissues, tissues into organs, and organs into organ systems.  
- Understand that the major functions of human body systems.
- Understand the relationship between living organisms and their environment.
- Understand that different environments support different living organisms that are adapted to that region of Earth.
- Understand that successful organisms can reestablish a balance through different processes such as a feedback mechanism.
- Understand that during both sexual and asexual reproduction, traits are passed onto the next generation.
- Understand that changes in traits sometimes occur in a population over many generations.
- Understand the interactions between organisms in ecosystems
- Understand how biotic and abiotic factors affect the number of organisms and populations present in an ecosystem
- Understand that ecological succession can be seen on a broad or small scale.

**Text and Material:** None.

**Course Requirements:**
Lab will be composed of exercises conducted in class, activities completed outside of class, and selected lab simulation found on-line. Much of the lab experiences will be in cooperative learning groups.

Each student will submit a lab report based on data collected from the group. Lab reports will follow the provided template. Each lab report will be worth 20 points. Each student is expected to maintain a notebook of the activities, including a student data sheet appropriate to the grade level of the experiment.

Hand-written copies are not acceptable. Lab reports will be turned in weekly and will be accepted if turned in late with a 25% deduction per day late.
Laboratory Course Calendar:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Aug 23</th>
<th>Introduction to the Lab</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Lab – Chemistry of Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Sep 6</td>
<td>Lab – Cell Structure and Function</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Sep 13</td>
<td>Lab - Photosynthesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Sep 20</td>
<td>Lab – Regulatory Mechanisms</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Sep 27</td>
<td>Lab – Mendelian Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>Lab – Patterns of Inheritance</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>Lab - Biotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>Lab – Evolutionary Processes</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Lab – Animal Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Lab – Population Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Lab – Community Ecology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Lab – Ecosystems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Lab - Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Finals Preparation Week</td>
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Grading Policy:
The exams score will comprise 75% of the final grade. The overall lab grade will comprise 25%. The following grading scale will be followed with no rounding up of the final percentage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Attendance Policy:
Regular and punctual attendance is expected. 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 unnecessary class absences be avoided. Students are expected to be present for all classes and no absence will be automatically excused.
The missing of 6 or more lecture/lab periods will result in the reduction of your course grade by one full letter grade. There will be no distinction between excused and unexcused absences in counting absences. Legitimate excuses for absences only affect whether students may be given an opportunity to make up work. Students will be responsible for all missed work.

If you come in late you must check with me after class in order to clear any record of absence for that day. This is your responsibility. Reoccurring tardiness should be explained. A seating chart will be utilized in this course. In addition, an attendance sheet will be passed around on which you will put your signature next to your name. It is your responsibility to see that the role sheet is signed before leaving the lecture class. Do not sign in for another student, doing so will result in a significant reduction in your course grade and the assignment of seats for all students in the class. It is also your responsibility to keep up with the number of absences that you have accrued.

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.

The will be no make-up of individual experiments.

**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)

Any student found cheating will be subject to the penalties as stated in the Student Code of Conduct handbook; including but not limited to a score of zero on exam, expulsion from the class or expulsion from the University.
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 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 and/or 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.

As future teachers, I expect you to conduct yourselves as you would expect your students to behave. Please be considerate of your classmates and the instructor. Please keep cell phones & pagers on silent, vibrate or off and in your backpack, purse or pocket. If you are found to be using your cell phone (including text messaging) during class, or I see your cell phone, you will be asked to leave class for that day and will be counted absent for that day.