Welcome to BIOLOGY 1307! This course provides a rigorous and comprehensive introduction to ecology, evolution, and the diversity of life.

**COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Fundamental principles of biological inquiry, scientific analysis, and concepts in ecological and evolutionary biology. Credit hour justification: 3 credit hours involving lectures, readings, homework, activities and assessments that represent 6 hours out-of-class preparation per week and roughly 3 hours of class instruction. Co-requisite lab: BIOL 1107. Additional asynchronous minutes (150 min.) are provided to meet state requirements for meeting time.

**Instructor:** Dr. Dan Bennett  
**Department:** Biology  
**Phone:** 468-5163  
**E-mail:** bennettdj@sfasu.edu  
**Office:** S-210/211; **Office hours:** M-Th: 1:15-2:30; widely available by appointment for other times. Office hours are in-person by default, but can be done in Zoom by request.


**Course Website:** [https://d2l.sfasu.edu/](https://d2l.sfasu.edu/) Check D2L/Brightspace daily for announcements, lecture slides and other materials. Look for a routine announcement at the start of each week that summarizes upcoming activities. Students are responsible for knowing the information provided in weekly announcements.

**GRADING POLICY**

**Lecture exams:** 63% of grade (best 3 of 4 exams @ 21% each)  
**Quizzes:** 12% of grade  
**Lab:** 25% of grade

Grading scale: A = 90–100%; B = 80–89%; C = 70–79%; D = 60–69%; < 60% = F

The combined lecture and lab scores will be applied to both lecture and lab courses. Thus, a student who earns a 75 in lab, an 85 in lecture, and an 82.5 overall, will have a transcript showing “B” for both lecture (BIOL 1107) and lecture (BIOL 1307) courses.

**EXAMS:** Exams are closed notes and don’t require a scantron or calculator. Seating may be assigned and students must arrive on time. Exams are made up of mostly multiple-choice questions. Mid-semester exams focus on material since the previous exam, though they may have a few comprehensive questions. The final exam is comprehensive. The lowest exam score is dropped; thus, a student need not take the final exam if they are content with their previous exam scores. If an exam is missed with an excused absence (see below), a makeup can be provided if taken prior to the next class session (at which time exam answers will be discussed). If the exam cannot be taken in this time frame, the comprehensive final exam will comprise the makeup exam.

**QUIZZES:** Open-book quizzes on D2L/Brightspace are due most weeks according to the schedule provided in the course calendar. Two makeup quizzes are provided at the end of the semester that may replace two missed quizzes or low scores.

**DELIVERY MODE:** Primarily face-to-face with substantial asynchronous content. Face-to-face lectures will be simultaneously livestreamed. Students are free to choose which works best for them, with the caveat that the possibility of technical failures can’t be ruled out. Asynchronous lectures are indicated in the course calendar (most Thursdays) and can be viewed at any time. Class time on days for which asynchronous lectures are posted is conducted livestreamed in Zoom only (not face-to-face) and devoted to student questions.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is often taken randomly. There is no penalty for missing class, but extra credit points are often offered for punctual face-to-face attendance, participation and good behavior. No excuse needs to be provided for days missed other than exam days. An excused absence for an exam will be granted for illness, injury, university-sponsored event, or death in the family with appropriate documentation. Notification from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities does not...
on its own provide adequate documentation. A makeup exam will be provided if appropriate according to the exam policy above.

**ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR:** 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. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Instances of cheating or misconduct (including the appearance of a cell phone during an exam) on a graded activity will result in a score of 0 and loss of eligibility for bonus points. Do not carry on a separate conversation that might be distracting to your neighbors. Keep cell phones silenced and stowed away. Students texting, arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, talking amongst themselves, not participating in activities, repeatedly returning to and from class, or otherwise misbehaving may be subject to loss of points through penalties applied to assessment scores and/or dismissed from class. The use of a computer is allowed for taking notes only.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one's own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**WITHHELD GRADES (Semester Grades SFA Policy 5.5):** 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. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**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, 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/. Students are encouraged to meet with the professor during office hours regarding special needs. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
• Health Services  
• Counseling Services  
• Student Outreach and Support  
• Food Pantry  
• Wellness Coaching  
• Alcohol and Other Drug Education  

www.sfasu.edu/thehub  
936.468.4008  
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:  
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343  
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8  
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)  
• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSOCIATED CORE OBJECTIVES  
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 OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT  
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills (CO 1), Communication Skills (CO 2), Empirical and Quantitative Skills (CO 3), Teamwork (CO 4), Personal Responsibility (CO 5), and Social Responsibility (CO 6). 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 following core objectives requirement. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>TOPICS</td>
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| 1    | Intro to class, lesson 1: overview of life’s diversity  
     | Ch. 52: Ecology Intro |
| 2    | Ch. 53: Population Ecology |
| 3    | Ch. 54: Community Ecology  
     | Ch. 22: Descent with Modification |
| 4    | Ch. 23: Evolution of Populations |
| 5    | Review  
     | *Th, Sept. 28 - Exam 1 |
| 6    | Ch. 24: Origin of Species  
     | Ch. 26: Phylogeny/Tree of Life |
| 7    | Ch. 28: Protists |
| 8    | Ch. 29: Plants I |
| 9    | Review  
     | *Th: Oct. 26 – Exam 2 |
| 10   | Ch. 30: Plants II  
     | Ch. 31: Fungi |
| 11   | Ch. 32: Animals Overview  
     | Ch. 33: Invertebrate Animals |
| 12   | Ch. 33: Invertebrate Animals  
     | Ch. 34: Vertebrate Animals |
| 13   | Review  
     | *Th, Nov. 30: Exam 3 |
| 14   | TBA |
| 15   | *Tu, Dec. 12, 8:00 a.m. - Exam 4 (comprehensive) |