INTRODUCTION: Welcome to BIOLOGY 1308! This course provides the non-science major with an introduction to fundamental biological concepts. Biology is an exciting and rapidly growing field that impacts each and every one of in numerous ways.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION & JUSTIFICATION: A concepts-oriented course for the non-science major. Study of the origin of life, the cell, growth and reproduction, genetics, and evolution. Credit hour justification: 3 hours of class time per week with direct instruction involving lectures, activities, and assessments; 6 hours of out-of-class work per week consisting of reading assignments, review, and activities. Additional asynchronous minutes of content (at least 150 min.) will be provided to meet state requirements for class meeting time. Co-requisite lab: BIOL 1106.

Instructor: Dr. Dan Bennett
Department: Biology; Office: S-210/211 Miller Science Building; Phone: 936-468-5163; E-mail: bennetdj@sfasu.edu
Office hours: M-Th 1:15-2:30, widely available by appointment at other times. Office hours are F2F by default but can be done in Zoom by request.


COURSE WEBSITE: https://d2l.sfasu.edu/. Check Brightspace/D2L routinely for announcements, lecture slides, videos and other materials. Look for an announcement at the start of each week summarizing upcoming activities.

GRADING POLICY AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Lecture exam average: 60% of grade (~20% each, lowest of 4 dropped)
Quizzes: 6.7%
Lab score: 33.3% of grade

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

EXAMS: Exams are face-to-face, closed notes and don’t require a scantron or calculator. Seating may be assigned, and students must arrive on time. The lowest exam score is dropped from the grade calculation for students that exhibit good behavior. Exam 4 (final) is comprehensive. 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). Exam sessions may be videorecorded.

QUIZZES: Open-book quizzes on Brightspace occur most Friday mornings at the start of class. Two make-up quizzes will be available at the end of the semester that may replace scores of previous quizzes.

DELIVERY MODE: Most lecture material is provided face-to-face and livestreamed in Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays. Students may attend with either option, with the caveat that the livestream option cannot be guaranteed and is subject to possible technology failures. Most Friday sessions are livestreamed only and are generally dedicated to quizzes and review.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is taken randomly. Seating may be assigned. There is no penalty for missing class, though extra credit points are often awarded for punctual attendance, participation, and good behavior. No excuse needs to be provided for days missed other than exam days. An excused absence and makeup 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, students must also communicate directly with the professor in a timely (within 2 days of the absence) manner.

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 University Policy Manual: Student Conduct Code). 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. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. 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 bonus points and additional penalties applied to exam scores, including loss of the opportunity to drop the
lowest exam. Academic misconduct will result in a zero score on the relevant exam or assignment and will follow the procedure for academic integrity below.

SUGGESTIONS
- Check D2L/Brightspace daily for announcements routinely and use the course calendar in the syllabus.
- Have great attendance.
- Get the textbook. Read it. Re-read it.
- Keep up with the material. Avoid procrastination and cramming.
- Take quality notes. Print out the slides prior to lecture and add notes or use a digital substitute.
- Ask questions during class, review sessions and in office hours.
- Study with a friend or two. Create a study group!
- Plan to study up to 2 hours per lecture. (See SFA Policy Manual item 5.4 for definitions of credit hour, contact hour, and amount of work expected.)
- Stay organized!

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”
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)
- jotHcris 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).

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

There are no program learning outcomes in this course. It is a general education core class and/or service course.

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 requirements. 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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<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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<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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<td>Week</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Ch. 2 — Chemistry for Biology</td>
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<td>Ch. 3 — Molecules of Life</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Ch. 4 — Tour of the Cell</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Ch. 8 — Cell Reproduction; Ch. 9 — Inheritance</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Ch. 6 — Cell Respiration; Ch. 7 Photosynthesis</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Ch. 11 — How Genes are Controlled; <strong>Exam 2 (10/27)</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Ch. 13 — How Populations Evolve; Ch. 14 — How Biological Diversity Evolves</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Ch. 16 — Plants and Fungi, part 1</td>
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| 12   | Ch. 17 — Animals  
      | Ch. 18 — Intro to Ecology & the Biosphere; |
| 13   | Ch. 20 — Communities and Ecosystems  
      | **Exam 3 (12/1)** |
| 14   | TBA/Review |
| 15   | **Exam 4 (12/13), 9:00-10:15 a.m.** |