Biology for Science Majors I: BIO 1306.002 - Face-to-Face

Name: Dr. Dennis A. Gravatt
Email: dgravatt@sfasu.edu
Phone: 936-468-2418
Office: Miller Science 239

Office Hours: Posted under Office Hours in Brightspace or by appointment
Department: Biology
Class meeting time: M-W-F, 8:00-8:50

Course Description
Fundamental principles of living organisms will be studied, including physical and chemical properties of life, organization, function, evolutionary adaptation, and classification. Concepts of cytology, reproduction, genetics, and scientific reasoning are included. Co-requisite(s): BIOL 1106 Biology for Science Majors I (lab)

Text and Materials

Access to D2L by Brightspace
It is here that you will find the course content, i.e., content modules and other assigned work.

Disability Accommodations
Per the policy of Disability Services, “it is the student's responsibility to contact [each faculty member] to discuss disability-related needs in detail.” This discussion can be either face-to-face or via a Zoom conference. Please see office hours tab in Brightspace for how to set up a Zoom meeting.
Below is the example form that D.S. sends to each instructor:

“[Student name] has supplied Disability Services (DS) with documentation that qualifies for the services indicated below. It is the student's responsibility to contact you to discuss disability-related needs in detail. Reasonable accommodations are determined on a case-by-case basis, and the below requests have been made by the student involved and approved by the director of Disability Services.”

Course Requirements and Grading Policy
Four exams worth 100 points each will be administered throughout the semester for a total of 400 points for exams. Mastering Biology assignments will account for 100 points. Therefore, a total of 500 points may be possible in this course.

4 exams at 100 points each......................... 400 points
Mastering Biology Homework..................... 100 points
Total 500 points

The total points for Mastering Biology assignments will range from 200-400 points. However, these points will be adjusted to a 100-point scale. (e.g., 300 points out of 400 points will be entered as (300/400 * 100 = 75 points).

Lab will count at 25% of your final course grade, while lecture will comprise 75%. Your total points received from lecture tests, discussion questions and Mastering Biology will be divided by 500 (total points in
lecture), thus providing a final lecture average. A final course grade will be determined using the following formula:

\[(\text{Lecture Average} \times 0.75) = (\text{Lab Average} \times 0.25) = \text{Final Course Average}\]

Percentages are not round-up at the end of the semester (an 89.97 is still a ‘B’). The time to be concerned about points is each day of the semester while you are preparing for the exams. Extra credit is not available to improve your grade.

\[A = 100 - 90.0\%; \; B = 89.99 - 80.0\%; \; C = 79.99 - 70.0\%; \; D = 69.99 - 60.0\%; \; F = 59.99\% \text{ or below}\]

**Asynchronous Instructional Minutes**

Asynchronous instructional minutes are instructional experiences in which students are not required to be present (in person or via Zoom) at a specific time. The pedagogical format of this instructional time is determined by the instructor of record. The inclusion of asynchronous instructional minutes is required in order to comply with state and federal regulations on minimum contact hours in for-credit courses. Their addition was recommended in lieu of more face-to-face or Zoom contact time by the Calendar Committee after consulting with Faculty Senate, Chairs Forum, and the Student Government Association. All parties involved in decision-making and discussion of this issue agreed on the use of asynchronous instructional minutes in order to give faculty more scheduling flexibility, even though their use requires some additional course preparation.

In this course, your instructor has chosen to incorporate this additional learning experience into the Mastering Biology homework. The homework assignments will include tutorials and additional materials which will not be covered in the lecture periods, i.e., face-to-face class time, which will total approximately 150 minutes of contact time.

**Mastering Biology (homework assignments)**

Mastering Biology is a required part of this course. Mastering Biology is packaged with your textbook (if you purchase from a local bookstore or use the ISBN provided in the syllabus). It can also be purchased separately at the time you register for Mastering Biology. For those who need immediate access but do not yet have the funds to purchase it, Mastering Biology gives you a two week (14 day) temporary access period in which to begin your assignments.

If in the process of signing up for Mastering Biology you are asked for a course ID, you are not using the correct pathway to reach Mastering Biology. You need to go back and re-reread "Students, How to register for Mastering Biology." To access Mastering Biology, click on the "Pearson’s MyLab and Mastering Links" in the lower, right corner of the "Course Home" page.

When registering use your complete name. That is, use the name that you use for all official SFA business. Do not use nicknames or initials. Mastering Biology assignments deadlines are posted in the Course Timeline and are available with the beginning of new exam material.

**Communication**

Your SFA email account is your official account for which all communications will be transmitted, read here. Please send all e-mails to dgravatt@sfasu.edu (please don’t email through Brightspace by D2L) instead, use your SFA email account. Messages sent through Brightspace may or may not be answered. When emailing
Attendance Policy

Regular participation is required and will be assessed using quizzes, Mastering Biology and discussion forums. Make-up work (quizzes, homework, etc.) will only be allowed in the case of a university approved absence (illness with a doctor’s note, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. You can find SFA’s official policy regarding absences here. Below is a relevant excerpt:

“At the discretion of the instructor, students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. When possible, students should notify their instructors in advance about absences. Students are responsible for providing documentation in a timely manner to the instructor for each absence. The instructor determines whether such documentation is satisfactory. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences equaling no more than 15% of the scheduled course meeting time for the term, depending on the nature of the missed work.”

If you miss an exam due to one of the above, described circumstances: You must notify your instructor within 24 hours of a missed exam. I will ask for documentation to validate your absence. This may include a note indicating you visited a medical facility, a letter from a family member indicating a family emergency, etc. Unless such documentation can be provided, no make-up exam will be allowed. When a make-up exam is warranted, it will be made available at the instructor’s earliest convenience. You will be permitted to make up a maximum of 15% of GRADED ASSIGNMENTS (as per policy above).

Mastering Biology Homework Assignments are open for some period, at least 7 days, before being due. If you know you are going to be absent on a due date for a university sponsored outing, complete the assignment early. Being ill on the day an assignment is due is not an excused absence, as you had many days to complete the assignment. Don’t wait till the last minute to turn in assignments. Due dates are firm and won’t, except in the case of a natural disaster or school closing, be extended.

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 1306 -Biology for Science Majors I (Lecture) -you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Critical Thinking and Communication Skills.
Program Learning Outcomes
Each course objective and student learning outcome listed below corresponds to the Biology Department PLO 1, to Demonstrate a good knowledge base in biological concepts and be able to integrate knowledge with critical thinking skills to become problem solvers. Knowledge base will include: levels of complexity (molecular/cellular through population/communities/ecosystems); biological principles and processes.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Describe the characteristics of life (CO #1).
2. Explain the methods of inquiry used by scientists (CO #1, 2).
3. Identify the basic requirements of life and the properties of the major molecules needed for life (CO #1).
4. Compare structures, reproduction, and characteristics of viruses, prokaryotic cells, & eukaryotic cells (CO #1, 2).
5. Describe the structure of cell membranes and the movement of molecules across a membrane (CO #1, 2).
6. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in metabolism (CO #1).
7. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems (CO #1).
8. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins (CO #1).
9. Describe the unity and diversity of life and the evidence for evolution through natural selection (CO #1, 2).

Credit Hour Justification
Below is the expected time commitment that the average student should expect to complete during the semester for this course.

**BIOL 1306 Biology for Science Majors I: Face-to-Face**
- 45 hours in class time
- 48 hours homework/Mastering Biology (3 hours/week)
- 30 hours reading (300 pages, 5 minutes per page)
- 20 hours exam studying (3 exams + final)
- 5 hours exams (3 one-hour exam, plus 2-hour final exam)

148 hours

Academic Integrity (4.1)
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.

I expect everyone to do his or her own, original work. This includes all homework assignments, exams and quizzes. All quizzes and exams are closed-book! I will take appropriate disciplinary action, as described in the University Student Handbook, against anyone that does not comply with this policy.

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/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades 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 http://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, 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/.

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:

SFASU Counseling Services
• www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet)
• 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
Lecture Schedule

See posted Class Calendar in D2L by Brightspace course page