### BIOLOGY 1308 -003 (Biology for Non-Science Majors I -lecture): Spring 2024 Course Schedule

**Dr. J. Van Kley (jvankley@sfasu.edu); (936) 468-2068**

**T-TR 11:00 am - 12:15 pm; Vera Dugas Liberal Arts North Room 142**

#### Week (M) Lecture Topic & Text Reading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Text Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>First day of class 1/18/24; Introduction to Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Introduction to Biology (Ch.1); What Living Cells are Made of: The Molecules of Life (Ch. 2)</td>
<td>Tour of the Living Cell (Ch. 3)</td>
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<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Multi-cellular organisms: An example from the Plants (Ch. 3)</td>
<td>Cell Reproduction:  Mitosis  (Ch. 4); Meiosis &amp; Sexual Reproduction (Ch. 5)</td>
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<td>Feb 05</td>
<td>Patterns of Inheritance (Ch. 6)</td>
<td>The Chromosomal basis of Inheritance &amp; Human Genetics (Ch. 6); The Structure of DNA (Ch. 7)</td>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Film: 'The Hidden Kingdom'</td>
<td>Test 1.</td>
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<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>The 'Central Dogma': Flow of genetic information From DNA to RNA to Proteins (Ch. 7)</td>
<td>Controls over Genes (Ch 7)</td>
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<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>DNA Technology: Studying &amp; Manipulating Genomes (Ch. 8)</td>
<td>Cell Respiration: Energy from Food (Ch. 9)</td>
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<td>Mar 04</td>
<td>Film: 'Doctors in the Death Zone'</td>
<td>Test 2.</td>
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<td>Mar 11</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break!</strong></td>
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<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Photosynthesis: Sunlight to Make Food (Ch. 10)</td>
<td>How the Theory of Evolution Explains the Diversity of Life-forms (Ch. 11)</td>
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<td>Classification &amp; Diversity ( Ch. 12)</td>
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<td>Apr 01</td>
<td>Eukaryotes: ‘Protists” (Ch 14)</td>
<td>Plant Evolution &amp; Diversity (Ch. 15)</td>
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<td>Apr 08</td>
<td>Film: ‘Sexual Encounters of a Floral Kind</td>
<td>Test 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>Evolution &amp; Diversity of Fungi (Ch 14, second part)</td>
<td>Animal Evolution &amp; Diversity (Ch 16)</td>
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<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>Communities and Ecosystems (Ch. 17); The importance of Biodiversity (Ch. 18)</td>
<td>The Biosphere: Land and Water (Ch. 19)</td>
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<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>The Ecological Regions of Texas (Ch. 19)</td>
<td>Film: 'Blue Planet: the Deep”</td>
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<td>May 06</td>
<td><strong>Final Examination Week:</strong> (Final &amp; Test 4, Tuesday, May 07, 10:30 am)</td>
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**Week-begin dates shown above are Mondays. Our first class (T) is held a day later.**
Instructor: Dr. James Van Kley
Office Hours: T 12:30-4:00 pm, Th 12:30-2:00; Room 115 Miller Sci and Biology Greenhouse;
Phone: (936) 468-2068; email: jvankley@sfasu.edu or the D2L BrightSpace email for our course

Course Description: We humans are living organisms and we interact with other organisms on a daily basis. Moreover, the ecological future of the earth may depend on decisions made by humans from our generation. For these reasons, a basic knowledge of life-processes and an awareness of the biological world is a vital part of education regardless of what profession one is preparing for. During our Semester we will explore a variety of Biology Concepts including the Cell, the function of our DNA and genes and the proteins that they create, the concept of Evolution by Natural Selection, and Ecosystems, Ecology, and the amazing diversity of different life forms that we share our planet with. Since we ourselves are living organisms on Earth, the story of life on earth is also our story and we are linked to all other life by a common heritage!

This Lecture section is the 3 hour portion of a 4 semester-hour course (Biol 1308 supplemented with its co-requisite, Biol 1108 Lab). It meets for 3 hours a week; students should plan on spending about 6 additional hours a week on the course.

Email: jvankley@sfasu.edu (permanent) AND the D2L BrightSpace email for this course. I will monitor both emails. While I may monitor and answer emails during weekends and holidays, I will do so less diligently than on workdays and will not always answer as promptly, possibly waiting until the next workday.

Textbook: Biology: Central Concepts. Our textbook is an Open Educational Resource! Made possible by a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, it is customized to fit our course and is absolute Free! (the previous text for this course cost about $160!) Your textbook is present as 19 stand-alone chapters in your D2L Brightspace as a module under “content”. You will also encounter active links to the chapters you need to read as you progress through the course content pages in D2L.

D2L Brightspace: Access your Brightspace frequently! D2L will provide much of our course content – including copies of lecture PowerPoints, instruction modules based on the lecture content, our textbook, links, review materials, study quizzes, course announcements, this syllabus, test/quiz scores, and the course’s email. Pay special attention to D2L news items: I will use them for important course announcements!

Major Tests: There will be four non-cumulative major tests, and a cumulative final examination each worth 1/5 of the lecture grade. You will take the fourth test and the cumulative final together as a single two-part exam during Finals Week. It will collectively be worth two test grades. Tests (often on Thursdays) will take place in D2L Brightspace; Prior to the first test, locate a quiet space with good internet access -you will not need to come to class on those days.

Study Quizzes: Each lecture will be accompanied by a series of ‘study quizzes in D2L. Since the quizzes are as much for study aids as for evaluation, you will be able to take the quiz multiple (typically up to 10) times and the highest score earned will be the one counted. Each quiz will have a deadline. Quizzes taken after the deadline have a ‘late penalty’ typically 10% of the points) deducted from them. Second and subsequent attempts for a given quiz may be done after the deadline without penalty as long as the first attempt was on time. Access to the quizzes will ‘end’ the evening before the next test. You will no longer be able to access and get credit for a quiz after the end time. Take the quizzes and deadlines seriously; your quiz scores for a given test-unit contribute 10% of your total test grade!

Final Grades: When calculating your lecture score I will replace your worst test with your preliminary average (but read the ‘fine print’: I offer this benefit only to those who attempt all the tests and the final, not to those who ‘zero’ a test because they failed to take it! The lecture grade (Biol 2361) will constitute 2/3 and the lab grade (from Biol 2061) 1/3 of the total grade for the entire lecture-lab course series and will be the posted grade for Biol 2361. After calculating your total percentage (2/3 x percentage of points from lecture + 1/3 x lab percentage), final grades will be determined as follows: Total percentage > 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% -70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; <60% = F.

There will be no extra credit assignments in this course. Make-up tests will be allowed only for students with excused absences. Quizzes will “end” the evening before a given test and you will not be able to take them after that. Only students participating in University-sponsored events or those with a serious illness, family emergency, or a serious conflict will be granted an excused absence. You must provide verification from a family member, University official or doctor to be excused. Please inform me beforehand if you know you must miss a test. I am much more flexible when I know of an absence beforehand. Students with unexcused absences will receive a ZERO for any missed tests.
Attendance: Regular attendance and participation is essential to success in this course. I will be monitoring attendance and course engagement and assigning absences for missed lectures for missed classes or activities. I will calculate a 'participation' grade based on attendance course engagement. Missed lectures, late study quizzes, and missed study quizzes will result in deductions from your participation grade. The median deduction score for the class will be set at about 85%. Those with the fewest deductions will have a score of 100%. All other scores will be calculated relative to the median and maximum down to a minimum of zero. Your participation grade will provide the ‘quiz’ (10%) portion of the cumulative part of the Final. Beware: extremely poor participation may result in a negative score and degrade the score of your Final by more than the stated 10%! Also, I will consider attendance and participation for students with borderline grades: For example, a student with an excellent participation grade and a score of 79 may receive a "B" rather than a "C".

This is a face-to-face course and students are expected to come to class even though there are abundant resources for learning course content in D2L Brightspace; students who miss (unexcused) more than the equivalent of 3 weeks of class (9 lectures) will only be able to earn a maximum grade of ‘C’ regardless of their coursework scores! Additionally University and Departmental policy states that instructors may fail students who miss more than 3 weeks of class for ANY reason; I therefore reserve the right (on a case-by-case basis) to fail any student who misses 9 or more lectures.

Supplemental Instruction (SI): SI plans for this course are pending. If it goes forward, bonus points (1% point per test) will be awarded to regular SI attendees.

Asynchronous minutes
In accordance with SFASU policy for 3-semester-hour courses, there are 150 ‘asynchronous minutes’ built into your course time in addition to your classroom attendance where you are responsible for working through course content ‘on your own’. In Biol 1308, you will use most of this time doing ‘study quizzes’ in D2L to further engage you with the course content. You may also be required to work through a selected portion of the ordinary lecture notes on your own (and still be responsible for them on tests) in the event that we get behind on our lecture schedule.

Program Learning Outcomes for Biology 1308: 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 for Biology 2361: 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 2361 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that addresses the Texas State Core Curriculum Objectives (COs) below:

CO1- Critical Thinking Skills. Includes creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

CO2- Communication Skills. Includes effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

CO3- Empirical and Quantitative Skills. Includes analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

Student Learning Outcomes for Biology 1308: Students who complete Concepts of Biology will be able to:
1. Explain the scientific method and critically evaluate scientific information (CO 1, 3).
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, 2, 3).
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, 3).
6. Discuss the role of evolution in the history of life on Earth (CO 1).

Miscellaneous

Academic Integrity (See policy 10.4 & The University of Texas System Rules and Board of Regents’ Rule: 50101).
Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty in this class is subject to discipline which may include failing the course. Suspected students will be referred to the appropriate administrative authorities. The Dean of Students has primary authority and responsibility for the administration of the University process for students alleged to have engaged in conduct that violates this Policy.
Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person without giving sufficient credit, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a Student or the attempt to commit such acts.

a. Cheating is the following or attempt to do the following:
   i. Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another Student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another Student during a test, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another person during a test or on another assignment where doing so is prohibited by the Faculty member;
   ii. Possession and/or use during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes, calculators, electronic devices, books, or specifically designed “crib notes”;
   iii. 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, but which will be used again either in whole or in part, without permission of the Faculty member; or accessing a test bank without Faculty permission;
   iv. Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test;
   v. Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit;
   vi. Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.)

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. Misrepresenting facts for academic advantage to the University or an agent of the University. This includes 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; and providing false or misleading information in an effort to injure another Student academically or financially.

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 coursework 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 to compute 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, 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 promptly 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/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.

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

Updated: February 2023

• 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)
• Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Masks & COVID19 Precautions

COVID19 has not disappeared although vaccines and prior infections have resulted in many cases being milder than during the pandemic. Those who are at high risk (unvaccinated, immunocompromised, with underlying health conditions, etc.), or are concerned about getting COVID are strongly urged to wear masks in class or office meetings. If you are not already, get vaccinated and boosted. The vaccines are effective: the current vaccines (with boosters) are highly protective against hospitalization with severe COVID! Don’t be fooled by reports that COVID cases resulting from the current variants are not as serious as those of earlier strains: This is not true: Recent cases have been milder only due to vaccination or to previous COVID exposure!