

Contemporary Biology BIOL 1408 Spring 2017
Course Explanation and Syllabus*



GENERAL INFORMATION:

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Sibyl Bucheli (bucheli@shsu.edu)
Room: Lee Drain Building, room 142
Office Hours: Weds 10 - 12 am or by appointment

SECTION: BIOL 1408 - 02

MWF 11:00 pm - 11:50 pm
ROOM 207 LEE DRAIN BUILDING

I take violations against the Sam Houston State University Code of Student Conduct very seriously and, if necessary, will pursue all available options in the event of a violation. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

I will not discuss details about your grade via e-mail at any time, due to university policy and federal law. I will speak to you in person instead during my office hours. DO NOT involve a third-party who is not affiliated in an official capacity with SHSU (e.g., friend, roommate, and/or parent) in any matters pertaining to your enrollment in this course. Your instructor is legally prohibited from discussing most course/grade-related issues with third parties according to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: BIOL1408 Contemporary Biology. [BIOL1308/BIO134] Presentation for the non-science major of biological concepts and topical subjects related to science methods, embryological development, reproduction, genetics, evolution, human organ systems, disease, and environmental biology. Ethical considerations of reproduction and birth control, genetic engineering, environmental pollution and population control will be included. Credit in BIOL1308 as a laboratory science is contingent upon completion of BIO 114. Credit in this course cannot be applied to either a major or minor in the sciences. Fall, Spring, Summer. Credit 3.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

1. **Lecture** will cover the basics of contemporary biology with a focus on organismal diversity and ecology.
2. **Attendance** is not mandatory for lecture, but you will benefit greatly by attending. I will cover information that is not in your book that you will be responsible for knowing on the exams. See below for missed assignments policy.
3. **Exams and Assignments** will provide you with a gauge of your progress.
4. **Laboratory** is required for hands-on learning activities. Lab will count as 25% of your final grade. A separate syllabus will be provided in laboratory for those assignments. Your lab TA will be responsible for those grades.
5. **Reading** the assigned chapters and all handouts is necessary for the class.
6. **Pearson Mastering Biology Study Space** will aid in your out of class study sessions.
7. The syllabus and all announcements including changes to the lecture syllabus will be posted on Blackboard.
8. **BlackBoard** will be used to communicate all information and accomplish homework. It is your responsibility to regularly check for any changes and other announcements.
9. **TAKE NOTES!** Take them by hand! I am not obligated to post my lecture slides on blackboard and for some lectures I will not post any of the lecture slides. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COME TO LECTURE AND LAB AND TO TAKE NOTES!

COURSE RESOURCES:

Required Media: On-line web content provided with course enrollment
--Pearson Mastering Biology; access via Blackboard

Blackboard
--Available to all registered SHSU students.

Required eText: On-line eBook provided with course enrollment
Title Biology: The Core 2nd Edition
Author Eric J. Simon

Optional Printed Text: Title Biology: The Core 2nd Edition
Author Eric J. Simon
ISBN 978-0-13-415219-6
Publisher Benjamin-Cummings Publishing Company
Publication Date January 5, 2016

EVALUATION METHODS: Your grade will be derived from three lecture exams, a final examination, and 10 homework assignments.

1. **Prelecture Assignments:** There will be a total of 15 prelecture assignments worth 10 points each assigned weekly and due the week BEFORE the topic is scheduled. They will be completed Via Pearson Mastering Biology administered via Blackboard. I will drop the 2 lowest scores. Once the BlackBoard link closes, the assignment is due and there will be not late acceptances. *I do not give make-up assignments because you have the opportunity to drop your lowest grade.*
2. **Weekly Current Events Blogs:** There will be a total of 15 homework assignments throughout the semester worth 10 points each. They will be completed on BlackBoard via the Blogs tool. I will drop the 2 lowest scores. Once the BlackBoard link closes, the assignment is due and there will be not late acceptances. *I do not give make-up assignments because you have the opportunity to drop your lowest grade.*
3. **In Class Exams:** There are a total of 3 exams worth 100 points each. They will be taken in class. I do not give make-up exams because you have the opportunity to replace your lowest lecture exam grade with the final exam grade.
4. **Final Exam:** There will be one final exam worth 100 points. The final exam can be used to replace your lowest lecture exam score. I do not give make-up exams or early exams for the final exam. If you are not in attendance for the university scheduled final exam, you will receive a zero (0).

LECTURE POINT SOURCE:

	Number	Points
Summary Assessments	3	300 (100 points each)
Final Exam	1	100 (NOT REQUIRED; REPLACE LOWEST SUMMARY ASSESSMENT)
Prelecture Assessment	15	130 (10 points each; 2 LOWEST SCORES DROPPED)
Current Events Blogs	15	130 (10 points each; 2 LOWEST SCORES DROPPED)
Total		660

GRADING SCALE:

I use the following grading scale: I will calculate your grade to the nearest tenth of a point (00.0%). That means that if you get 79.5%, you earned a C, not B and if you get 79.9%, you earned a C, not B. You can track your score throughout the semester by checking your scores on Black Board. Adding up your total score and dividing it by the total possible (at that point) will give you're your percentage grade. **The instructor reserves the right to curve the grading scale downward (an upward curve will not be applied.)**

Percent:	Letter Grade:
100.0-90.0	A
89.9-80.0	B
79.9-70.0	C
69.9-60.0	D
59.9 AND BELOW	F

CLASS POLICIES:

1. **NO extra credit** or bonus points will be applied.
2. **I will make no exceptions to the following policies:**
 - During an in-class examination period, any student arriving after the first student has turned in the answer sheet **will not be allowed to take the exam.**
 - Because all students have the opportunity to drop their lowest assessment grade, **I do not give any make-up assessments for any reason.**
3. Because all students have the opportunity to drop their two lowest prelecture and current event grades, **I do not give any make-up assignments for any reason. Plagiarism** will be handled to the fullest extent possible.
5. **Lecture notes on Blackboard:** I will post SOME, not all the lectures, on blackboard, and these may be an abbreviated version. I will not make special adjustments to the lecture slides for printing conveniences. I will not announce changes to the Blackboard slides. It is your responsibility to come to lecture and take notes.
6. **Attendance, Reading the book, and Taking notes:** You are expected to read you book, attend class and sign the roster, and take notes in lecture.
7. **Completing work:** It is your responsibility to study and complete all assignments.
8. You Must **Study** for this Class: Studying includes both understanding concepts and memorizing facts. I emphasize the study skills outlined on the Sam Website <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/hs/studyskills.html>
9. **Entering class late:** Entering a lecture late can qualify as disruptive behavior when the student disturbs me during my lecture or disturbs the students around them while becoming situated. See #6 for more details regarding disruptive behaviors.
10. **Missed work:** Excusing a student is at the discretion of the faculty (see below, "SAM POLICY, Class Attendance; below"). I do not give make-up exams or homeworks and any students arriving to an exam after the first person turns in their answer sheet will be counted as absent and will not be allowed to take the exam.
11. **Disruptive Behaviors:** You are expected to adhere to the Sam Houston University Code of Student Conduct. I take violations against this code very seriously and will pursuit all available options if students violate this code. See below, or your handbook or the website www.shsu.edu/syllabus/ for full details. Violations include but are not limited to:
 1. talking out of turn in lecture,
 2. obscene language,
 3. reading the newspaper or any nonBIOL1308 material,
 4. completing assignments in lecture other than assigned BIOL1308,
 5. cell phones ringing,
 6. answering cell phones,
 7. text messaging,
 8. cheating,
 9. and plagiarism.
12. I reserve the right to assign attendance bonus points at any time.
13. I reserve the right to assign in lecture pop-quizzes that count as points towards the final score at any time.
14. There will be NO ADDITIONAL extra credit or bonus points under any circumstance or for any reason.
1. The instructor reserves the right to curve the grading scale downward (an upward curve will not be applied).

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Description of Assignments

Weekly Reading Assessments

- Read the assigned Chapter according to weekly topic BEFORE the lecture is delivered (see above)
- Follow the link in Blackboard to access Pearson Mastering
- Complete the assigned quiz material by the assigned due date (10 points)
- You will get 1 hour to complete the assignment on-line once it is launched
- No make up assignments will be allowed

Blog Homework

- Follow the blog link in Blackboard
- After the lecture is delivered (see above), choose a current event by looking at the following or similar websites: Science Daily, National Geographic, Biology News Net, Scientific American, Science World. Each of these is searchable.
- Write a 100 – 150 word summary of the topic including a statement of why it is relevant to my lecture topic (10 points) as your blog entry. You may NOT use any direct quotes; all writing must be in your words only.
- Pose 2 questions on each of your blog posts (5 points). These questions must be serious and open ended and they must stimulate a discussion (no questions that can be answered with a “yes/no”).
- Read another persons blog weekly (does not have to be a current week; can be any weeks topic) and answer their 2 questions weekly on other peoples blog posts (5 points).

****You must cite your source in your blog post. Example:**

Cisler S. MediaTracks. Public Access Comput Syst Rev [serial online]1990;1(3):109-15. Available from: Public Access Computer Systems Forum PACS-L via the INTERNET. Accessed 1990 Nov 29.

An example is provided on Blackboard

Lecture Exams

- Multiple choice format
- You will have 50 minutes to complete the exam
- You will need an 882-E scan-tron form and a #2 lead pencil
- No make up exams given

Final Exam

- Multiple choice format
- Questions taken from current events
- Will have two hours to complete
- You will need an 882-E scan-tron form and a #2 lead pencil
- No make up exams given or early exams will be given

Topics by Week

Week	Lecture Topic	Read in your Book	Assignment	Due
Week 1	Introduction and Study Tips; What is Life?	Chapter 1; Sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 - 1.8	no Prelecture Homework	no Prelecture Homework
			no blog	no blog
Week 2	The Scientific Method	Chapter 1; Section 1.3	Prelecture Homework over Week 2	Due Sunday Jan 22 at midnight
			Blog over Week 1	Due Sunday Jan 22 at midnight
Week 3	Macromolecules	Chapter 2; Sections 2.1, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13 Chapter 6; Sections 6.1	Prelecture Homework over Week 3	Due Sunday Jan 29 at midnight
			Blog over Week 2	Due Sunday Jan 29 at midnight
Week 4	Cell Structure	Chapter 3; All Sections	Prelecture Homework over Week 4	Due Sunday Feb 5 at midnight
			Blog over Week 3	Due Sunday Feb 5 at midnight
Week 5	Energy Cycle, Photosynthesis, Cellular Respiration	Chapter 4; All Sections	Prelecture Reading over Week 5	Due Sunday Feb 12 at midnight
			Blog over Week 4	Due Sunday Feb 12 at midnight
			Exam 1 Friday Feb 17	
Week 6	Chromosomes, Cell Division, and Sex	Chapter 5; Sections 5.1 - 5.9	Prelecture Reading over Week 6	Due Sunday Feb 19 at midnight
			Blog over Week 5	Due Sunday Feb 19at midnight
Week 7	DNA and Mutations	Chapter 6; Sections 6.1 - 6.12	Prelecture Reading over Week 7	Due Sunday Feb 26 at midnight
			Blog over Week 6	Due Sunday Feb 26 at midnight
Week 8	Evolution	Chapter 7; All Sections	Prelecture Reading over Week 8	Due Sunday March 5 at midnight
			Blog over Week 7	Due Sunday March 5 at midnight
Week 9	Spring Break			
Week 10	Bacterial Biodiversity	Chapter 8; All Sections	Prelecture Reading over Week 10	Due Sunday March 19 at midnight
			Blog over Week 8	Due Sunday March 19 at midnight

Continued on next page.

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Week	Lecture Topic	Read in your Book	Assignment	Due
Week 11	Fungal Biodiversity	Chapter 9; Sections 9.1 - 9.2	Prefecture Reading over Week 11	Due Sunday March 26 at midnight
			Blog over Week 9	Due Sunday March 26 at midnight
			Exam 2 Friday March 31	
Week 12	Plant Biodiversity	Chapter 9; Sections 9.4 - 9.13	Prefecture Reading over Week 12	Due Sunday April 2 at midnight
			Blog over Week 10	Due Sunday April 2 at midnight
Week 13	Invertebrate Biodiversity	Chapter 10; Sections 10.1 - 10.5	Prefecture Reading over Week 13	Due Sunday April 9 at midnight
			Blog over Week 11	Due Sunday April 9 at midnight
			NO CLASS FRIDAY	
Week 14	Vertebrate Biodiversity I	Chapter 10; Sections 10.6 - 10.9	Prefecture Reading over Week 14	Due Sunday April 17th at midnight
			Blog over Week 12	Due Sunday April 17th at midnight
Week 15	Vertebrate Biodiversity II	Chapter 10; Sections 10.10, 10.11	Prefecture Reading over Week 15	Due Sunday April 23rd at midnight
			Blog over Week 13	Due Sunday April 23rd at midnight
Week 16	Ecosystems biology	Chapter 12; Sections 12.1 - 12. 12	Prefecture Reading over Week 16	Due Sunday April 30th at midnight
			Blog over Week 14	Due Sunday April 30th at midnight
			Exam 3 Friday May 5	
Week 17	Finals Week		no Prefecture Homework	no Prefecture Homework
			Blog over Week 15	Due Sunday May 7th at midnight
			Wednesday May 10 12:00 p.m. - 02:00 p.m.	

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SPRING 2017

DATE	EVENT
January 18	Spring 2017 Classes Begin
February 2	Last Day to drop without a "Q" Grade and Receive 100% Refund Last day to drop without a "Q" grade and receive 100% refund Notes: - Dropping full schedule constitutes a resignation, not a drop - Limitation of Q Drops at Sam Houston State University
February 2	Twelfth Class Day / Census Day for Spring 2017
March 13 - March 17	Spring Recess for Students and Faculty
March 20	Classes Resume
April 7	Last Day to Drop 15-Week Spring Courses or Labs with a "Q" Grade Deadline to Drop 15-Week Spring Courses or Labs with a "Q" grade Notes: - Students will not be permitted to drop 15-week courses after this date - they will receive the grade they have earned - Dropping full schedule constitutes a resignation, not a drop - Limitation of Q Drops at Sam Houston State University
April 14	Good Friday - Holiday for Students and Faculty
April 21	Last Day to Submit Electronic Route Sheet to the Dean of Graduate Studies (Thesis/Dissertation) See Thesis & Dissertation website for more information
May 5	Last Class Day. Last Day to Resign by 5:00 PM in the Registrar's Office
May 8 - May 11	Final Examinations

RESIGNATION NOTE: A resignation is when a student drops all of their currently enrolled courses. Students who resign before the 12th class day will not have any indication in their official transcript. Students who resign beginning the 13th class day until the deadline posted in the academic calendar will have a "W" grade. However, if a final exam has been given for any course or lab you will not be permitted to resign.

SAM POLICY

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The university and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Visitors in the classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of the university that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting their instructor, school/department chair, or by contacting the university Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students/ Director of Counseling Center (located in Lee Drain Annex, phone 936-294-1720). A student with a disability is encouraged to register with the university Counseling Center, as well as contacting their instructor about assistance needs. Accommodation cannot be made until the student has initiated the request with the Counseling Center. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the Counseling Center and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center. All requests are handled with confidentiality according to university procedures.

Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that the university excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a

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reasonable time after the absence. University Policy 861001 provides procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first 15 days of the semester or the first 7 days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

Class Attendance

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html>

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.
2. Each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance.
3. Each faculty member will announce the policies for accepting late work or providing makeup examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations.
4. A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences.
5. Each instructor is obligated to clarify in writing to each student enrolled in class at the beginning of the semester or summer session the instructor's classroom policy regarding absences.
6. Class absences will be recorded and counted only from the actual day of enrollment for the individual student in that specific class.
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