

COURSE: Contemporary Biology, BIO 1408.06, online lecture and online lab, Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Joan Hudson

judson@shsu.edu, Office: Rm 129 - Lee Drain Building, Office: (936) - 294-1541

Office Hours: TTh: 9:30-10:30. or by appointment or anytime I am online.

TEXT: *What is Life? A Guide to Biology* by Jay Phelan, published by W. H. Freeman and Company, second edition, 2013.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objective of this course is to provide a broad overview of the field of biology to non-science majors.

This course will:

- 1) demonstrate the importance of the scientific method as a means to answer questions concerning natural phenomena,
- 2) reveal characteristics that are present in most life forms (animals, plants, bacteria, fungi),
- 3) demonstrate how organisms interact with each other in the living world ,
- 4) show the diversity of life forms,
- 5) demonstrate how biological organisms function,
- 6) show how life is changing over time – evolution,
- 7) prepare students to think critically about science in the news and in everyday life, and
- 8) emphasize that we are all scientists.**

After taking this course, the student should have a better understanding of the living world and be able to share this knowledge with others.

GRADING: Four 50 minute exams, 100 points each, 400 points.

10 Chapter quizzes, 10 points each, 100 total points.

4 Chapter assignments, 25 points each, 100 total points

Lab, 200 points

Total points in the class = 800 points

There are no extra credit points.

Final grade determination:

A = 90% - 100% (720-800 points)

B = 80% - 89% (640-719 points)

C = 70% - 79% (560-639 points)

D = 60% - 69% (480-559 points)

F = 0% - 59% (0- 479 points)

QUIZZES: Quizzes will be multiple choice questions and “open book” (notes, powerpoints, etc can be used).

They will each be 10 questions, each question will be worth 1 point, for a total of 10 points. Total points for the quizzes is 100 points.

Each quiz will have unlimited time but must be completed in one sitting.

Quizzes can be taken after the closing date. The quizzes are open now, so they can be taken now. You can always get ahead, but do not get behind. The closing date is to encourage students to keep up with the materials. Please do not get behind.

FOUR CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS: Four chapter assignments are each worth 25 points. The assignments must be submitted before the closing date. Late assignments will be accepted but maximum point value will be 12/25 since it is late. Assignment instructions will be in Blackboard under Chapters 5, 9, 11 and 16.

EXAMS: Exams will be multiple choice with 52 questions (2 questions are bonus questions), each question worth 2 points for a total of 100 points. Each exam will have a time limit of 50 minutes and must be completed in one sitting.

Respondus Lockdown Browser must be used. “**Respondus LockDown Browser™** is a custom browser that locks down the testing environment within Blackboard... When students use Respondus LockDown Browser they are unable to print, copy, go to another URL, or access other applications. When an assessment is started, students are locked into it until they submit it for grading.”

The exams can be taken after the closing date. As mentioned above, please do not get behind and try to take all quizzes and exams before the closing date.

Exams are NOT open book. No materials of any kind can be used for the exams.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: The Student Code and Faculty Handbook will be followed in the event of academic dishonesty. Again, no materials of any kind can be used for the exams and Respondus Lockdown Browser is required.

Laboratory: Laboratory exercises will be completed each week. Four laboratory exercises will involve group work.. **Laboratory exercises must be completed by the closing date. There is a late penalty for labs submitted after the closing date. One week after the closing date, labs will not be graded – no exceptions.**

Additional information will be provided in the laboratory section. Each lab section will have a teaching assistant (TA) who will manage the lab and grade lab exercises. Questions concerning lab grades and lab exercises should be directed to your TA.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with any type of disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities in this class should contact me as soon as possible. We can work together to come up with a plan to assist you with this course. *Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations.*

ONLINE REQUIREMENTS: Check Course Home for additional important/useful information/requirements for this online class.

TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS: Please contact the tech people about problems with technology.

I cannot help you if your technology is not working. Plan to take quizzes and exams when the tech people are available if you are not confident about the technology. They have been able to help students in the past.

GENERAL HINTS:

1. Print the syllabus so you will be able to keep up with the chapters and lab exercises – this is a problem for some students. **It is very important to keep up with both the lecture and lab for this class.**
2. Print the powerpoint lectures and watch the lecture videos, taking notes on the printed powerpoint lectures.
3. Watch the “Focus Points” videos.
4. Do not wait until the closing date to take the quizzes/exams and submit the 25 point chapter assignments and lab exercises.
5. Take the quizzes and exams in a quiet place where you are confident you will have a continuous internet connection. Avoid taking the exam during bad weather.
6. Prepare for the quizzes – watch the lecture video, read the chapter. Study the figures. Study.

7. When you e-mail, please include your name and BIOL 1408. I want to know who you are. My name is Dr. Hudson.

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23 Aug. – 27 Aug. Introduction to course, Scientific Thinking, Chapter 1

10 point quiz covering introduction (closes September 3, 2017)

10 point quiz covering Chapter 1 (closes September 3, 2017)

28 Aug. – 3 Sept. Chemistry, Chapter 2

10 point quiz covering Chapter 2 (closes September 3, 2017)

4 Sept. – 10 Sept. Cells, Chapter 3

10 point quiz covering Chapter 3 (closes September 10, 2017)

11 Sept. – 17 Sept. Energy, Chapter 4

EXAM 1 - covering Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 (closes September 17, 2017)

18 Sept. – 24 Sept. DNA, Gene Expression and Biotechnology, Chapter 5

10 point quiz covering Chapter 5 (closes September 24, 2017)

25 Sept. – 1 Oct. Chromosomes and Cell Division, Chapter 6

10 point quiz covering Chapter 6 (closes October 1, 2017)

2 Oct. – 8 Oct. Genes and Inheritance, Chapter 7

10 point quiz covering Chapter 7 (closes October 8, 2017)

9 Oct. – 15 Oct. Evolution and Natural Selection, Chapter 8

EXAM 2 – covering Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8 (closes October 15, 2017)

16 Oct. – 22 Oct. Evolution and Behavior, Chapter 9

10 point quiz covering Chapter 9 (closes October 22, 2017)

23 Oct. – 29 Oct. The Origin and Diversification of Life on Earth, Chapter 10

10 point quiz covering Chapter 10 (closes October 29, 2017)

31 Oct. – 5 Nov. Animal Diversification, Chapter 11

10 point quiz covering Chapter 11 (closes November 5, 2017)

6 Nov. – 12 Nov. Plant and Fungi Diversification, Chapter 12

EXAM 3 – covering Chapter 9, 10, 11 and 12 (closes November 12, 2017)

13 Nov. – 19 Nov. Evolution and Diversity Among the Microbes, Chapter 13

20 Nov. – 26 Nov. Population Ecology, Chapter 14

27 Nov. – 3 Dec. Ecosystems and Communities, Chapter 15

Conservation and Biodiversity, Chapter 16

EXAM 4 – Final exam covering Chapters 13, 14, 15 and 16

Closes at 11:59 pm on Thurs. December 7, 2017