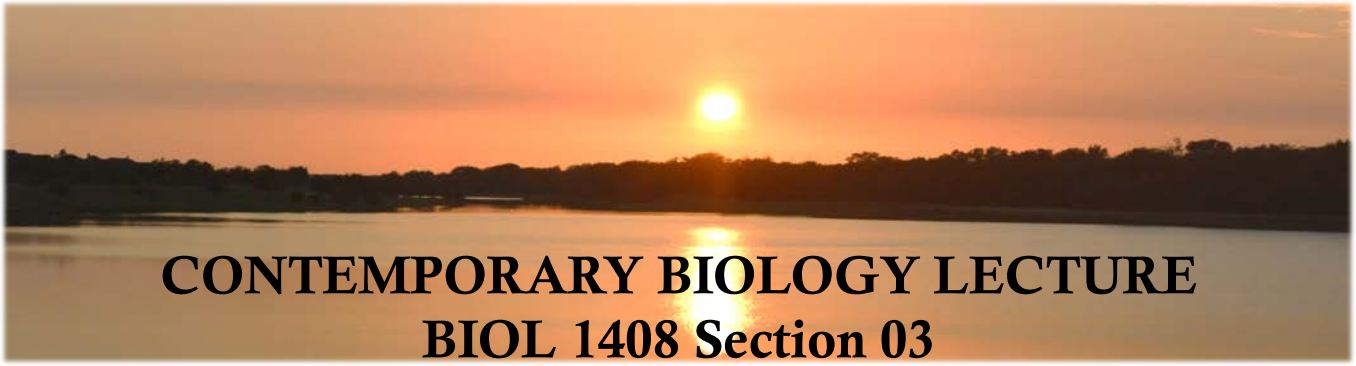


CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY LECTURE
BIOL 1408 Section 03

Syllabus Spring 2018

Professor: Dr. Danielle Goodspeed
Email: dmg048@shsu.edu
Phone: 936-294-3271
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Most office hours are completely booked!! Email me in advance to reserve a spot.
Office: LDB 145

CLASS INFORMATION:

Meeting Times: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11:00 AM- 11:50 AM
Location: Lee Drain Building 207

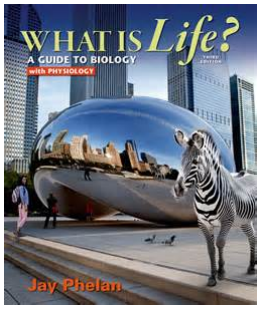
PLEASE READ THE SYLLABUS!!! It is an important document that explains:

- What I expect from each one of you
- What you can expect from me
- The topics that I will cover
- How you will be assessed to determine your grade in the class

If you have any questions please DO NOT hesitate to ask me. If anything is unclear to you in this syllabus ASK!! I have my contact information listed above. Emailing or coming to see me in person is the best way to get in touch with me.

Required Textbook:

What is Life? A Guide to Biology, 3rd Edition
By Jay Phelan
W.H. Freeman Publishing
ISBN 978-1-464-13595-8



Goals for this Course:

Through this course I hope to:

1. The biology is simply amazing and I hope to show you how diverse and wonderful the world around you is.
2. Biology is an ever-evolving field of study, my hope is that by the end of this class you have learned the concepts that drive the field of biology, while learning how fun it can be to study biology.
3. Biology is exciting, and I hope that you end up with an appreciation for the world around you.

Course Description:

Have you ever wondered how biologists study the world around us? How do living organisms reproduce, develop, and evolve? In this class we will cover an array of biological concepts including: the scientific method, embryological development, reproduction, genetics, evolution, human organ systems, disease, and environmental biology. We will also cover the ethical considerations of reproduction and birth control, genetic engineering, environmental pollution and population control. By the end of this class my goal is to leave you with an appreciation for biology.

I want each and every one of you to do well in this class!! Please come to see me if you are not understanding the material, need help studying, or have any questions about your grade. It is imperative to come to me as soon as you start to need help in the course! **IF YOU WAIT TO THE LAST MINUTE IT WILL BE TOO LATE!!!** On the first page of this syllabus are numerous ways to contact me. USE THEM!!

Some particulars about this course:

During the course of the semester we will have several active learning activities where we will work together in large group settings. I hope that during the course you will learn to work well with each other and you will be excited about the discussion classes we have scheduled. The best part about group study: Everyone will have a different point of view and through discussions you will have a priceless opportunity to learn!!!

Important Dates:

The lecture schedule gives you important dates for this class.

EXAM DATES ARE SET IN STONE, THEY WILL NOT CHANGE AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE UP THE EXAM! A missed exam will result in a zero for that exam. If there is an emergency and you need to miss an exam, contact me as soon as possible. All exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.

THE FINAL EXAM IS CUMULATIVE, all the material from the course will be on the final.

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in the class, please contact me to discuss your needs. All discussions are confidential. It will be your responsibility to contact me ahead of time to make sure your needs are met. If you need special accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities in the Lee Drain North Annex building, telephone number: 936-294-3512.

Assignments and Grading Scheme:

Exams: There will be three (3) exams worth 100 points each. Each exam will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. Each exam will be closed book, and use of any notes is prohibited. During any exam, **ALL** electronic equipment including cell phones must be TURNED OFF and put away. The one exception made is for primary care givers. Before taking the exam, all books, notes, and electronic equipment including cell phones will be stowed in the student's backpack and placed out of sight under the student's desk. **PLEASE NOTE:** *Once the lecture exam begins, a student may not leave the room and be readmitted to the exam room to resume taking the exam.*

In-class discussions/quizzes: Throughout the semester there will be a variety of in-class group discussions and quizzes. **Please come prepared for class.** If a quiz is given, it will be closed book, and all electronic devices will need to be turned off and out of sight.

Homework: Each week there will be a homework assignment. Detailed instructions will be given in class and posted on blackboard. Briefly, you will search for a current event related to biology, and read the article. Then, you will write a summary of the article, including why it is important for the class. You will need to cite your homework assignment. This homework assignment will be handed in via Blackboard. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!

Final Exam: The final exam will be a comprehensive, cumulative final exam worth 150 points. The final exam will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. The exam will be closed book, and use of any notes is prohibited. **ALL** electronic equipment including cell phones must be TURNED OFF and put away. Before taking the exam, all books, notes, and electronic equipment including cell phones will be stowed in the student's backpack and placed out of sight under the student's desk. **PLEASE NOTE:** *Once the lecture exam begins, a student may not leave the room and be readmitted to the exam room to resume taking the exam.*

Your final grade for lecture will be a combination of:

Exams 100 pts Each (total of 3)	300 pts
In-Class Discussions/Quizzes	100 pts
Homework	150 pts
Final Exam	150 pts
Total Possible Points	700 pts

The **FINAL GRADE** for the class will combine both the lecture and the lab. The lecture is 75% of your final grade and the lab is 25% of the final grade.

The class schedule on the last page of the syllabus lists the due dates for every assignment throughout the semester. This is important to note because **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED**. If you try to turn in your assignment after the due date it will NOT be accepted and you will receive a zero for that assignment. Contact me immediately as soon as possible if you have an emergency which causes you to miss a deadline.

You can calculate your current lecture grade at any time throughout the semester. To do this, total up your points received for each assignment and exam. Then divide by the total number of points possible so far. Multiply by 100 to get the percentage of your grade. This is how your final grade will be determined. The following scale will be used to determine your letter grade:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 and below	F

Other Important Stuff You Should Know:

Attendance Policy: **You are required to attend every class, attendance is MANDATORY.** If you miss the lectures you will not do well in this class. Going to class will teach you a lot about yourself, what I expect from you in each class (i.e. listening, note taking, the material), and how to work with others. You can only get credit for the in-class assignments by ATTENDING CLASS. The ONLY way that you have an opportunity to make up an in-class assignment is for a medical or another official excuse. Four or more absences may result in an "F" grade for the course.

Academic Dishonesty: The professor-student relationship is based on trust. You trust that I will do my best to teach you the subject-matter and that I will be available when you need me. I trust that you will put your best effort into your work. This also means that you will be honest in your work.

ABSOLUTELY NO FORM OF COPYING, PLAGIARISM OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL BE TOLERATED.

Students who turn in plagiarized work or who are caught cheating will receive a zero for that assignment and may even result in an F for the class. Please note that cheating includes copying from your classmates or allowing someone else to copy from you. Plagiarism includes copying directly from sources on the web. If you are unsure if something constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please ASK. Claiming ignorance is not an excuse. **Absolutely NO PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC OR COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT IS ALLOWED ON YOUR PERSON DURING EXAMS.**

Sam Houston State University's Academic Dishonesty Statement States *"All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom."* Cheating hurts you in many ways. Make the right choice – don't do it!!

Suggestions for doing well in this course (your responsibilities in this class):

- **Come to class!** This is an opportunity to not only learn about the content of the course but also to learn note-taking skills, how to work on a schedule, how to work with others, and how to figure out what is important with the material covered. One of the main aspects of my class is working in groups. Therefore, you missing class means you are not only affecting yourself, but others as well. Please keep this in mind!
- **Participate in class discussions!** Group discussions are very important in my class. This is where you will talk to your classmates and hearing others you will learn about different viewpoints and learn how to organize your thoughts. This is important! We want to know what you think.
- **Take good notes!** You will receive my slides, you do not need to copy everything I say. That being said, you want to take notes on the main points I make. Therefore, ***Listening*** is very important. One of the best ways to study is to rewrite your notes as you study, adding to them as you study in more detail. If you miss class, get a classmate's notes.
- **Read ahead!** In the course schedule I have listed the chapters we will be covering that day. To get the most out of lecture, it is important that you read these chapters BEFORE you get into class.
- **Study!** The rule of thumb is that you spend 2 hours of study time for each hour spent in class but you may need more or less time – only you can determine that. Some topics will require more time, others less. You should get into the habit of studying weekly, not just right before exams. Do not procrastinate. We cover a lot of material and it will get overwhelming quickly if you do not keep up. Studying for exams will be a lot easier if you have reviewed on a weekly basis. Your grade will show it!
- **Draw and write as you study!** Test yourself. Writing and drawing things out is a great way to make sure you really understand the material.
- **Study in groups!** This is one of the best ways to study! It helps to reinforce the concepts, and also to determine what you are lacking understanding in and may need more time studying. If you can explain things to others, it means you have learned them.
- **Get help if you need it!** Ask questions. My class is an informal lecture setting. That means when I am speaking, if you don't understand something, STOP ME! I want to know if I am not being clear on a concept. If this is not something you are comfortable with, then come to me after lecture or during office hours and I can work with you to understand the concepts. Additionally, UST has a Tutorial Services Center that offers a vast array of activities, workshops and information that can help you improve your study, time-management, and test-taking skills. They also offer free peer tutoring in all subjects! Take advantage of these opportunities – they are free and offered to help you succeed.

CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY
TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date		Topic	Chapter	Due Dates
1/17/2018	Weds	Introduction of the Class		
1/19/2018	Fri	Scientific Method	1	
1/22/2018	Mon	Scientific Method	1	
1/24/2018	Weds	Scientific Method	1	
1/26/2018	Fri	Scientific Method	1	HW 1 Due
1/29/2018	Mon	Cells	3	
1/31/2018	Weds	Cells	3	
2/2/2018	Fri	Cells	3	HW 2 Due
2/5/2018	Mon	DNA, Gene Expression, and Biotechnology	5	
2/7/2018	Weds	DNA, Gene Expression and Biotechnology	5	
2/9/2018	Fri	DNA, Gene Expression, and Biotechnology	5	HW 3 Due
2/12/2018	Mon	DNA, Gene Expression, and Biotechnology	5	
2/14/2018	Weds	Review		
2/16/2018	Fri	EXAM 1	1, 3, 5	
2/19/2018	Mon	Chromosomes and Cell Division	6	
2/21/2018	Weds	Chromosomes and Cell Division	6	
2/23/2018	Fri	Chromosomes and Cell Division	6	HW 4 Due
2/26/2018	Mon	Chromosomes and Cell Division	6	
2/28/2018	Weds	Genes and Inheritance	7	
3/2/2018	Fri	Genes and Inheritance	7	HW 5 Due
3/5/2018	Mon	Genes and Inheritance	7	
3/7/2018	Weds	Review		
3/9/2018	Fri	EXAM 2	6, 7	
3/12/2018	Mon	SPRING RECESS- NO CLASSES		
3/14/2018	Weds	SPRING RECESS- NO CLASSES		
3/16/2018	Fri	SPRING RECESS- NO CLASSES		
3/19/2018	Mon	Evolution and Natural Selection	8	
3/21/2018	Weds	Evolution and Natural Selection	8	
3/23/2018	Fri	Evolution and Natural Selection	8	HW 6 Due
3/26/2018	Mon	The Origin and Diversification of Life on Earth	10	
3/28/2018	Weds	The Origin and Diversification of Life on Earth	10	HW 7 Due
3/30/2018	Fri	GOOD FRIDAY- NO CLASSES		
4/2/2018	Mon	The Origin and Diversification of Life on Earth	10	
4/4/2018	Weds	Animal Diversification	11	
4/6/2018	Fri	Animal Diversification	11	HW 8 Due
4/9/2018	Mon	Animal Diversification	11	
4/11/2018	Weds	Review		
4/13/2018	Fri	EXAM 3	8, 10, 11	
4/16/2018	Mon	Population Ecology	14	
4/18/2018	Weds	Population Ecology	14	
4/20/2018	Fri	Population Ecology	14	HW 9 Due
4/23/2018	Mon	Ecosystems and Communities	15	
4/25/2018	Weds	Ecosystems and Communities	15	
4/27/2018	Fri	Ecosystems and Communities	15	HW 10 Due
4/30/2018	Mon	Review		
5/2/2018	Weds	Review		
5/4/2018	Fri	Review		
5/9/2018	Weds	COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM		12:00-2:00 PM

Please note: this schedule is tentative and subject to change by instructors. Topics per date may vary, but **exam and lab practical dates are set and will not change**.