

CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY

BIOLOGY 1408

Section 03

Lee Drain Building – Room 214

MWF 8:00 – 8:50

Spring 2018
Pre-requisites: none

Instructor: Tim Tripp

Office Hours: MWF 11:00-12:00
or by appointment

Office: 143 LDB

Phone: 294-1551

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Biology 1408 is a course in general biology for the non-science major. The class is designed to expose non-scientists to the importance, applicability, and process of science, in this case the science of biology. Given that biology is defined as the study of life, and all of you should appreciate life (at least your own), I am unsympathetic to complaints about how this course is “irrelevant” to you. I hope to demonstrate its relevance by helping you understand general biological concepts encountered in everyday life. This knowledge should allow you to have a better understanding of the world around you, and to make more informed decisions in matters dealing with your health and with the environment. Lectures will deal with a wide variety of topics that examine “life” at all its levels, from biomolecules to cells to individuals to the biosphere.

Important note: Your course grade for BIOL 1408 is a combination of your work in both lecture and lab. Points from lecture will contribute 75% of your course grade and lab will contribute 25%. You must be enrolled and remain enrolled in both lecture and lab for the entire semester to receive a grade.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- √ Understand what science is, and what it is not
- √ Acquire a factual knowledge base of biological terms and concepts
- √ Learn fundamental principles and theories of biology
- √ Learn to apply your knowledge of science in general, and biology specifically, to critically evaluate information when solving problems and making decisions

READING MATERIAL:

TEXTBOOK: Phelan, Jay. *What Is Life?- A Guide To Biology*. Any edition.

GRADING:

LECTURE EXAMS	BEST 4 OUT OF 5 @ 150 PTS. EACH	600 PTS.
LAB		200 PTS.
	TOTAL	800 PTS.

Note: Four of these exams will be given during regularly-scheduled class-times spaced throughout the semester; the 5th of these exams will be a comprehensive final exam, taken during finals week! I will allow you to drop the lowest of the 5 exam grades including the final. Refer also to the **MAKE-UP POLICY** discussed below.

The letter grade you receive will be fixed by the points you accumulate for the entire class: A = 720+; B = 640-719; C = 560-639; D = 480-559; F = 479 or less. These standards will probably not be adjusted. However each individual test score may be adjusted based on class performance. Notice that these are absolute, rather than relative ("curve") standards, and any student who gets 90% or above will receive an "A". You are not in competition with each other; rather, your challenge is to learn the material and to participate actively in the course.

Your exam grades will be posted on Blackboard as soon as they are graded. If you feel the posted grade is in error, you have two weeks after posting to challenge the grade. With so many students in a class, errors are made occasionally. Do not hesitate to challenge the grade or ask a question about it. To do so either send an e-mail, call me at my office, or come by the office. Do not wait until 2 days before the final to ask about an exam grade in February.

Note: there will be **NO EXTRA CREDIT** available in this course; i.e., no additional points beyond those you earn on the exams.

TENTATIVE EXAM DATES

Exam #1 (Feb. 16)	150 pts.
Exam #2 (Mar. 09)	150 pts.
Exam #3 (Apr. 09)	150 pts.
Exam #4 (May 04)	150 pts.
Final Exam (Week of May 2 nd - see university final exam calendar)	150 pts.

Note: exam dates listed above are tentative, with the exception of the final. I will give you at least one week's notice if any of the exam dates need to be changed.

MAKE-UP POLICY

Students are required to take examinations at the instructor-scheduled times. Make-up exams will not be given; if you miss an exam, for whatever reason, that will be the exam grade you will drop. Remember that your grade for the course will be based on your best 4 out of 5 exams. If you miss more than one exam, the grade you earn will reflect your absences.

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

WEEK OF:

Jan. 15	Intro to science & biology, Scientific method
Jan. 29	Biomolecules, cells
Feb. 05	Cells, important organelles
Feb. 12	How cells do work
Feb. 19	Photosynthesis
Feb. 26	Respiration
Mar. 05	Cellular reproduction
Mar. 12	Spring Break
Mar. 19	Basic Genetics
Mar. 26	Basic Genetics
Apr. 02	DNA , DNA technology
Apr. 09	DNA technology
Apr. 16	Microevolution
Apr. 23	Macroevolution
Apr. 30	Ecology, Population ecology
May 07	Finals Week

The lecture schedule is subject to change, depending on how fast or how slow material is covered. I will keep you posted of where we are in the schedule and where we are headed.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student. To do well, you must be an equal and active participant in your education - therefore it is your responsibility to attend class. Test material will be based on class lectures. It should be no surprise, therefore, that to do well on exams you must attend lectures!

However, due to the number of students in the class and the fact that this is no longer high school, attendance will not be taken daily.

If you are unable to come to class due to illness or unexpected circumstances, it is your responsibility to obtain the class notes. You may contact me in my office if you have specific questions about a given lecture; however, I cannot repeat lectures for students who have missed them.

Academic Honesty SEP15 SEP15

You may find that your performance in this class will benefit from discussions with your classmates and from working in small, motivated study groups. I encourage you to work with others to help clarify concepts and understand the class material. However, on exams you must rely on your **own** reasoning, your **own** memory, and your **own** answers. Cheating is a violation of the Honor Code and will not be tolerated. Regulations and responsibilities put forth in the *Student Guidelines 2010-2012*(p.32) and in the *Faculty Handbook* will be followed in the event of academic dishonesty.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days SEP15 SEP15

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education 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 desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day(s) must present to their instructor(s) a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the ***first fifteen days of the semester*** 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.

Disabled Student Policy

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, you are encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

Classroom Rules of Conduct

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the University. **All electronic equipment** including cellular telephones and laptop computers must be turned off and put away before the start of class. **During exams and quizzes**, electronic devices will be considered to be **cheating devices** and their use will represent a violation of the Honor Code. **Reading of newspapers** or anything other than class-related materials is not allowed. **No talking** is allowed during the class except during appropriate contexts. **Chronic tardiness** will not be tolerated.

Students engaging in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the class and may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Visitors in the Classroom

Visitors to class must have prior approval by the instructor to be present in the classroom. Visitors must adhere to the same rules of conduct as outlined above for students.