Contemporary Biology
Biology 1112.003 ENV (EESAT) 130
MW 2:00 – 3:20 PM

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DO NOT USE BLACKBOARD FOR PROMPT EMAIL

Office hours: ENV (EESAT) 325H on MW 3:30 – 4:30 or by appointment

This course is designed for non-science majors who are interested in general biology. The intent is to provide a background that will enable you to be an informed citizen who can understand and critically evaluate advances in biological sciences reported daily in the news. Last, but certainly not least, the course serves to fulfill a laboratory science requirement at the university.


REQUIRED LABORATORY –
Biol 1112 lecture is to be taken in combination with the laboratory component. While the course/lab combination may be used to satisfy the laboratory science requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences, Biol 1112 may not be counted toward a major or minor in biology.

Note: A passing grade must be earned in both the lecture and laboratory in order to pass the course. Passing one component but not the other will result in a failing grade in the course.

How can I make an A?

1) Be present during every class meeting. Pay attention! Focus!!
2) Take detailed notes on everything written on board and said during class. You should be writing from the start to end of class.
3) Read the book.
4) Re-write class notes, powerpoint notes, and book notes at least 2-3 times.
5) Make associations!
6) Ask questions! Come by for office hours.
7) For a 3 hour class, you should be studying at least 9 hours a week.
8) Study away from home. Go to quiet spot with no distractions. Reward yourself for completing a 2-3 hours study session.
I. OBJECTIVES—
The objective of this course is to provide students with a foundation in biological principles. Topics encompass those that support the basic tenets of biology: the cell concept, the study of basic chemistry as it relates to biology, an introduction to genetics, evolution, biodiversity and conservation, and animal organization with an emphasis on human systems and homeostasis.

****SYLLABUS IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!
****READ CHAPTER BEFORE COMING TO CLASS – THERE MAY BE A POP-QUIZ PRIOR TO LECTURE TO CHECK ON READING.

II. ATTENDANCE—
Although there is no UNT attendance policy, it will be difficult to obtain the information from lecture unless you get it “first hand”. The majority of the exam will be from lecture notes, with a considerable amount not posted in powerpoints.

Attendance is taken randomly throughout the semester. As an incentive to attend lecture, those students who have 4 or fewer absences on role call days will have 2 points added to their overall lecture average at the end of the course. This is especially important to a student who is borderline between an A and B, etc. If I happen to take attendance on a day you were absent, before you arrived to class, or after you leave class, there is no mechanism to make up that absence. There are no points deducted from your overall average if you miss more than 4 classes.

In the event of an absence, notes should be obtained from a classmate as I do not hand out my notes and lecture notes if available on-line will be limited. You will be responsible for all class material that was covered during your absence.

III. GRADING—
Lecture is 75%, and the laboratory is 25% of the final grade.
The lecture grade will be calculated from an average of 3 exams and a comprehensive final exam that counts the same as the other exams.

Question format may include a combination of multiple-choice, matching, short answer/essay, and diagramming/labeling.

At the discretion of the instructor “pop quizzes” may be administered throughout the semester. The points you earn on the quizzes will be added to your lecture test scores. Also, opportunities for bonus points may be announced in class.

Lecture grade = Exam1+Exam2+Exam3+Final+pop quiz+bonus pts / 4 + attendance points.

The laboratory grade will represent 25% of the final course grade.
See lab syllabus for details regarding laboratory requirements.

Final course grade = (0.75 * lecture grade) + (0.25*lab grade)

Grading Scale:

A = 90 to 100%   Superior understanding
B = 80 to 89%   Above-average understanding
C = 70 to 79%   Average understanding
D = 60 to 69%   Below-average understanding
F = 59 and below does not demonstrate a fundamental understanding
IV. EXAM POLICY -
No exam grades will be dropped!!

Make-up exams may be arranged with an appropriate, University-sanctioned excuse. All make-up exams will be administered on the last regularly scheduled class period during pre-finals week; however you must make arrangements with me within a week of missing an exam to make up the exam. Make-up exams will not be the same as the regular lecture exam.

- No student taking an exam may leave the classroom after the exam begins until his or her exam has been completed.
- No student may begin an exam after the first student has left the classroom.
- Students arriving after the first student has left will receive a zero for that exam.
- When taking a test, all personal items are to be placed under the desk.
- When taking a test, scantrons and test answers must be covered to avoid wandering eyes. If someone is caught looking at your answers, you will also be suspect of cheating.
- No electronic devices may be used during a testing event, unless approved by the Office of Disability Accommodations and me.

I will photocopy exam scantrons for record keeping. Alteration of scantron bubbles after the exam is graded is considered as cheating. (See “Academic Misconduct” statement for information on the consequences of cheating.)

V. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENT CONDUCT –
Disruptions and disrespectful behavior are damaging to the educational process. Therefore, the following class rules will apply. If a student does not adhere to these rules, they will be asked to leave the classroom.

NUMBER ONE RULE – no talking in class unless it is part of the class discussion or you are asking a question. Background chatter makes it difficult for others to hear me and for me to hear myself.

- Cell phones and other wireless communication devices (e.g. laptops with wireless modems, PDA’s, iPods, blackberry devices) must be turned OFF or set to silent mode during class. If you need to use a laptop for notes, I must give consent and you must sit at the front row of the class.
- If an electronic device is used in class, the instructor may confiscate the device or dismiss the offender from class.
- You will be expected to be in class, seated, and ready to participate at the beginning of the class time.
- You will be expected to spend the entire period in class. Attend to restroom and other needs before class so that you will not have to leave during class time.
- Talking and texting during lectures is disrespectful to me and to your classmates. Offenders may be asked to leave the class.
- You are expected to do your own work for all graded material.
- You are expected to contribute to class discussions.
- Value differences in opinion. Keep an open mind and treat members of this class, guest speakers, and me with respect.
- Exceptions to any rule should be approved by the instructor prior to the class period.

Policy on Incompletes -
The grade of “I” (incomplete) will only be considered for documented absences from exams occurring in the last one-fourth of the semester. All incomplete work must be completed within the time specified by the instructor (not to exceed one year after taking the course) and all requirements, as stated in the Undergraduate Catalog, must be met.
Disability Accommodation –
“The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.”

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty-
Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students who are found to have committed scholastic dishonesty (all forms, including but not limited to copying from another student’s quiz or homework, or plagiarism) will fail this course. The term ‘plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to: (1) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and (2) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Examples: copying word for word or even a phrase from a publication, including web pages, without placing quotes around the phrase and citing the source.

Students suspected of academic dishonesty will automatically be assigned a grade of "F" until the matter is resolved through proper procedures. Students are expected to know their rights and responsibilities as put forth in the University of North Texas Undergraduate Catalog and the Student Guidebook.

Release of Grades-
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (1974), does not permit faculty or staff to report grades by phone or email. In addition, per University policy, grades cannot be posted. Grades will be posted continuously on Blackboard.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
<th>Book</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday – August 25</td>
<td>Introduction, Syllabus, How Biology Relates to you; The Scientific Method</td>
<td>1.1, 1.2, All of Ch. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday – August 27</td>
<td>The Scientific Method; Organization of Life</td>
<td>All of Ch. 2, 1.3, 1.6,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – September 1</td>
<td>No class!!! Labor Day - UNT closed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday – September 3</td>
<td>Organization of Life; Cell Structure</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday - September 8</td>
<td>Nutrients and Membrane Transport</td>
<td>11.6, Ch. 15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday September 10</td>
<td>Enzymes, Metabolism, and Cellular Respiration</td>
<td>15.3, 15.4, 15.5, pg 14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – September 15</td>
<td>OPPORTUNITY #1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday September 17</td>
<td>DNA Synthesis, Cell Cycle, What is Cancer</td>
<td>4.7, 4.8, Ch. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – September 22</td>
<td>Mitosis, Meiosis</td>
<td>3.3, 3.4, 3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday September 24</td>
<td>Genetics – Mendelian and Quantitative Genetics</td>
<td>1.4, 4.1 - 4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – September 29</td>
<td>Health Care and the Human Genome</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday – October 1</td>
<td>Genetic Engineering in Plants</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – October 6</td>
<td>OPPORTUNITY #2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday October 8</td>
<td>Evolution – Background</td>
<td>1.5, Ch. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – October 13</td>
<td>Evolution – Natural Selection</td>
<td>9.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday - October 15</td>
<td>Evolution of Disease</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – October 20</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Ch. 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday – October 22</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>Ch. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – October 27</td>
<td>Biodiversity and Classification</td>
<td>1.6, Ch. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday – October 29</td>
<td>Human Population Growth</td>
<td>Ch. 18</td>
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## Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 1</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 8</td>
<td>Last day to drop without consent of the instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 3</td>
<td>Last day for students who are not passing to drop or withdraw and still receive a grade of “W”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, October 4</td>
<td>First day instructors can drop students for non-attendance (grade = “WF”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 3</td>
<td>Last day for students to drop the class with consent of instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 10</td>
<td>First day qualifying students may request an incomplete (grade = “I”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 21</td>
<td>Last day instructor can drop students for non-attendance (grade = “WF”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday-Friday</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November, 27-28</td>
<td>Reading day, no classes</td>
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## Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday – November 3</td>
<td><strong>OPPORTUNITY #3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday – November 5</td>
<td>Tissues, Organs, and Organ Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – November 10</td>
<td>Nervous System – Brain Structure and Function</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday – November 12</td>
<td>Nervous System – Brain Structure and Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday - November 17</td>
<td>Respiratory, Cardiovascular, and Urinary Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday – November 19</td>
<td>Respiratory, Cardiovascular, and Urinary Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday - November 24</td>
<td>Digestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday – November 26</td>
<td>Immune System, Bacteria, Viruses, and Other Pathogens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday – December 1</td>
<td>Reproduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday – December 3</td>
<td>REVIEW!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday – December 8</td>
<td><strong>1:30 – 3:30 FINAL EXAM COMPREHENSIVE!!!!</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I have read and understand the entire syllabus, all policies on grading, attendance, student conduct, and dishonesty.

Student signature ____________________________  Date __________