

BIO 1408 (4:3:3)

General Biology for Non-Science Majors I

Department of Biology
Division of Arts and Sciences
SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE
Levelland Campus

Dr. Eric Niederhauser
Fall 2024 ONLINE

Biology I for Non - Science Majors (BIOL 1408) FALL 2024 ONLINE

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eric Niederhauser

OFFICE PHONE: 806 716-2321

EMAIL: eniederhauser@southplainscollege.edu. Please include “**1408 Online**” in the subject. I teach a few courses and the answer to your question will likely depend on what course you are in. I generally try to respond promptly to emails. Evening or Saturday response times may be delayed. I don’t look at work emails on Sunday. I do not check Course Messages in Blackboard.

OFFICE HOURS in S81: Mon, Tue, and Wed: 11:00 – Noon; Wed: 2:30 – 3:30; Thu: 1:30-2:30; Friday: 9:00 – 11:00. A visit can be in person or online using Blackboard Collaborate (a little like Zoom). If you would like to schedule a time for me to enter the Collaborate course room at any time, send me an email. If I am in my office I can easily login.

Other COMMUNICATION: I will post any general communications in the Announcements section of Blackboard. You are responsible for any information posted in the Announcements section.

I may send emails to your SPC email address. You are responsible for any information that is sent to your SPC email by me or the college. The best way to contact me is by email. I DO NOT check the Messages section in Blackboard.

Course Description

This general biology course is devoted to exploring the properties, structures and functions shared by all organisms with an emphasis on humans. These properties involve: cells, chemistry, energy, genetics, evolution, and interactions. We will also learn about science and the process of scientific discovery. PREREQUISITE: None. CREDIT: Four semester hours

Required Materials

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

- Computer or laptop WITH microphone and camera.
- Reliable internet access. You will be required to meet all deadlines – no matter what happens to your internet connection. Have a backup plan.
- Printer to print assignments.
- Camera or scanner to take pictures of completed written assignments.
- Chrome with the Honorlock browser extension installed.
- Access to McGraw Hill Connect virtual labs.

NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Recommended text: Campbell, *Essential Biology with Physiology*, 6th Ed. by Simon, et al. Others ARE acceptable.

I will NOT assign readings, and no exam material will come exclusively from this text. To be successful, you must to have access to a textbook in some form to read. I usually provide links to an OpenStax text with the weekly lectures.

Many people find a printed textbook very helpful. Any biology text for college will do. So long as they were published in the last 15 years or so they will be fine for our purposes. You can find and purchase some older additions of most textbooks online or in used book stores.

Course Implementation and Grading

BLACKBOARD: In addition to all graded items (lectures, labs, quizzes and exams); current grades, other course resources, due dates etc. are posted.

LECTURES: About 75 minutes of prerecorded lectures will be posted to Blackboard at 8:00 am on both Mondays and Wednesdays - 2.5 hour weekly total. Each lecture video has embedded questions which are automatically scored. All lectures will be available to watch after being posted for the duration of the semester. To receive credit, they must be watched by the due-date – two days after being posted: Wed 9:30 am for Monday lectures and Friday 9:30 for Wednesday lectures. You will have 2 days to watch each lecture set.

LABORATORY: You are required to complete weekly online lab-simulation sets accessed through McGraw-Hill Connect in Blackboard. They will take about 2 hours (some may take a bit more, some much less).

Each simulation set has a short pre-lab reading assignment and a post-lab “homework” assignment consisting of about 20 multiple-choice questions. These are scored automatically. There are a couple of written lab assignments which will be uploaded and graded. Lab activities are posted Monday morning and due Sunday 11:30 pm. Understanding of major lab concepts may also be assessed in the exams.

EXAMS: There will be five timed exams given during the course which will cover both lecture and lab. Expect multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the blank, short answer and essay questions. The 5th and final exam will be comprehensive.

Exams will be available to take beginning at 8:00 am on the scheduled Friday. BE AWARE: Emails about exam problems sent on Sunday will likely NOT be seen until after the exam is due.

Your identity will be verified using Honorlock, a Chrome browser extension.

Do not neglect to take exams. Because of the nature of online courses, and the length of time in which you can choose to take the exam, there are no makeup exams. You will receive a zero for missed exams.

QUIZZES: Each Friday at 9:00 am, except exam weeks, one 5-10 question quiz addressing the week’s lecture topics will be posted. Your identity will be verified using Honorlock. Specific instructions and procedures will be provided before the first quiz. Quizzes will be available to take until Sunday 11:30 pm. After that, any blank quiz grades will be changed to zero. There are no makeup quizzes.

GRADING WEIGHTS

Grade Type	Percentage of Grade
Exams	60 %
Lab Grades/Assignments	15 %
In-Lecture Questions	15 %
Quizzes	10 %

Grading scale: Final semester average 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; <60 = F.

Last Day to Drop the Course: Dec 04, 2024

Exam Procedures with Honorlock

Quiz/Exam Conduct Requirement	Notes
Official photo identification must be presented before each assessment.	Your photo and name must be clearly visible - 30% penalty if not. ONLY name and photo need to show. Other information may be covered.
Microphone turned on and recording for the entire exam.	A 30% penalty may be given.
Sufficient lighting of the testing area.	A 30% penalty may be given for a quiz or exam taken without enough lighting for the instructor to assess the testing environment.
Student remains in webcam view during exam. Full face should always be in view.	A student who leaves the webcam view during an exam for any reason may receive a zero for that exam. Take all bathroom breaks, etc. before beginning the exam.
No talking with others during the exam or playing of music or other audio recordings.	A student who has any music or audio recordings playing during exams, or who talks with any adult during the exam, may receive a zero for that exam.
No headphones or earbuds or similar device may be used while taking the exam.	I need to see your ears. Hair should be pulled back if necessary. A zero may be given for the quiz or exam taken.
No cell phone use during the exam.	Web browsing, talking, texting, chatting or communicating in any way with another person during a quiz or exam is considered cheating and will result in a zero. You may communicate with Honorlock support.

Policies, Procedures and Rules

This course will be conducted according to the policies and procedures of the South Plains College Student Handbook and General Catalog.

Attendance is based on your weekly quizzes and lab completion. If you fail to take the weekly quizzes for two weeks, you will be counted absent for both weeks and will be dropped from the class. Because this is a lab-integrated course, failure to complete three or more lab sets will result in being dropped from the course. Extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Integrity: The attempt of any student to cheat or present as her/his own any work, which she/he has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

Examples of cheating and dishonesty include (but are not limited to): plagiarism, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes or texts during an examination or quiz, obtaining information during an exam from the exam paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry, or unauthorized presence in an office.

Your own words must be used to answer any assessment questions.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about

- **Intellectual exchange**
- **Disabilities**
- **Non-discrimination**
- **Title V Pregnancy Accommodations**
- **CARE Team**
- **Campus Concealed Carry**

please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Grievance procedure: If a student is having a problem with the course policies or the instructor, they should *first* try and resolve any such problems with the instructor. If the problem is not resolved, the student may proceed to the Dean of Arts & Sciences, Mr. Alan Worley, who can advise the student on how to resolve the problem or direct them to the appropriate office.

Copyright Notice: All material presented by the instructor in the course is copyright protected. The material presented by the instructor may not be modified or altered in any way. You have permission to print out one copy of any material presented by the instructor in this course for your personal educational use during this session. The material may not be altered or modified in any way. The material may not be distributed in any way. You have permission to download the same material to your computer hard drive or other medium in order to print out the material needed. Any material downloaded may not be altered or modified in any way. The downloaded material may not be distributed in any way. If any course material is found on other websites, this becomes an act of academic misconduct and will be dealt with appropriately following the guidelines of the college concerning academic integrity.

Class Weekly Schedule:

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
8 am	Lecture and Lab Sim Set		Mon Lecture Questions Due		Wed Lecture Questions Due		
9	Posted		Lecture Posted		Quiz/Test Posted		
10							
11							
12 pm							
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							Quiz, Test and Lab Simulations Due 11:30 pm

Advice

- As an online science course, there are many individual small tasks to complete each week. I realize the number of graded items can be overwhelming, but each week will have a similar set of items to complete. A mental to-do List will likely not be adequate. Make a written to-do list for each week and mark it. Here is a sample to-do list:
 - **Monday Lecture** (Due Wed morning)
 - Video 1
 - Video 2 ...
 - **Wednesday Lecture** (Due Friday morning)
 - Video 1
 - Video 2 ...
 - **Lab** (Due Sunday night)
 - pre-read
 - Simulation 1
 - Simulation 2 ...
 - post-“homework”
 - **Quiz or Exam** (Due Sunday night)
- This is NOT a self-paced course. Even though there is flexibility as to when you watch lectures, take quizzes etc., the due dates and times are set and solid. Do not send me an email with an excuse for missed deadlines. After the deadline, a zero will be given for any blanks in the gradebook. Exceptions will be given only to documented medical emergencies.
- Because the quizzes and exams are open-note, they are not generously timed. You must study, understand, and memorize just as you would with a traditional course. If you are not VERY familiar with the material, you will run out of time.
- ANY evidence of live communication with another person (either in-person or online) during a quiz or exam is considered cheating and will result in a zero. You can communicate with Honorlock support.

- I STRONGLY suggest **taking notes** as you listen to the lectures and then **rewriting them** as you **read a text etc.** Make organized cheat sheets to use during the exam so if you need a reminder, you can find it fast.
- My goal is your success. If you have any questions or concerns, ASK ME! Please! Anything that affects your performance as a student is important to me.

Niederhauser Biology IN-PERSON General Weekly Schedule
This is FYI - so you know when I am NOT available (times in blue and green).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8 am					
9					Office Hours
		1408 001		1408 001	
10		Lecture		Lecture	
		S83		S83	
11	Office Hours	Office Hours	Office Hours	1408 002	
				Lab	
12 pm				S189	
1	1406 002		1406 002		
	Lecture		Lecture	Office Hours	
2	S83		S83		
	1406 002		Office Hours		
3	Lab				
	S197				
4					
5					

1408 Fall 2024 Online Schedule*

Unit	Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Lab Topic/Simulations
Introduction, Building Blocks of Life	1	Mon, Aug 26	Welcome/Intro - What is Life?	Scientific Method
		Wed, Aug 28	Life Organized/Chemistry for Biology	
		Fri, Aug 30		
	2	Mon, Sep 2	Labor Day	Metric System
		Wed, Sep 4	Chemistry Continued/Molecules of Life: Carbs	
		Fri, Sep 6		
	3	Mon, Sep 9	Molecules of Life: Lipids	Chemical Composition of Cells
		Wed, Sep 11	Molecules of Life: Protein, DNA	
		Fri, Sep 13		
	4	Mon, Sep 16	Cell Structure	Microscopes, Cell Structure
		Wed, Sep 18	Cell Finish and Unit Review	
		Fri, Sep 20	EXAM 1 Opens. Due Sunday Sep 22, 11:59 pm	
The Working Cell	5	Mon, Sep 23	Cell Division (Mitosis)	Mitosis, Enzymes
		Wed, Sep 25	Cell at Work - Energy and Enzymes	
		Fri, Sep 27		
	6	Mon, Sep 30	Cellular Respiration	Diffusion and Osmosis
		Wed, Oct 2	Photosynthesis	
		Fri, Oct 4		
	7	Mon, Oct 7	Carbon and Energy in Ecosystems	Respiration, Photosynthesis
		Wed, Oct 9	Unit Review	
		Fri, Oct 11	EXAM 2 Opens. Due Sunday Oct 13, 11:59 pm	
Genetics	8	Mon, Oct 14	Meiosis	Meiosis, Genetic Problems
		Wed, Oct 16	Patterns of Inheritance Mendel	
		Fri, Oct 18		
	9	Mon, Oct 21	Inheritance - Beyond Mendel	Drosophila and Plant Genetics
		Wed, Oct 23		
		Fri, Oct 25	EXAM 3 Opens. Due Sunday Oct 27, 11:59 pm	
DNA	10	Mon, Oct 28	Structure of DNA	DNA Structure, Protein Synthesis, Mutation, Karvotypes
		Wed, Oct 30	Function of DNA/Viruses/Mutation	
		Fri, Nov 1		
	11	Mon, Nov 4	How Genes are Controlled	Gene Expression
		Wed, Nov 6	Cloning/Gene Cancer	
		Fri, Nov 8		
	12	Mon, Nov 11	DNA Technology	DNA Technology
		Wed, Nov 13	DNA Technology Applications	
		Fri, Nov 15	EXAM 4 Opens. Due Sunday Nov 17, 11:59 pm	
Evolution/ Ecology	13	Mon, Nov 18	Evolution by Natural Selection	Evidence of Evolution
		Wed, Nov 20	Evolution Evidence	
		Fri, Nov 22		
	14	Mon, Nov 25	Ecology Case study 1	No Lab
		Wed, Nov 27	Thanksgiving	
		Fri, Nov 29	Thanksgiving	
	15	Mon, Dec 2	Ecology Case study 2	TBA
		Wed, Dec 4	Wrap up and Semester Review	
		Fri, Dec 6	Final EXAM Opens. 8 am.	
		Tue, Dec 10	Final EXAM DUE 11:59 pm	

*Topic dates are tentative. Exam dates are set.