

BIOL 1413: General Zoology
Instructor Course Information Sheet – Fall 2025

Course Format: *Face-to-face, Levelland Campus*

Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Mark Lee, M.S.
 - **Email:** mlee@southplainscollege.edu
 - **Office Hours:**
 - Monday/Wednesday – 1:00 – 4:00 pm
 - Friday: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
 - **Office Location:** Science Room 79
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Course Information

Course Description:

This course covers fundamental biological concepts relevant to animals, including systematics, evolution, structure and function, cellular and molecular metabolism, reproduction, development, diversity, phylogeny, and ecology.

Evaluation Criteria

Note: Assignments not submitted by the deadline will receive a zero.

Grading Criteria	Point Value	Total
5 Exams	120	600
9 Quizzes	5	45
5 Assignments	15	75
4 Practicals	70	300
1 Project	75	75
Spotlight	5	5
Total		1100

Exams, Practicals, and Quizzes will all be done in class. Assignments will be done on Blackboard. Instructor reserves the right to change the modality of quizzes and assignments.

Textbooks

- **Recommended (not required):**
 - *Zoology* (12th edition). ISBN: 9781266701634
 - *All material for this course will be provided in class – the textbook is a valuable study tool but not required.*
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Attendance

Students are expected to attend both lectures and labs. Excessive absences (>5) may result in a grade penalty. Students who expect to miss should let their instructor know as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to request proof of reasons for absence. Regardless of reason, students are expected to catch up on all the material they miss. Make-up exams and assignments will be offered at the instructor's discretion and are never guaranteed.

Lab Safety

- **Required Attire:** Closed-toe shoes and long pants/dresses. **Failure to adhere to this dress code can result in the student being sent away.**
 - **Prohibited Items:** Food, drinks, makeup, and tobacco are not permitted in the lab. Violations will result in the student being sent away and marked absent. Excessive violations may result in a grade penalty.
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Instructor Policies

- **Food and Drink:** Permitted in lecture unless abused, in which case the privilege will be revoked. Not permitted in lab.
- **Phones:** Permitted in lecture and lab unless abused, in which case the privilege will be revoked.
- **Exams and Quizzes:** Visibility of electronic devices or notes during exams or quizzes will result in an automatic zero, regardless of use. The instructor reserves the right to collect exams and quizzes at any time if academic dishonesty is suspected.

For Additional Policies and Procedures, refer to the Common Course Syllabus.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and policies and notify students of any changes during the semester.

South Plains College

Common Course Syllabus: BIOL 1413

Revised Fall 2025

Department: Biology

Discipline: Zoology

Course Number: BIOL 1413

Course Title: General Zoology

Available Formats: Conventional, Online

Campuses: Levelland, Online

Course Description:

This course explores fundamental biological concepts related to animals, including systematics, evolution, structure and function, cellular and molecular metabolism, reproduction, development, diversity, phylogeny, and ecology. Laboratory activities will reinforce these concepts to ensure comprehension. (ACGM 2018)

Prerequisite:

Must be TSI Complete in Reading prior to taking this course.

Credit:

4 credits - Lecture: 3 hours, Lab: 3 hours

Textbook & Supplies:

See the instructor course information sheet.

Course-Specific Instructions:

See the instructor course information sheet.

Core Curriculum Requirement:

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement in the Life and Physical Sciences Foundational Component Area (030).

Core Curriculum Objectives Addressed:

- **Communication Skills:** Effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Critical Thinking Skills:** Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Competency:** Ability to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts to make informed conclusions.
- **Teamwork:** Ability to consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Lecture:

1. Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of animals.
2. Describe the characteristics of life and the basic properties of substances needed for life.
3. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
4. Describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.
5. Identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on animals, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.
6. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins.
7. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in respiration.
8. Describe the unity and diversity of animals and the evidence for evolution through natural selection.
9. Describe the reasoning processes applied to scientific investigations and thinking.
10. Describe basic animal physiology and homeostasis as maintained by organ systems.
11. Describe modern evolutionary synthesis, natural selection, population genetics, micro and macroevolution, and speciation.
12. Describe the structure of cell membranes and the movement of molecules across a membrane.

Lab:

1. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
2. Use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
3. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.

4. Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of animals.
5. Describe the characteristics of life and the basic properties of substances needed for life.
6. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
7. Describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.
8. Identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on animals, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.
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12. Describe the reasoning processes applied to scientific investigations and thinking.
13. Describe basic animal physiology and homeostasis as maintained by organ systems.
14. Describe modern evolutionary synthesis, natural selection, population genetics, micro and macroevolution, and speciation.
15. Describe the structure of cell membranes and the movement of molecules across a membrane.

Course Evaluation:

Embedded exam questions will be assessed from various sections each semester to determine student mastery of material across the course. For more information, see the instructor course information sheet.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes to succeed in the course. Absences that become excessive and hinder the achievement of minimum course objectives may result in the student being withdrawn from the course. Additional attendance information is provided on the instructor's course information sheet.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Students must do their work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Violations will result in an "F" for the assignment and may lead to an "F" for the course if warranted.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded.
2. Cutting and pasting together information from various sources without proper documentation.
3. Using direct quotations without citation.
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion.
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given.
3. Using unauthorized sources during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment.
4. Taking an examination for another.
5. Altering grade records.
6. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.

Student Code of Conduct:

A successful learning experience requires mutual respect. Disruptive, disrespectful, or threatening conduct will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action or removal from class.

Tutoring:

SPC Tutors:

Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, and view tutoring locations.

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

Brainfuse

You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with Brainfuse each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard, and click on the tools option from the left-hand menu bar. Click on the Brainfuse link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You may access Brainfuse tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8 pm-8 am

6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-2241.

Syllabi Statements:

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).

WEEK	DATE	Lecture 1	Lecture 2	Unit:	Assignments & Quizzes	
1		Introduction	Chemistry I: Atoms & Bonds			
LAB	8/25 - 8/29	Science	Root Words		FIRST WEEK	
2		Chemistry II: Organic Molecules; Quiz 1	Cells I: Cell Structure	Unit I - Cell & Molecular Biology		
LAB	9/1 - 9/5	Microscopes & Cells	Cells II: Diffusion & Osmosis		Quiz 1	
3		Cells III: Cell Division & Chromosomes; Quiz 2	Animal Metabolism			
LAB	9/8 - 9/12	Genes in a Bottle	Native Texas Animals		Quiz 2; Assignment 1	
4		EXAM 1	Genetics	Unit II - Genetics & Evolution		
LAB	9/15 - 9/19	Campus Bird and Insect Walk	Punnett Squares		EXAM 1	
5		Evolution	Classification & Phylogenetics; Quiz 3			
LAB	9/22 - 9/26	Evolutionary Mechanisms	Classification Exercise		Quiz 3	
6		Protists	Porifera & Cnidaria; Quiz 4			
LAB	9/29 - 10/3	<i>Protist & Basal Animal Survey</i>			Quiz 4; Assignment 2	
7		EXAM 2	Platyhelminthes, Nematoda, & Annelida	Unit III - Invertebrates		
LAB	10/6 - 10/10	<i>Protist and Basal Animal Practical</i>	Worm Dissections; Worm Survey		EXAM 2; PRACTICAL 1	
8		Mollusks	Arthropoda I; Quiz 5			
LAB	10/13 - 10/17	Squid Dissection	Crayfish Dissection		Quiz 5	
9		Arthropoda II - Insects	Echinodermata; Quiz 6			
LAB	10/20 - 10/24	<i>Protostome Survey</i>			Quiz 6; Assignment 3	
10		EXAM 3	Fishes	Unit IV - Vertebrates		
LAB	10/27 - 10/31	<i>Protostome & Echinoderm Practical</i>	Starfish Dissection		EXAM 3; PRACTICAL 2	
11		Amphibians	Reptiles; Quiz 7			
LAB	11/3 - 11/7	Perch Dissection	Frog Dissection		Quiz 7	
12		Birds	Mammals; Quiz 8			
LAB	11/10 - 11/14	<i>Deuterostome Survey</i>			Quiz 8; Assignment 4	
13		EXAM 4	Digestive & Excretory Systems	Unit V - Anatomy & Physiology		
LAB	11/17-11/21	<i>Vertebrate Practical</i>	Lab Models		EXAM 4; PRACTICAL 3	
14		Skeletal & Muscular Systems; Quiz 9	Thanksgiving Break			
LAB	11/24 - 11/28	Skeleton Lab			Thanksgiving Break	
15		Circulatory & Respiratory Systems	Reproduction & Development; Quiz 9			
LAB	12/1 - 12/5		<i>Pig Dissection</i>		Quiz 9; Assignment 5	
16	12/8 - 12/12	Final Exams			FINAL EXAM; FINAL PRACTICAL	