

**SYLLABUS**  
**GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**  
**BIOL 1408 GENERAL BIOLOGY I**  
**(NON-MAJORS)**  
**FALL 2006**

**Instructor:** David R. Etheredge  
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Office Hours: Monday – 9:15-12:15  
                  Tuesday – None  
                  Wednesday- None  
                  Thursday – 8:00-11:00  
                  Friday – 8:00-10:00

**Course Description:** This general biology course is devoted to principles shared by all organisms. These principles are cell biology, energy, genetics, evolution, and ecology. This course is suitable as a required lab science for non-biology majors.

**Course Implementation:**

PREREQUISITE: None

CREDIT: Four semester hours

TEXT: *Biology, Concepts and Connections*, 5th Ed. by Campbell, Reece, Taylor and Simon

LAB MANUAL: *Biology 1408, Lab Manual*, by Etheredge and Keeling (Available only at the SPC bookstore)

**Course Objectives:**

- A. To introduce basic biological principles through an integrated approach.
- B. To investigate the cellular processes of living organisms with an emphasis on biological chemistry applications.
- C. To investigate the unifying themes and key concepts of the different types of organisms.
- D. To acquaint the student with the anatomy, function, genetics and evolution of different types of organisms.
- E. To instill an appreciation of the variety and diversity of major organism groups.
- G. To allow laboratory investigation of topics covered.

**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 Policy:** Attendance is mandatory. Punctual and regular class and lab attendance is required of all students. Students are responsible for all class work covered during absences from class, even in cases in which they are able to satisfy the instructor that the absence was unavoidable. Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. When unavoidable situations such as illness, weather, an official college trip, or a death in the family causes absences, I may permit the student to make up class work missed. In such cases it is the student's responsibility to complete the work missed within one week of their return to class.

**Absence Policy:** When absences become excessive and, in my opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met, the student will be withdrawn from the course. Any student with 5 absences will be withdrawn from the class. In addition, an instructor is required to initiate a student's administrative withdrawal when the student has missed every class during a fourteen consecutive calendar - day period (4 class meetings) excluding holidays. Each class meeting consist of lecture period and a lab period, consequently being absent from one class meeting will count in 2 absences. (A student who has 4 or more absences will not be allowed to drop any quiz grades.) If something extraordinary arises during the semester, I will certainly take this into consideration and some exception to the attendance policy may be made.

Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after his/her official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first meeting of the class. A student who does not attend a class by the 12th day of class will automatically deleted from the class rolls.

**Tardy Policy:** Excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. A student who is consistently tardy, disturbs class, is disrespectful and rude, and will be withdrawn (dropped) from the class!

### **Grades:**

**Exams:** Four major exams will be given during the semester. The exams will be announced in advance (see schedule) and will be divided between lab and lecture material. Each exam is worth 100 points.

**Quizzes:** Through out the semester there will be daily quizzes over current material being covered. Most of the quizzes will be announced in advance, and are over the previous class time lecture, lab material, or from assigned readings. Some quizzes will be "during lecture quizzes", which means quiz questions will be given during lectures. At the end of the semester you will be able to drop some of the lowest quiz grade(s). The number of quizzes that are dropped will be determined by the number of quizzes given. There are no make-up quizzes. If you miss a quiz, the grade will be a zero. A student who has more than 4 absences or tardies will not be allowed to drop any quiz grades.

These quizzes are designed to make sure the students are keeping up with the class work, which I believe is vital to successfully completing this course.

**Lab Grades:** Grades will be given for lab activities and assignments

If it is known in advance that an absence will occur on an exam date, and the instructor is notified **ahead of time**, it may be possible, under special circumstances, to take the exam at an alternate time. Otherwise the missed exam will count as a zero when computing the semester average, Due to the complexity and time involved in setting up lab exams with microscopes and specimens involved, this policy is rigidly adhered to. DO NOT MISS EXAMS!!!

### **Summary of Grades:**

<b>Grade type</b>	<b>Percentage of grade</b>
4 Major Exams	50 %
Quizzes	20 %
Lab Grades	20 %
Projects	10 %

<b>Grading Policy:</b>	Final semester average of 90 or above	= A
	Final semester average of 80-89	= B
	Final semester average of 70-79	= C
	Final semester average of 60-69	= D
	Final semester average below 60	= F

### **THERE IS NO CURVING OF GRADES**

The last day to drop this course is: **November 28, 2006**

**Study Aids: Peer Tutors** may be available for one-on-one tutoring sessions that are free of charge. Contact the instructor or the Counseling Center for more information.

**Students with disabilities:** Any student with disabilities or special needs should identify themselves the first week of class. I will do everything in my power to accommodate any special needs. The student is responsible for providing the necessary documentation from the SPC Special Services office.

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 894-9611 ext. 2529.

**Academic Integrity:** It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his own any work, which 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.

Dishonesty (cheating) of any kind on examinations and quizzes on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination or quiz, obtaining information during an exam from the textbook or from the exam paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work as his own.

**Dismissal Policy:** A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. It is assumed that obedience to the law, respect for properly constituted authority, personal honor, integrity, and common sense will guide the actions of each member of this class. Any student who fails to perform to expected standards will be asked to withdraw from the class.

**Electronic devices** (cell phones, text messaging devices, music devices, etc): **ALL** electronic devices need to be in the off and/or silent mode -- no vibrating either. All electronic devices will be put away during class including exams (pocket, backpack, purse, etc). If the electronic device "rings" or "buzzes", is being used during class for text messaging or a student gets up from class to answer a phone call, **5 points** will be deducted from the students next major exam grade per incident. If the electronic device "rings" or "buzzes" during a Major Exam the student will get a **zero** for that exam.

**Privacy:** The federal law guaranteeing student privacy is the policy of this professor as well as that of SPC. This means that I will not discuss your grade with anyone other than you (which means that I will NOT discuss your grade with your parents, guardians, friends, etc.)

**Diversity Statement:** In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS):** These data sheets detail any potential hazards which may be incurred while utilizing various chemicals in the laboratory. The MSDS notebook is located in room 146 of the science building. All students are encouraged to read about the chemicals used in the lab in the MSDS notebook. Please ask the instructor if you need assistance.

**Attitude:** If you believe that this course is bogus, boring and beyond your abilities, then it will be. This is a fairly intense course in general biology. It does not go into depth or detail except where necessary, but covers a large amount of topics. I can promise you that if you decide to work at this course to the best of your ability, and put some time into studying, you will enjoy this course a lot. It is designed with some “fun” along the way. This course is about effort, if you plan work hard and have a positive attitude, you will do great.

(NOTE: I hate the attitude of “I’ll just do as little as possible to get by.” Come on -- show some pride in yourself and in your education. I expect some reasonable effort in this course.)

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## **To help insure a great semester and successful completion of this course:**

**Attend class and be on time.**

**Be an active part of the class, pay attention.**

**Take a good set of notes.**

**Read the assignments**

**If you have questions, ASK ME! Please!**

**Find (make) time to study, schedule your time wisely**

**Study as much as possible, and then study some more!**

**Have Fun!!**

Do you know the difference between being trained and being educated?

Your objective in coming to college may be only to obtain the necessary training and degrees or certificates to get a job that will provide a comfortable income. That *should* be a part of your college objective -- but only a part. You are required to take a variety of General Studies courses on the road to achieving your goals. Many students see these courses only as roadblocks to their education. This is not true. The goal of education is to develop within you a solid base of knowledge from a variety of different fields, and to teach you to solve problems and critically think. This is the pathway to becoming an intellectual. An intellectual is a person who truly enjoys learning and thinking. You can achieve this if you have the right attitude and work hard in all your college courses. It may not seem important to you now, but years after college, you will find that achieving intellectualism will bring a wealth to your life, and a satisfaction that you will never reach if you only take interest in a narrow world of your designated field of study.