

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 2025

**Course Information**  
**Biology I for Non-Science Majors (BIOL 1408)**  
**Fall 2025**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eric Niederhauser

OFFICE PHONE: 806 716-2321

EMAIL: [eniederhauser@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:eniederhauser@southplainscollege.edu). Please include “1408 001” in the subject. I generally try to respond promptly to emails. Evening or Saturday response times may be delayed. I respond to emails received on Sundays on Monday.

OFFICE HOURS: Mon: 11:00 – Noon, Tue: 11:00 – Noon and 3:30 - 4:30, Wed and Thu: 1:30 – 2:00, Fri: 9:00 – 12:00.

**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.

**Course Implementation:**

PREREQUISITE: None. CREDIT: Four semester hours

RECOMMENDED TEXT: Campbell, *Essential Biology with Physiology*, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. by Simon, et al.

REQUIRED LAB MANUAL: Download from Blackboard and print. You must bring it to lab.

**Blackboard:** Current grades, course information, lecture notes, links etc. will be available on Blackboard, accessed through <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>. You are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly.

**Email:** I may send emails to your SPC email address periodically throughout the semester. You are responsible for any information that is sent to your SPC email by me or the college, so please check it regularly.

**Grading:**

EXAMS: Five exams are given during the semester covering both lecture and lab. The exams are announced in advance and primarily cover lecture material but may include information from lab. The exams are primarily multiple choice but may include fill-in-the blank, short answer or essay questions. The final exam is comprehensive.

Do not miss exams. Their dates are set. Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time will result in a zero for the exam. Exceptions will be made for documented emergencies only. A doctor's appointment is NOT an emergency - do not schedule them for exam times. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, you must contact me within 24 hours for a makeup exam to be considered.

IN-CLASS QUIZZES: Most lectures will begin with a quiz. If you are late for class, you will not get credit for questions missed. There will be no in-class quiz makeups but three of the lowest in-class quiz grades will be dropped. Students with 3 or more absences (for any reason) will NOT have the lowest quiz grades dropped. Quizzes will use a remote clicker system.

LAB GRADES: This is a lab-integrated course - lab attendance and completion of the lab exercises is required to receive credit for the course. Failure to attend 3 or more labs will result in withdrawal from the course. There are no lab makeups. Understanding of the lab material is also assessed in the exams.

ASSIGNMENTS: Graded assignments may be assigned. I will not accept them late.

**GRADING SUMMARY**

Grade Type	Percentage of Grade
Exams	60 %
In-Class Quizzes	20 %
Lab Grades/Assignments	20 %

*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 4, 2025

## 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:** This course is designed to be an in-person course. Punctual and regular class attendance is mandatory. The class is scheduled to meet for lecture twice each week. Once a week, class meetings consist of lecture period AND a lab period; consequently, failure to attend lecture OR lab will count as an absence and any work missed will receive a grade of zero. Students are responsible for all information discussed during absences from class - regardless of the reason.

If you intend to withdraw from the course, please see me first – do not just stop coming to class. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Students who fail to attend will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Grades are kept up to date, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit [www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php).

**Tardy Policy:** Arriving to class late is disruptive. If you are late, please come in quickly and quietly take your seat. A student who is consistently tardy will be withdrawn from the class. Let me know if there is a problem or if you know you will be late. Barring emergency, there is no excuse for being tardy to lab. If you are late for lab, you will lose participation credit for the lab.

**Classroom Conduct:** To create an effective learning environment, respect must be shown to your fellow students and to the instructor. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

Disruptive and disrespectful behavior includes:

- Cell phone use.
- Earbuds in your ear during lecture or lab.
- Use of other electronic devices including laptops. Research shows that taking notes by hand is more effective. Tablets used horizontally on the table for note taking with a stylus are OK. I reserve the right to allow laptop use on an individual basis.
- Leaving class during lecture. **If you will need to leave early let me know.**
- Sleeping in class or lab.
- Eating in lab. Discrete food consumption in lecture is tolerated.
- Failure to follow general instructions.
- Talking out of turn, cursing, inappropriate gestures etc.

**You will receive a zero for the day's quiz for disruptive behavior** and may be asked to leave the classroom. If the poor behavior is deemed excessive the student may be withdrawn from the course.

**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.

You must use your own words on exams.

**Lab Safety:** Each student will be informed/trained on the "Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) for Laboratories at South Plains College" during the first week of the semester. Each student will be required to acknowledge receipt of this information and be required to follow all procedures outlined by the instructor and/or staff of South Plains College.

**Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS):** These data sheets detail any potential hazards associated with the chemicals used 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.

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/>

### Niederhauser General Weekly Schedule

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8 am					
9					Office Hours
	<b>1408 001</b>	<b>1406 003</b>	<b>1408 001</b>	<b>1406 003</b>	
10	<b>Lecture</b> S83	<b>Lecture</b> S83	<b>Lecture</b> S83	<b>Lecture</b> S83	
11	Office Hours	Office Hours	<b>1408 001</b> <b>Lab</b>	<b>1406 003</b> <b>Lab</b>	
12 pm			S189	S191	
1		<b>1408 002</b> <b>Lab</b>			
		189	Office Hours	Office Hours	
2					
3					
		Office Hours			
4					
5					

1408 Fall 2025 Tentative Lecture Schedule			Wednesday LAB Schedule	
Unit	Date	Topic	Week #	Topic
Introduction, Building Blocks of Life	Mon, Aug 25	Welcome/Intro - What is Life?	1	Microscope Intro/ Experimental Design/ Daphnia on Drugs
	Wed, Aug 27	Life Organized/Chemistry for Biology		
	Mon, Sep 1	Labor Day	2	Safety/ Metric System/ Data Analysis
	Wed, Sep 3	Chemistry for Biology		
	Mon, Sep 8	Molecules of Life: Carbs, Lipids	3	Organic Molecules
	Wed, Sep 10	Molecules of Life: Protein, DNA		
The Working Cell	Mon, Sep 15	EXAM 1	4	Diffusion and Osmosis
	Wed, Sep 17	Cell Structure and Function		
	Mon, Sep 22	Cell Division (Mitosis)	5	Cells/Mitosis
	Wed, Sep 24	Cell at Work - Energy and Enzymes		
	Mon, Sep 29	Cellular Respiration	6	Respiration/ Photosynthesis
	Wed, Oct 1	Photosynthesis		
Genetics	Mon, Oct 6	EXAM 2	7	Mitosis vs Meiosis/ Karyotypes
	Wed, Oct 8	Meiosis		
	Mon, Oct 13	Patterns of Inheritance Mendel	8	Drosophila Start/ Genetic Problems
	Wed, Oct 15	Inheritance - Beyond Mendel		
	Mon, Oct 20	Structure of DNA	9	Genetic Problems
	Wed, Oct 22	Function of DNA/Viruses/Mutation		
DNA and Evolution	Mon, Oct 27	EXAM 3	10	DNA Structure/ Protein Synthesis
	Wed, Oct 29	How Genes are Controlled		
	Mon, Nov 3	Cloning/Gene Cancer	11	Drosophila Count
	Wed, Nov 5	DNA Technology		
	Mon, Nov 10	DNA Technology Applications	12	Genes in a Bottle/ Micropipette Use
	Wed, Nov 12	Evolution by Natural Selection		
Ecology	Mon, Nov 17	Evolution Evidence	13	Natural Selection/ Gel Electrophoresis Intro
	Wed, Nov 19	Ecology Intro. Ecosystems (On final)	14	No Lab
	Mon, Nov 24	Exam 4		
	Wed, Nov 26	Thanksgiving Break	15	DNA Fingerprinting
	Mon, Dec 1	Ecology Case study 1		
	Wed, Dec 3	Ecology Case study 2		
	Wed, Dec 10	Final EXAM 8:00 AM		No Lab