

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 ONLINE

## **Biology I for Non - Science Majors (BIOL 1408)**

### **FALL 2025 ONLINE**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eric Niederhauser

OFFICE PHONE: 806 716-2321

OFFICE: S81

EMAIL: [eniederhauser@southplainscollege.edu](mailto: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: Mon 11:00 – 12:00; Tue: 11:00 – 12:00 and 3:30 – 4:30; Wed and Thu: 1:30 – 2:30; Fri: 9:00 – 12:00. 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 log in.

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 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 some older additions of most textbooks online or in used bookstores.

### **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 9:00 am on both Mondays and Wednesdays – About 2.5 hour total each week. 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 – Mondays at the end of the day.

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 one week later at the end of the day on Monday. 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, and short answer questions. The 5<sup>th</sup> and final exam will be comprehensive.

Exams will be available to take beginning at 9:00 am on the scheduled Friday and due at the end of Monday.

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 the end of Monday. 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, 2025

## 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 will be assessed for no audio.
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.
<u>Other:</u> Answers to short-answer or essay questions that contain any resemblance to answers found online will not be given credit. Use your own words.	

NOTE: You may use your notes during quizzes and exams. BUT ...  
Each will be timed with approximately 45 seconds allotted per question.  
Questions will be presented one at a time. You cannot go back to questions once answered.  
If you are not VERY familiar with the material, you will run out of time.

### **General 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** will be measured by a student's ability to consistently log on to Blackboard and COMPLETE the assigned work. Failure to turn in assignments will be recorded as an "absence." If I notice that you are not progressing, I will reach out to you by email to try and determine what is happening, so that we can resolve it before it becomes too big of an issue. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when they have failed to turn in a total of four (4) quizzes, and/or exams AND the minimum course objectives cannot be met. 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 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
8 am					
9	Lecture, Lab Materials		Lecture Posted		Quiz or Exam Posted
10	Posted				
11					
12 pm					
1					
2					
3	Previous Week's				
4	Lectures, Labs, Exams,				
5	Quizzes 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 Monday night)
    - Video 1
    - Video 2 ...
  - **Wednesday Lecture** (Due Monday night)
    - Video 1
    - Video 2 ...
  - **Lab** (Due Monday night)
    - pre-read
    - Simulation 1
    - Simulation 2 ...
    - post-“homework”
  - **Quiz or Exam** (Due Monday 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 you can use your notes on the quizzes and exams, 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**

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



1408 Fall 2025 Online Schedule*				
Unit	Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Lab Topics
Introduction, Building Blocks of Life	1	Mon, Aug 25	Welcome/Intro - What is Life?	Scientific Method
		Wed, Aug 27	Life Organized/Chemistry for Biology	
		Fri, Aug 29	Quiz 1	
	2	Mon, Sep 1	<b>Labor Day</b>	Metric System
		Wed, Sep 3	Chemistry Continued/Molecules of Life: Carbs	
		Fri, Sep 5	Quiz 2	
	3	Mon, Sep 8	Molecules of Life: Lipids	Chemical Composition of Cells
		Wed, Sep 10	Molecules of Life: Protein, DNA	
		Fri, Sep 12	Quiz 3	
	4	Mon, Sep 15	Cell Structure	Microscopes, Cell Structure
		Wed, Sep 17		
		Fri, Sep 19	<b>EXAM 1 Opens. Due Monday Sep 22, 11:59 pm</b>	
The Working Cell	5	Mon, Sep 22	Cell Division (Mitosis)	Mitosis, Enzymes
		Wed, Sep 24	Cell at Work - Energy and Enzymes	
		Fri, Sep 26	Quiz 4	
	6	Mon, Sep 29	Cellular Respiration	Diffusion and Osmosis
		Wed, Oct 1	Photosynthesis	
		Fri, Oct 3	Quiz 5	
	7	Mon, Oct 6	Carbon and Energy in Ecosystems	Respiration, Photosynthesis
		Wed, Oct 8		
		Fri, Oct 10	<b>EXAM 2 Opens. Due Monday Oct 13, 11:59 pm</b>	
Genetics	8	Mon, Oct 13	Meiosis	Meiosis, Genetic Problems
		Wed, Oct 15	Patterns of Inheritance Mendel	
		Fri, Oct 17	Quiz 6	
	9	Mon, Oct 20	Inheritance - Beyond Mendel	Drosophila and Plant Genetics
		Wed, Oct 22		
		Fri, Oct 24	<b>EXAM 3 Opens. Due Monday Oct 27, 11:59 pm</b>	
DNA	10	Mon, Oct 27	Structure of DNA	DNA Structure, Protein Synthesis, Mutation, Karyotypes
		Wed, Oct 29	Function of DNA/Viruses/Mutation	
		Fri, Oct 31	Quiz 7	
	11	Mon, Nov 3	How Genes are Controlled	Gene Expression
		Wed, Nov 5	Cloning/Gene Cancer	
		Fri, Nov 7	Quiz 8	
	12	Mon, Nov 10	DNA Technology	DNA Technology
		Wed, Nov 12	DNA Technology Applications	
		Fri, Nov 14	<b>EXAM 4 Opens. Due Monday Nov 17, 11:59 pm</b>	
Evolution/ Ecology	13	Mon, Nov 17	Evolution by Natural Selection	Evidence of Evolution
		Wed, Nov 19	Evolution Evidence	
		Fri, Nov 21	Quiz 9	
	14	Mon, Nov 24	Ecology Intro. Ecosystems	No Lab
		Wed, Nov 26	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
		Fri, Nov 28	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
	15	Mon, Dec 1	Ecology Case study 1	TBA
		Wed, Dec 3	Ecology Case study 2	
		Fri, Dec 5	Final EXAM Opens. 8 am.	
		Wed, Dec 10	<b>Final EXAM DUE 11:59 pm</b>	

\*Exam dates are set. Everything else is tentative.