

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: BIOL 1407
Revised: August 2026



Department: Biology
Discipline: Majors Biology
Course Number: BIOL 1407
Course Title: Biology for Science Majors II
Campus: Levelland

Instructor: Kristin Bingham
Sections: 001, Honors 001
Office: Science 130
Office Phone: (806) 716-2308
E-mail: kbingham@southplainscollege.edu

Office Hours:
Monday 8:30-9:30, 12:00-1:00
Tuesday 8:30-9:30
Wednesday 8:30-9:30, 12:00-1:00
Thursday 8:30-9:30
Friday 10:00-12:00

Course Description: In this course, the diversity and classification of life will be studied, including animals, plants, protists, fungi, and prokaryotes. Special emphasis will be given to anatomy, physiology, ecology, and evolution of plants and animals. This is the second semester of an integrated course for majors in biological sciences and related studies, including the medical disciplines.

Prerequisite: A grade of **C** or better in BIOL 1406, Biology for Science Majors I or permission from instructor.

Credit: 4

Course Materials:

Text: Campbell BIOLOGY, 13th edition, by Reece, et al

Online Course Content:

- Blackboard is the primary source for all course information.
 - **Students should access Blackboard daily.** To login to the system, you will need your SPC username and password.
 - Specific course materials available include: PowerPoint lectures, assignments and quizzes, messages and announcements from the instructor, as well as lecture recordings.

Attendance

- Punctual and regular class attendance is required. Students should make an effort to attend all classes. Absence from either the lecture or lab portion of the class will be noted for the entire day and any work submitted will be given a grade of zero.
- I maintain an "open door" policy – if you are running late, still come to class. Open the door and come in.
- Quizzes may be given during the class period. Students who are late may not take the quiz.
- Students are expected to be attentive during lectures and working during lab sessions. Students studying for other classes, browsing the internet or otherwise misusing electronics, sleeping during class or leaving class early will be considered absent for the entire class period.

- Any student absent for more than **4 class days** (for any reason) or absent every class period for two weeks may be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor with a grade of X or F. See the SPC General Catalog or Student Handbook for complete policy on class attendance.
- Excessive, continued absences and/or tardiness are not tolerated. Students are responsible for all material covered during any absence. PowerPoints and recordings of lectures are available on Blackboard – use these obtain material missed due to an absence.

Hazardous Weather Policy

- South Plains College rarely cancels classes due to weather. Students should plan accordingly to be able to attend all classes and arrive at SPC Levelland safely.
- Announcements concerning cancellations and/or delays are made on local television, radio and on MySPC. Emergency notifications are also made by the college via email, text, and phone call. I will post any delays or cancellations on Blackboard.

Course Grade

The grade for this course will be based on five (5) major exams given at regular intervals during the semester (100 pts. possible each) and the averages of quizzes taken during the semester. There are 500 total points possible for the semester. The grading scale will be as follows:

Letter Grade	Course Average*	Semester Points
A	90-100 %	540 to 600
B	80-89 %	480 to 539
C	70-79 %	420 to 479
D	60-69 %	360 to 419
F	0 -59 %	0-359

***Course Average:** Calculated by average of the six grades indicated. If a student's final average *is less than* one-half a percentage point away from the next higher letter grade, the instructor will refer to total points earned during that semester to determine final grade. There are NO curves or extra credit in this course.

Exams

- Each major exam will cover material from BOTH lecture and lab. Lecture material will be approximately 60% of each exam and lab material will be about 40%.
- The lecture exam format will include multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, matching, and true or false questions, as well as diagrams to complete. Lab practical exams will include questions asking you to identify structures, label diagrams, name the organism, and resolve classifications.
- Your score is recorded as the number of (points earned/total points possible)*100. This number is the number of points you will have earned for this exam.
- The last ("final") exam will be given during final exam week and will include both new material and comprehensive material.

Missed Exams

- Students should **NOT** miss exams!
- Any student who misses an exam will have a 0 score entered for that exam. I will only consider allowing a student to make up an exam if they have contacted me **before** the exam has been given.

Quizzes

- Quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Quiz policy may change as needed as determined by the instructor.
- Quizzes will typically be given online via Blackboard. Due dates will be announced in class and posted with the quiz. Late submissions will be given a zero.
- If you experience any technology interruption or issue while taking your quiz, you should screen shot what you see and email me immediately. If I receive your email before the due date, I will reset your quiz attempt. This is also a good reason to take your quiz early!
- Occasionally, a quiz may be given in lecture or lab (paper or clicker system) as deemed necessary by the instructor. Students who are late to the class meeting do not get the opportunity to take the quiz. Students who leave class immediately following a quiz will receive a zero for that quiz. DO NOT show up to class to take a quiz and then leave!
- Spelling counts on quizzes (and all work you submit to me). Taxonomy lists are provided in your course materials. There is no reason for misspelled words in a college course, in your major field.
- Quiz average is 100 points toward the course grade. For students with **2 or fewer absences or tardies**, the lowest FOUR (4) quiz grades will be dropped before the final quiz average is calculated at the end of the semester.
- **Quizzes CANNOT be made up if missed for any reason.** Missed quizzes receive a grade of zero.

Dropping

- An official drop initiated by the student before the Last Day to Drop (**December 3, 2026**) will result in a W on your transcript. Any drop initiated by the instructor for excessive absences will result in either an X or F grade on the transcript. See the school policy on drops and the limit placed on “unexcused” drops which is available in the General Catalog on the school website.

Student Conduct

- **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.
 - A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. It is assumed that obedience to the law, respect for property, authority, personal honor, integrity, and common sense will guide the actions of each member of this class. Any student who fails to perform to the expected standards will be asked to withdraw from the course or will be administratively dropped from the course by the instructor.
 - Students should respect the academic situation and be considerate of others in the classroom. Late arrivals should seat themselves quietly and without disruption to the lecture. During lecture, students should refrain from talking, eating, or any other behavior that will disturb others, including the instructor. Students should be alert, taking notes and paying attention during lecture, videos and discussions.

Technology Misuse Policy

- With advances in technology, students are presented with a myriad of opportunities and tools at their fingertips to help reinforce concepts covered in class and lab. However, at times these technological advances also afford students many distractions from the task at hand. In my class, I encourage you to use technology in an educational and appropriate manner; however, there are few things as rude as

intentionally ignoring someone that is trying to communicate with you. Should you fail to control your electronics use, you will be dismissed from the course for the day. My parameters on use are as follows:

- All electronic devices should be **SILENCED** inside the classrooms (both lecture and lab). If possible, set your device to “Do Not Disturb” mode in class.
- Devices that may be out during lecture include laptops, tablets, and in certain instances, cell phones.
- If your device is out during class, be aware that I will be watching you for your attention. Failure to engage in the material being presented will result in your dismissal based on presumed distraction. During the course of our meeting, should I feel that your device is a distraction to me, to you, or to your classmates, I will implement penalties as outlined below.
- During the lab, you may use your various devices to take photographs of the material we are studying. Be aware that images of all material covered can be accessed in the Online Lab Review.
- **Penalty Information**
 - The first time a phone rings or a student is observed misusing a device (i.e. texting, web browsing, using social media etc.) during lecture or lab, the student will receive a warning.
 - Each subsequent time this occurs, the student will be required to leave the class (and forfeit any grade for that day) PLUS receive a penalty of 10 points being deducted from their next exam.
 - If there are continued issues with a student’s misuse of technology in the classroom, that student will be dismissed from the course.

Academic Integrity (from SPC General Catalog)

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 or her own any work which he or she 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.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

- Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
 2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
 3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
 4. Missing in-text citations.
- Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:
 1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
 2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
 3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
 4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
 5. Taking an examination for another;
 6. Altering grade records;
 7. Copying another’s work during an examination or on a homework assignment;

8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Lab Safety:

Each student will be informed/trained on the "Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) for Laboratories at South Plains College" documentation and training 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. Students not complying with any regulation may be dropped from the course.

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 806-716-224**

Grievance procedure:

- If a student is having a problem with the course policies or the instructor, he or she should *first* try and resolve any such problems with the instructor. If the problem is not resolved, the student may proceed to the Biology Department Chair, 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. This material may not be distributed in any way. You have permission to download course materials to your computer in order to print out the material needed. 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.

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](#).

Schedule of Lectures and Exams

This schedule is **tentative** and subject to change as deemed necessary by the instructor. Any changes will be announced in class.

Unit I: Survey of Life on Earth through Fungi

History of Life on Earth
Phylogeny & the Tree of Life
Bacteria & Archaea
Protists
Fungi
EXAM 1

Unit II: Plant Diversity, Plant Anatomy & Physiology

Introduction to Plant Diversity
Plant Diversity I
Plant Diversity II
Plant Structure & Growth
Angiosperm Reproduction
EXAM 2

Unit III: Survey of Animals

Introduction to Animal Diversity
Invertebrates
Vertebrates
EXAM 3

Unit IV: Animal Anatomy & Physiology

Principles of Animal Form & Function
Animal Nutrition
Circulation & Gas Exchange
Osmoregulation
Reproduction
EXAM 4

Unit V: Animal Anatomy & Physiology and Ecology

Sensory & Motor Mechanisms
Immune System
Introduction to Ecology
Population, Community, & Ecosystem Ecology
FINAL EXAM

