

**COURSE INFORMATION SHEET**  
**BIOL 1407 (4:3:3) Biology for Science Majors II**  
Division of Arts & Sciences  
South Plains College  
Fall 2025



**Instructor** Dr. Caleshia S. Calvin

**Section** 001 & 002

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**Office Hours**

Mon 8:30AM to 9:30AM

Tues 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Wed 8:30AM to 9:30AM

Thurs 10:00AM to 12:00PM

Fri 10:00AM to 12:00PM

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the evolutionary history of biological diversity, plant and animal form and function, as well as ecology. This is the second semester of an integrated course for majors in biological sciences and related studies, including the medical disciplines.

**Course Materials:**

**Text:** *Campbell Biology*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition by Urry et al

**Lab Manual:** *Biology for Science Majors Lab Manual (PDF)*

**Online Course Content**

- Blackboard Ultra is the primary source for all course information.
  - Specific course materials available include PowerPoint slides, assignments, handouts, and study supplements. Any announcements will also be posted on Blackboard Ultra. It is imperative that you use these resources to be successful in this course. You can navigate to Blackboard Ultra via mySPC, the SPC homepage, or at <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/>. Use your SPC username and password to log in.
- **Students should access Blackboard Ultra daily!**

**Attendance**

- Student attendance and punctuality is expected for each lecture and lab period. 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 (0).
- I maintain an “open door” policy – if you are running late, still come to class. Open the door and come in.
- Quizzes will be given during the class period. Students who are late may **not** take the quiz and will be given a grade of zero (0).
- 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.
- Students that are absent for more than **4 class days** (every class period for one week) may be administratively withdrawn from the class by the instructor with a grade of X or F. See the SPC General Catalog or Student Guide for complete policy on class attendance.

- Excessive 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 Ultra – use these to obtain material missed due to an absence.
- Absences for illness, death of an immediate family member, or participation in SPC events are excused. Please visit with me PRIOR to missing class to determine eligibility of excuse. If you will be missing class due to illness, email me prior to the beginning of the class you are missing.

### **Hazardous Weather Policy**

- South Plains College rarely cancels classes due to the 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 Ultra.
- Be sure you are checking for announcements prior to arrival each day.

### **Course Grade**

- The grade for this course will be based on five (5) major exams and practicum given at regular intervals during the semester (100 pts. possible each) and the averages of quizzes taken during the semester. There are 600 total points possible for the semester.
- **There are NO curves or extra credit in this course!**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Course Average*</b>	<b>Semester Points</b>
A	89.5-100 %	537 to 600
B	79.5-89.49 %	477 to 536
C	69.5-79.49%	417 to 476
D	59.5-69.49 %	357 to 416
F	0 -59.49%	0-356

**\*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.

### **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! All students are expected to make proper arrangements to ensure that they will be present for every scheduled exam.
- Any student who misses an exam will be given a grade of zero (0) for that exam.
- Students who miss an exam for **any** reason will have the opportunity to replace the grade of zero (0) at the end of the semester by taking a Comprehensive Make-Up Exam.
- The Comprehensive Make-Up Exam will cover material from Unit 1 – Unit 4. Once completed, the grade for the Comprehensive Make-Up Exam will replace the earned grade of zero (0) for a student's missed exam.
- The Comprehensive Make-Up Exam will be administered on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 9:30AM.

## Quizzes

- Quizzes will be given **daily!**
- Quizzes can potentially cover lecture AND lab material from the previous day.
- Students who are late to class will **not** get the opportunity to take the quiz. Students who leave class immediately following a quiz will receive a zero (0) for that quiz. DO NOT show up to class to take a quiz and then leave!
- Quiz average is 100 points toward the course grade. The lowest TWO (2) quiz grades will be “dropped” (excluded) from grade calculations at the end of the semester.
- **Quizzes CANNOT be made up if missed for any reason.** Missed quizzes will receive a grade of zero (0).

## Dropping

- An official drop initiated by the student before the Last Day to Drop (**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](#). Students may drop a course by accessing the [Student Drop Form](#).

## Student Conduct

- 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, films and discussions. Cell phone use is prohibited – see penalty policy below.

## 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** during 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 and administratively removed from the course.

### **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 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.

1. **Cheating:** Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination 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. This applies to quizzes of whatever length, as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.

### **Cheating Policy**

- No electronic devices, tablets, computers, cell phones, etc. will be allowed out during any testing session. No notes may be used during an exam or quiz.
- Students will be asked to remove hats and caps during exams and may be assigned seating during an exam.
- Anyone caught cheating on an exam will be dropped immediately from the course with an F.

- Anyone caught cheating on a quiz will receive a permanent 0 for that grade that may not be dropped or replaced.

2. **Plagiarism:** “Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism.”

— *South Plains College General Catalog*

**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.

## 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.

## Syllabus Statements

### TexBook Syllabus Statement

- This course is part of your TexBook program, which means you don't need to purchase a textbook or access code for this course. TexBook is the required content (either an eBook or online Courseware) for your course, and is provided for you via the Bibliu platform from Day 1 of class. This required content is provided as part of a Program called 'Inclusive Access', which means that content is provided for you at the lowest price available from the publisher. The cost for this is included in your tuition.

How to access your digital content via Bibliu: you can access your material via the Bibliu link inside your Blackboard Course, or directly via the Bibliu app. If you have issues with this, please contact your professor, the Bookstore Manager or Bibliu Support (see below).

The Bibliu platform: you can use the Bibliu platform to enhance your learning experience, with features including: highlighting, notes and reading text aloud. For more details and support on how to use Bibliu, please visit the BibliU support pages, or contact Bibliu support via the email: support@bibliu.com

Opting out: you can Opt-Out of the TexBook Program, up until the Opt-Out deadline, via the banner displayed when you open the Bibliu platform. Remember that Opt-Out deadlines vary by term, and if you choose to Opt-Out you will lose access to this low price option, and will need to purchase the content through a different method. If you opt-Out, the fee will be refunded to your account.

- Students can find the South Plains College policies concerning Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, Student Identification Verification Pictures, and AI (Artificial Intelligence)statements here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

## **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**

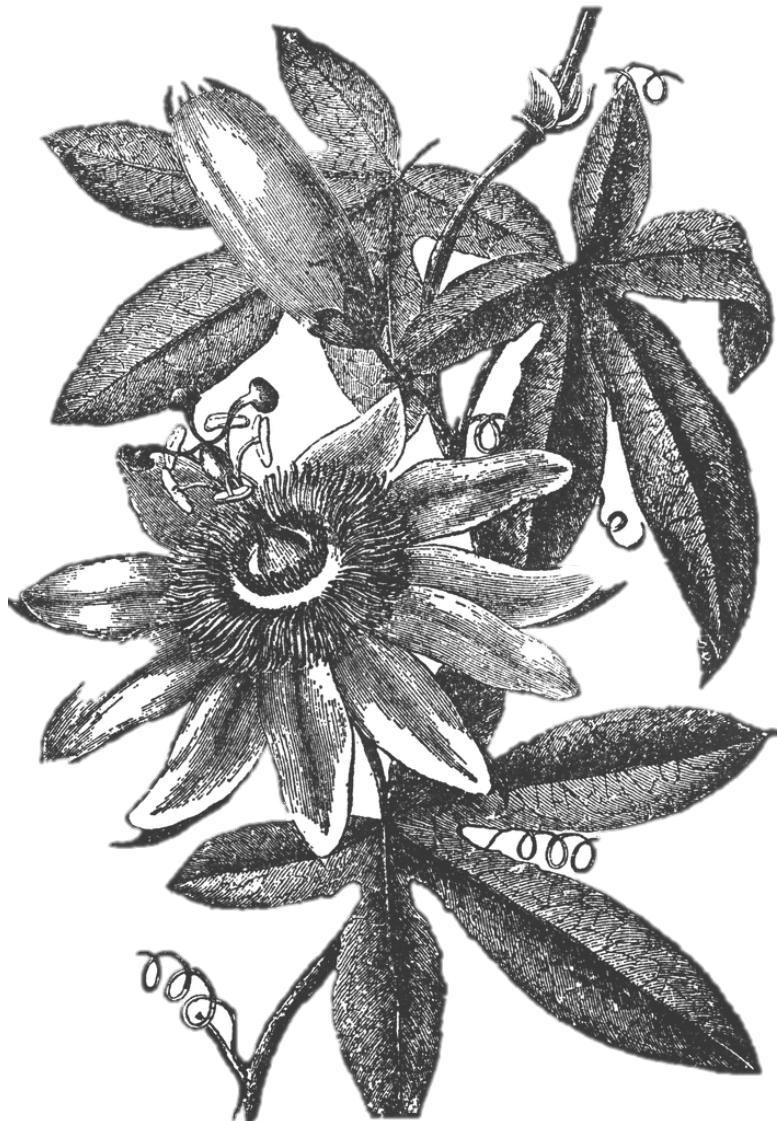
History of Life on Earth  
Phylogeny & the Tree of Life  
Bacteria & Archaea  
Protists  
Fungi

#### **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**

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

#### **FINAL EXAM**