

BIO 1409 (4:3:3)

General Biology for Non-Science Majors II

Department of Biology  
Division of Arts and Sciences  
SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE  
Levelland Campus

Dr. Eric Niederhauser  
Spring 2026 ONLINE

## **Biology II for Non-Science Majors (BIOL 1409) Spring 2026 Online**

INSRUCTOR: Dr. Eric Niederhauser

EMAIL: [eniederhauser@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:eniederhauser@southplainscollege.edu). Please include “1409 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 PHONE: 806 716-2321

OFFICE HOURS in S81: Mon and Wed: 1:00 – 2:00, Tue: 11:00 – 12:00, Thu: 11:00 – 12:00 and 2:30 – 3:30, 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 a survey (overview) of life. We will look at all major life forms - from bacteria to animals. We will look at the organization, structure, function, evolutionary adaptation, and classification of life. This is a part of a two-semester set of classes – though the other semester is not required. This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Life and Physical Sciences Foundational Component Area (030). Core Curriculum Objectives addressed: Communication skills, Critical thinking skills, Empirical and quantitative competency skills, Teamwork, Personal responsibility, Social responsibility.

### **Required Materials**

#### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Computer or laptop with microphone
- External webcam
- 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 – for quizzes and exams
- Access to McGraw Hill Connect virtual labs

NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: To be successful, you should have access to a textbook to read. I usually provide links to an online OpenStax text with the weekly lectures. Many people find printed textbooks very helpful. Most biology texts 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 and purchase 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 at 8:00 am each Tuesday and Thursday - 2.5 hour weekly total. 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 – the next Monday at the end of the day.

LABORATORY: You are required to complete graded weekly lab activities. Paper lab assignments will be posted and most weeks will have online lab-simulation sets accessed through McGraw-Hill Connect in Blackboard. It is anticipated that lab activities will take about 2 hours (some may take a bit more, some much less).

Lab activities are posted Monday morning and due the next Monday at the end of the day.

Understanding of lab concepts will be assessed in lab exams. These will be posted on Mondays of exam weeks.

**QUIZZES:** Each Friday at 8:00 am, except exam weeks, one 5-10 question quiz addressing the week's lecture topics will be posted. You will not be able to take the quizzes until the lectures have been completed. Quizzes will be available to take until Monday at the end of the day. After that, any blank quiz grades will be changed to zero. There are no makeup quizzes.

**EXAMS:** There will be four mid-term exams and one comprehensive final exam. Expect multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions. Exams will not open if the lectures have not been completed.

Exams will be available to take beginning at 8:00 am on the scheduled Friday and will close Mondays at the end of the day. Your identity will be verified, and the exams will be proctored by Honorlock.

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.

#### GRADING SUMMARY

Grade Type	Percentage of Grade
Exams	60 %
Lab Assignments and Exams	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: April 30, 2026

#### 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** is based on your weekly assignment completion. If you fail to complete any assignments for two weeks, you will be counted absent for both weeks and may be dropped from the class. Because this is a lab-integrated course, failure to complete three or more lab activity sets will result in being dropped from the course. Extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Students who fail to complete assignments will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. 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).

**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 materials 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.

Please refer to the Exam and Quiz procedures in the table below.

**Quiz and Exam Procedures:** Students must follow all exam conduct requirements listed in the table below. These requirements are strictly enforced. Failure to comply will result in a grade of zero. By beginning an exam, students acknowledge that they understand and agree to comply with all exam conduct policies. An exam begins as soon as the student clicks the exam link and will be assessed for testing violations from that point.

**NOTE:** Students will be informed of policies and requirements at the beginning of the course and penalties will be minimally applied (points may be lost but not full) on the first weekly quiz. After this first lecture-content quiz, penalties will be applied in full.

Exam Conduct Requirement	Clarification of Requirement
A valid photo ID must be shown at the start of the exam.	Acceptable forms include driver's licenses, SPC student IDs or photo IDs from other academic institutions. The name on the ID must match the name used to register for the course. You may cover sensitive info.
The microphone must be turned on and recording for the entire duration of the exam.	Audio must remain on and clear for the entire exam to verify exam integrity. Students are responsible for minimizing background noise. Fans blowing directly on the microphone, television audio, music, or excessive computer noise are not permitted.
Webcam placement must provide a continuous side-angle view of the student.	The webcam must be positioned to clearly show the student's face, both hands, and testing surface from a side angle. The camera may not be moved once the exam begins.
Students must complete a room scan as instructed.	A complete work area scan must be performed before the exam. The scan must clearly show the testing area, desk surface, surrounding space, and absence of unauthorized materials. Scans must also show that your ears are free of earbuds.
A clear camera image of the student must be maintained at all times. Both hands and face must be visible the entire time.	A zero will be given for any obstruction of the camera's view or of the student's face or eyes. Hats, sunglasses, excessive hand movements, or accessories that block the eyes are not permitted. Students may not lean out of the camera frame.
The testing environment must be well lit and fully visible.	Lighting must be sufficient for the instructor to clearly see the student's face, hands, and testing surface for the duration of the exam. Lighting conditions may not be altered once the exam has started.
The exam must be taken in a private testing environment at a desk or table.	The student must be alone in a quiet, private space and seated at a desk or table. Exams may NOT be taken while sitting on beds, couches, or floors. If needed, contact me to discuss testing locations if needed.
No unauthorized materials may be present or within reach during the exam.	Unauthorized materials include, but are not limited to: books, phones, smart devices, additional computers, or writing not explicitly permitted. Only materials approved by the instructor may be present.
No talking, music, or audio of any kind is permitted during the exam.	The student may not speak to or interact with any person during the exam. No part of the exam may be read out loud.
Professional and respectful conduct is required at all times.	Students must maintain professional language and behavior throughout the exam. Vulgar, inappropriate, or disrespectful language or gestures are not permitted.
Appropriate clothing is required during the exam.	Clothing must be consistent with standard classroom attire. Also, hoodies, hats, or blankets are not permitted, as they may obstruct visibility or compromise exam integrity.

These policies are shared by all instructors in the biology department.

Technical readiness is the responsibility of the student. Students must ensure a stable internet connection, a fully charged device, and functional microphone and camera before beginning the exam. Technical issues caused by lack of preparation are not grounds for exam resets, extensions, or retakes.

## OTHER POLICIES

**Student Conduct:** 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 discuss the matter with the department chair, Kristin Bingham and then the Dean of Arts & Sciences, Alan Worley, 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.

ONLINE Bio 1409 Spring 2026 Tentative Schedule				
Unit	Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Laboratory Topic
Introduction to Diversity	1	Mon, Jan 12	Intro, Life Defined and Organized	Taxonomy
		Wed, Jan 14	History of Life	
		Fri, Jan 16	Quiz 1	
	2	Mon, Jan 19	No Lecture	Microscopes, Microbes, Protista
		Wed, Jan 21	Prokaryotes	
		Fri, Jan 23	Quiz 2	
	3	Mon, Jan 26	Protista	Fungi and Plant Diversity
		Wed, Jan 28	Fungi	
		Fri, Jan 30	Quiz 3	
	4	Mon, Feb 2	Plant Diversity	Lab Test
		Wed, Feb 4		
		Fri, Feb 6	TEST 1	
Plants	5	Mon, Feb 9	Plant Introduction and Anatomy	Plant Morphology and Anatomy
		Wed, Feb 11	Plant Anatomy 2 and Growth	
		Fri, Feb 13	Quiz 4	
	6	Mon, Feb 16	Flowering Plant Reproduction	Plant Reproduction
		Wed, Feb 18	Plant Physiology and Behavior	
		Fri, Feb 20	Quiz 5	
	7	Mon, Feb 23	Plants and people, Ecology	Lab Test
		Wed, Feb 25		
		Fri, Feb 27	TEST 2	
Animals: Invertebrates	8	Mon, Mar 2	Animal Classification	Dissection: Roundworm/Earthworm; ID: Sponges, Cnidarians,
		Wed, Mar 4	Porifera, Cnidarians Flatworms	
		Fri, Mar 6	Quiz 6	
	9	Mon, Mar 9	Roundworms	Dissection Crayfish; ID: Molluscs, Annelids, Echinoderms
		Wed, Mar 11	Annelids, Mollusks Echinoderms	
		Fri, Mar 13	Quiz 7	
	Spring Break March 16-20			
	10	Mon, Mar 23	Arthropods 1	Dissection: Fish; ID: Arthropods
		Wed, Mar 25	Arthropods 2	
		Fri, Mar 27	TEST 3	
Animals: Vertebrates	11	Mon, Mar 30	Vertebrate Diversity /Fish	Dissection: Frog; ID: Vertebrates
		Wed, Apr 1	Amphibians, Reptiles	
		Fri, Apr 3	Quiz 8	
	12	Mon, Apr 6	Reptiles 2 (Birds)	Lab Test
		Wed, Apr 8	Mammals	
	Fri, Apr 10	TEST 4		
Anatomy and Physiology	13	Mon, Apr 13	Organization	Dissection: Pig; Torso and Heart Model
		Wed, Apr 15	Exchanges and Regulation	
		Fri, Apr 17	Quiz 9	
	14	Mon, Apr 20	Nutrition and Digestion	Dissection: Pig; Torso and Heart Model
		Wed, Apr 22	Reproductive system	
		Fri Apr 25	Quiz 10	
	15	Mon, Apr 27	Circulation and Respiration	Lab Test
		Wed, Apr 29	Immune System	
		Fri, May 1	Final Exam Opens 8 a.m.	