

General Zoology



Dr. Harriet Strickland

Associate Professor in
Biology Department

Welcome to General Zoology

We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays
on the Levelland Campus,
in the new Science Building.

Lecture at 9:30 a.m. in Room S80
Lab at 11:00 a.m. in Room S194

Format:

Face-to-Face with online component,
accessed through Blackboard Ultra LMS.

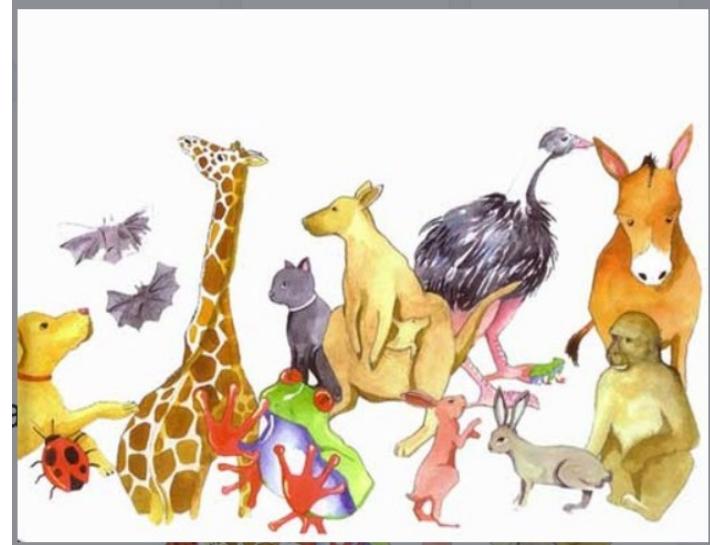
Prerequisite:

Students must be TSI Compliant in Reading
and Writing or ELAR (TSIA2), completed
prior to taking this course.

Credit: 4 semester credit hours

Contact Hours: 6 hours/week on campus

BIOL-1413-001



Spring 2026

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Levelland Office: Science Building S86

hstrickland@southplainscollege.edu

Office Phone: 806-716-2306



What are the classes and labs like?

- **We will meet for lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in Lecture Classroom S80.**
- Lectures are usually given along with PowerPoint slides.
- **If you need Special Accommodations,** please see Dr. S early in the semester for instructions. Any accommodations that you may have taken for granted at your previous school or that you may have had before at SPC do NOT automatically transfer to this course. See Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577.
- **You should take notes in lecture** (not everything is written on the slides).
- The lecture **slides will be posted on Blackboard after class** for use in studying for tests (or, in case you miss lecture— at least you have part of the missed information presented in lecture.)

Take a break, take a walk...



- **You take a 15-minute break and then meet for lab in the Zoology Lab Room S194 (same Science Building, different hallway, 11am-12:15pm).**



No food is allowed in the lab, and **any drinks must have closed lids** in the zoology lab room **and be put away**.



- You should arrive with pen or pencil and either a notebook or clipboard with writing paper **in case you need to take notes in lab.**
- Lab exercises are listed on your Blackboard Weekly Contents calendar.



There may be **Group activities** or **worksheets** with videos or **microscope work** or **genetics problems** or surveys of **preserved animal collections** or **animal dissections**, etc.

- The information provided during laboratory will be included in written Unit Tests and & Laboratory Practical Exams. **All testing will be done in person in the Classroom or the Lab Room.**
- You will **NOT be allowed** to use books, notes or phones for in-person testing.

Zoology = the scientific study of animals.

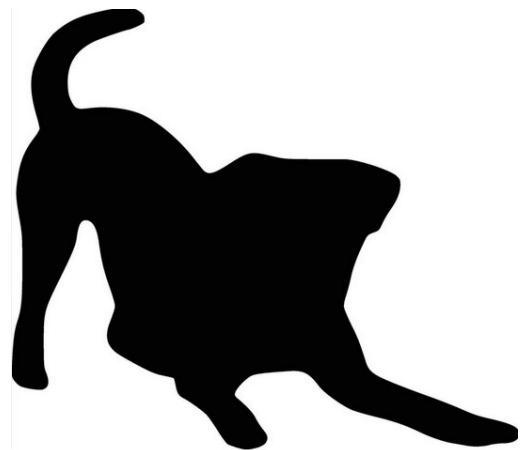


**If you're interested in animals,
you're in the right place.**

What will we learn in this course?

In this course, we will study fundamental biological concepts relevant to animals, including topics like:

- **chemical foundations of life**
- **nutrition and cellular metabolism**
- **genetics and reproduction**
- **evolution and natural selection**
- **development and metamorphosis**
- **classification, taxonomy, diversity and ecology**
- **comparative anatomy, physiology and behavior**
- **examples of zoonotic diseases (= spread from animals to people) and some medical conditions that are common in humans and other animals.**



What are we required to do in this course?

- **Check your SPC Email and the Blackboard course page daily or every-other-day** for any Announcements and Changes in Scheduling. 
- **Attend class and lab, stay awake (chew gum if needed), participate and take notes for studying.**
- **Ask questions if something doesn't make sense to you**— you're probably not alone.
- **Participate in group activities** as assigned in lab. **Most lab exercises cannot be "made up"**, so if you miss lab then you will need to talk with a classmate and/or Dr. Strickland to find out what type of information you missed. **Lab Practical Exams cannot be made-up**; however, if you follow the rules for "Excused-absence" (given below) a zero score may be exempted.
- **In order to succeed, expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours outside of the class-room or lab room each week** working on video homework assignments, lab assignments, reading assignments, and studying for scheduled tests. That is in addition to the time spent in preparation of your group project, which will be assigned in Week #7 (Mon, 2/23) and will be due after Spring Break in Week #10 (Wed, 3/25).
- **There is no last-minute extra credit or make-up work** at the end of the semester for rescuing a poor grade. **You must stay on schedule with any due dates for extra credit.** 
- **Keep up with the Weekly Class Schedule in Blackboard**, either by checking it regularly or by transferring deadline due dates to a white board that you keep near your study area at home.
- Follow instructions to complete the regularly scheduled **homework video worksheet assignments and submit by the scheduled deadline**.
- Students who enroll in this course but have "Never Attended" and **do not meet the attendance requirements by the official census date (Wed Jan 28, 2026, for Spring Semester)**, as reported by Dr. Strickland, will be administratively dropped (grade "X") by the Office of Admissions & Records.
- Complete **reading assignments, write for yourself a summary of the main take-away points and key word definitions** to be used later when you study for testing. 
- **Take your Unit Tests and Lab Practical Exams on schedule, or follow the Rules for "Excused-absence" given below if an emergency situation prevents testing.**
- **Rules for eligibility for written Unit Test make-up: "You must meet "excused-absence" criteria AND you (or your representative) must contact Dr. Strickland within 24 hours of the Testing due date".**
- **"Excused-absence" criteria** include: a serious illness; or COVID-19 related Isolation with positive COVID-19 test results and, if it coincides with an assignment due dates, then it must be accompanied **by illness that prevents online work**; or a legitimate emergency; or an official college trip; or the death of an immediate family member. In each of these cases, the **appropriate confirmation information (documentation) must be provided**.
- **Students with disabilities**, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, **who wish to request accommodations should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester** so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577.

Grading Summary

How do we pass this class?



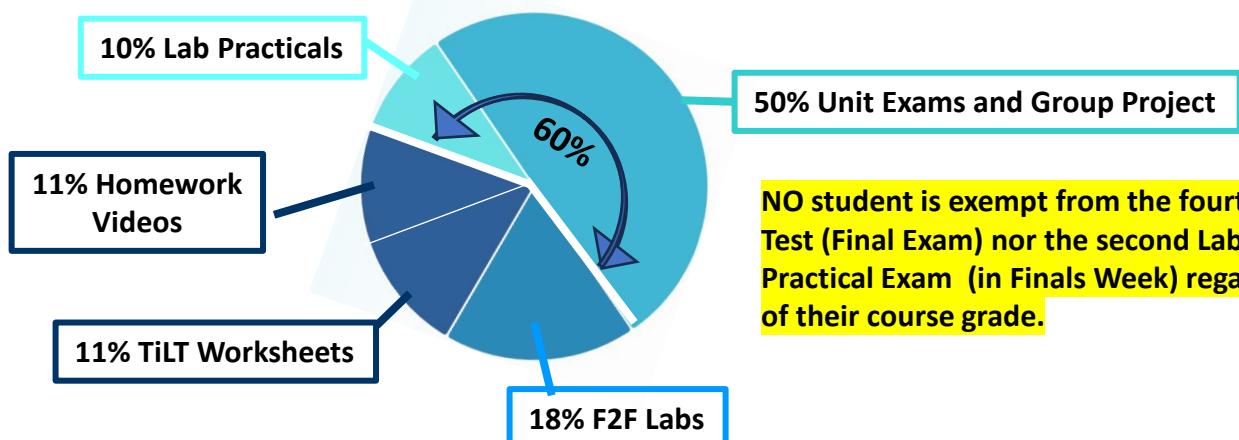
Check your updated grades in Blackboard regularly during the semester and contact Dr. S immediately if you find a mistake or need to discuss your grades.

Category	Approximate Available Points	Approximate % of Final Grade
Unit Exams (4) keep all grades	4 @ 100 points = 400	Weighted to equal Approximately 60% of Final Grade
Lab Practicals (2) keep both	2 @ 50 points = 100	
Group Project (1) keep	1 @ 75 points = 75	
Up to 4 Extra Credit Assignments Added onto specific test scores for Unit Exams	Up to 4 @ 5-7 pts = 25 E.C.	Notice that these points are <u>WORTH MORE</u> than other type Assignment or Lab Points
Homework Video Assignment Worksheets	Best 8 out of approx. 10 @ 20± pts	Weighted to equal Approximately 40% of Final Grade
Face-2-Face Lab Worksheets	Best 13 out of approx. 15 @ 20± pts	
TiLT Worksheet Assignments	Keep all 7 TiLTs @ 25pts	Notice that these points are <u>WORTH LESS</u> than Exams or Practicals or Group Projects, but learning materials are included in Exam questions
	Approx. 1100 – 1200 points total	100%

Final Letter Grade Policy:

*Course Average: Each point earned in Exams & Practicals is weighted to equal approx. 60% of Final Course Grade, and each point earned in other Assignment/ Worksheets/ Labs is weighted to equal approx. 40% of Final Course Grade. If a student's final course grade is less than one half percentage point away from the next higher letter grade, the instructor may consider giving the higher letter grade, related to performance on the Final Exam and bonus points/extra credit that may have been gained for the unit exams.

Final Letter Grade	Course Average*
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 90%
C	70 – 80%
D	60 – 70%
F	0 – 59%



NO student is exempt from the fourth Unit Test (Final Exam) nor the second Lab Practical Exam (in Finals Week) regardless of their course grade.

Passing this Class

Policies & Procedures to Keep in Mind

Additional Policy for Class Attendance:

Attendance will be measured by the student's ability to consistently attend lecture and labs so that he/ she submits in-class worksheets, participates in group discussions, and logs on to Blackboard each week and **COMPLETES** the assigned work as scheduled. Failure to participate and turn-in assignments by due dates will be recorded as an "absence" and "zero grade", unless and until "Excused absence" criteria are met (see page 4).





Online Course Content included in this Face-to-Face Course:

Blackboard Ultra LMS is a secondary source for course learning materials. Students need to access Blackboard regularly. Specific course materials available on Blackboard will include: announcements from the instructor, changes to the course schedule, study aids, slides and some recordings from Power Point lectures and laboratory demonstrations, grades on assignments and on tests, etc.



SPC E-mail: Each student has a South Plains College E-mail account and should check it regularly (daily or every-other-day). Instructors and the administration will use this SPC E-mail address to contact the student, NOT a student's personal E-mail address.



Tutoring Resources:

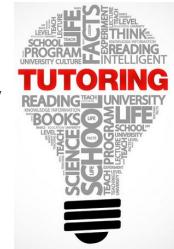
SPC Tutors

SPC Tutors for Biology will be able to help students in this General Zoology course. Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. SPC has tutors at each campus and several online. 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

6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-224.

Procedures for Technical Difficulties:

Lost/ Corrupt/ Disappeared Files/ Lost in Blackboard:

- If you experience any of these technical difficulties, please contact the IT Help Desk or use Help with Blackboard and contact the instructor.
- All SPC campuses are expected to have Internet and computer access for students throughout the semester. The following link will indicate where WiFi access is available on SPC Campuses: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/wifi-resources.php>



More Policies to Keep in Mind

Privacy Statement:

The federal law guaranteeing student privacy is the policy of this professor as well as that of SPC. This means that the instructor will not discuss a student's grade with anyone other than that student (which means that the instructor will NOT discuss a student's grade with parents, guardians, friends), etc.



Copyright Notice Policy:

All materials presented by the instructor in this course are copyright protected. **The material presented by Dr. Strickland may not be modified or altered in any way. You have permission to print out one copy of any material presented by the instructor for this course** (examples: course information sheet, contact information, weekly checklists, TiLT Assignment slides, lecture PowerPoint slides, homework assignments, posted reading assignments). The one copy must only be used for your personal educational use during this semester. **The material may not be altered or modified 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.



Student Code of Conduct Policy:

Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and instructor. Neither the 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 the classroom or virtual meeting, or administrative withdrawal from the course.

As future professionals, students are to communicate with each other in a professional & civil manner. At all times we will treat each other with dignity and respect. That means no profanity or conversations that the instructor believes are inappropriate. The instructor has the final say for what may be considered "inappropriate". If there are problems in this area, a student may be asked to leave the classroom or virtual meeting.

Academic Integrity Policy:

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 offence and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. Each student is expected to abide by absolute honesty. Infractions will result in penalties subject to an assignment of a grade of "F" for the course or expulsion from the College. Students should also regard civility online as a policy requirement.

Cheating: Dishonesty of any kind on tests, quizzes, examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from a 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.

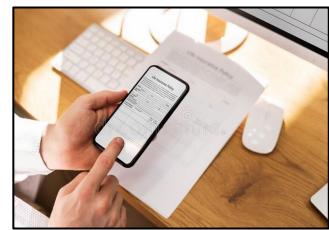
Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to tests, quizzes and examination of whatever length, to assignments, to daily reports and to term papers.

Even More Policies to Consider

Academic Integrity Policy, Continued:

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
- 2) Taking pictures of a test, quiz or exam or of their answers, or of someone else's paper;
- 3) Using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
- 4) Entering an office or building or lab room to obtain unfair advantage;
- 5) Taking an examination for another person or assisting another person during test taking;
- 6) Altering grade records;
- 7) Copying another person'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) Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
- 10) Modifying, altering or distributing any course materials presented by the instructor (see Copyright Notice Policy).
- 11) Violations regarding ChatGPT and other AI (see SPC Syllabus Policies link on page 9).



Plagiarism: Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism: therefore, any student who fails to give credit to 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.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Submitting a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, copied 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.
- 5) Violations regarding ChatGPT and other AI (see SPC Syllabus Policies link on page 9).

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Withdrawal Policy:

The last day to withdraw/ drop with a grade of "W" is **Thursday, April 30, 2026**. ***It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, a student will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the semester (even if that grade is a D or an F).*** Course averages will be updated frequently, and guidance will be provided upon request to help students decide whether or not they need to drop the class to avoid a poor grade. For more information regarding drops/ withdrawals please visit:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, the lecture & lab schedules, the tests/exams/practicals and any quiz dates, the assignments and their due dates, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

What resources do we have to be successful?

There is NO Required Text or Virtual Lab Program



Recommended Supplies

- Writing Utensils (pencil for tests or pen for notes).
- Folder or Binder for organizing returned assignments.
- **Computer recommended for video and TiLT homework assignments because the screens for smartphones can be disappointingly small.**
- Calendar or White board to stay on schedule with due dates.
- **Good Internet connection for viewing video assignments.**

Communicate with Instructor in person or by SPC email:

Levelland Campus Office, New Science Building, Room S86 located near front doors

Student Drop-in Hours (A.K.A. Office Hours)

Mondays & Wednesdays: 2:00-4:00pm

Thursdays: 3:00-4:00pm

Fridays: 9:00am-12:00pm

You can always E-mail with questions & concern
E-mail: hstrickland@southplainscollege.edu



**Do NOT contact Dr. Strickland using the Blackboard Messaging system.
Instead, use the SPC email system.**

Free SPC Tutoring

South Plains College provides free tutoring to students. A biology tutor will be able to help you with this Zoology Course. The most current schedule can be found at:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teachertutoring.php>

Tutors can help you practice applying concepts from course materials, and can quiz you on learning materials in preparation for testing.



Special Accommodations (like extra time on tests) that you may have taken for granted at your previous school do NOT automatically transfer to SPC. Please contact the Disability Services Office for assistance (806-716-2577)

SPC Syllabus Policies

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) can be found here: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>