

BIOL 1408 (4:3:3)
Department: Science
Discipline: Biology
Course Number: Biol 1408
Course Title: General Biology for Non-Science Majors I
Campus: Lubbock-Cooper High School
Instructor: Kandice Patton
EMAIL: kpatton@lcisd.net

Fall 2026

Course Information

For emails: Please include the course number (1408) in the subject. I generally try to respond promptly to emails. Evening or Weekend response times will be delayed. I respond to emails received on Weekends on Monday.

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.

Course Implementation:

PREREQUISITE: None. CREDIT: Four semester hours

RECOMMENDED TEXT: Biology 2e from openstax.org

Blackboard: Current grades, course information, lecture notes, links etc. will be available on Google Classroom. You are responsible for checking Google Classroom regularly.

Grading:

EXAMS: Five exams are given during the semester covering both lecture and lab. The exams are announced in advance and primarily cover lecture material but may include information from lab. The exams are primarily multiple choice but may include fill-in-the blank, short answer or essay questions. The final exam is comprehensive.

Missed exams: If you know in advance that you will be absent on an exam date, notify me ahead of time, it MAY be possible to take the exam at an alternate time. If you unexpectedly miss an exam and do not contact me within 24 hours, I will not consider a makeup exam and you will receive a zero for the exam.

IN-CLASS QUIZZES: Most lectures will begin with a quiz. If you are late for class, you will miss the quiz and will not be able to make it up.

LAB GRADES: Based on lab assignments.

ASSIGNMENTS: Graded assignments may be assigned.

Homework: Homework will be assigned occasionally. It can be completed if there is extra time in class, otherwise it is to be completed at home.

GRADING SUMMARY

Grade Type Percentage of Grade

Exams 60 %

In-Class Quizzes 20 %

Lab Grades/Assignments 20 %

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 3, 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 Policy: Students are expected to attend frequently in order to be successful in this course.

Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment. This is in accordance with the policies set forth in the SPC General Catalog. This course information sheet contains the schedule of lectures and labs. If you are unable to finish this course, complete a withdrawal slip at the registrar's office.

Dropping a Course: Students may drop courses through Texan Connect, the Admissions and Records Office, or Advising and Testing Center through the late registration period.

After late registration has closed, a student must complete the online Student Initiated Drop Request to drop a course. Students may also drop courses in person at any campus location by completing a Student Initiated Drop Form. Complete a Student Initiated Drop Form and return the signed form to the Levelland Admissions and Records Office, the Student Support Center at the Lubbock Downtown Center, the Lubbock Career and Technical Center, or Plainview Center. You must have a picture ID to complete the drop.

A mark of "W" will be given for student-initiated drops that occur prior to and through the last day to drop as indicated in the online Academic Calendar found here:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>.

Syllabus Statements: For information about Artificial Intelligence, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Intellectual Exchange, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, and COVID-19, please use this link:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

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 may result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F or X for the course, if circumstances warrant.

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

1. Submitting work that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student or an online term paper site.
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. Violating the Artificial Intelligence policy, as outlined in the syllabus. For more information on AI, please reference this in the syllabus statements:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

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.

Lab Safety: The laboratory is a potentially hazardous environment. Therefore, all students must follow all of the safety rules given to you in the safety presentation. The students must also follow any specific safety rules listed in the lab manual and any that the instructor may announce.

Safety Rules: These safety rules will be given to you in class. The safety rules must be followed. You will be required to sign a sheet indicating you have read and agree to follow the safety rules before being allowed to perform an experiment.

Logging into the Course: You are not allowed to give your user ID and/or password to anyone. You will be dropped and given an F for your final grade if someone besides you is caught logging into this course under your user ID and/or password.

Course Schedule: The following table contains the tentative course schedule. All material (including lecture material, experiment material, and material scheduled for the chapter exams) is subject to change. Also, all dates are subject to change. Changes will be announced if necessary.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about

Intellectual exchange

Disabilities

Non-discrimination

Title V Pregnancy Accommodations

CARE Team

please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Unit	Date	Topic
Introduction, Building Blocks of life	Mon 8/24 & Tuesday 8/25	Intro - What is Life?
	Wed 8/26 & Thursday 8/27	Life organized / Chemistry for Biology
	Fri 8/28 & Monday 8/31	Chemistry for Biology
	Tuesday 9/1 & Wed 9/2	Molecules of Life: Carbs, Lipids
	Thursday 9/3 & Fri 9/4	Molecules of Life: Protein, DNA
	Tues 9/8	Catch up & Review
	Wednesday 9/9	Exam 1
The Working Cell	Mon 9/14 & Tuesday 9/15	Cell Structure and Function
	Wed 9/16 & Thurs 9/17	Cell Division (Mitosis)
	Fri 9/18 & Mon 9/21	Cell at Work - Energy & Enzymes
	Tues 9/22 & Wed 9/23	Cellular Respiration
	Thur 9/24 & Fri 9/25	Photosynthesis

	Tues 9/29	Catch up & Review
	Wed 9/30	Exam 2
Genetics	Thur 10/1 & Fri 10/2	Meiosis
	Mon 10/5 & Tues 10/6	Patterns of Inheritance Mendel
	Wed 10/7 & Thur 10/8	Inheritance- Beyond Mendel
	Fri 10/9 & Tues 10/13	Structure / Function of DNA
	Wed 10/14 & Thur 10/15	Viruses/ Mutation
	Fri 10/16 & Mon 10/19	Catch up & Review
	Tues 10/20	Exam 3
DNA & Evolution	Wed 10/21 & Thurs 10/22	How Genes are Controlled
	Fri 10/23 & Mon 10/26	Cloning/ Gene Cancer
	Tues 10/27	DNA Technology
	Tues 11/4 & Wed 10/28	DNA Technology Applications
	Thur 10/19 & Fri 10/30	Evolution by Natural Selection
	Mon 11/2 & Tues 11/3	Evolution Evidence
	Wed 11/4	Catch up & Review
	Thur 11/5	Exam 4
	Fri 11/6 & Tues 11/10	Ecology Intro Ecosystem (on final)
	Wed 11/11	Ecology Case Study Day 1

	Thur 11/12 Fri 11/13	Ecology Case Study Day 2 Finish Ecology Case Study
	Mon 11/16 - Fri 11/20	Gel Electrophoresis Lab / Review for final
THANKSGIVING BREAK		
	Fri 12/4	Catch up & Review
Finals Week for SPC	12/7 -12/10	

Lab Schedule

Unit 1

Safety/Metric System/ Data Analysis

Microscope Intro/ Experimental Design

Organic Molecules

Unit 2

Diffusion and Osmosis

Cells/ Mitosis

Respiration/ Photosynthesis

Unit 3

Genetic Problems

DNA Structure and Protein Synthesis

Unit 4

Natural Selection/ Gel Electrophoresis Intro

DNA Fingerprinting