

**South Plains College**  
**Common Course Syllabus: BIOL 1406-152**  
Revised 08/19/20 for **Fall Semester 2020**

<b>Department:</b> Biology	<b>Instructor:</b> Dr. Harriet L. Strickland
<b>Discipline:</b> General Biology	<b>Campuses:</b> Levelland Office
<b>Course Number:</b> 1406-152	Office: Science Building S183
<b>Course Title:</b> Biology for Science Majors I (lecture + lab)	Office Telephone: 806-716-2306
<b>Available Format:</b> Completely Online (temporary for Fall Semester 2020 only, due to COVID-19)	

**Communicate with Instructor using SPC Email for questions & concerns:**

E-mail: [hstrickland@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:hstrickland@southplainscollege.edu)  
Instructor will respond to student emails throughout the day Monday-Friday,  
usually responding within 24 hours or less, except on weekends and holidays.

**You'll have the option to Join Instructor using Collaborate during Virtual Office Hours, but this will have no affect on your attendance—join only if you need assistance or you wish to visit:**

Monday: Virtual 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Tuesday: Virtual 2:00 – 3:30 pm  
Wednesday: Virtual 11:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Virtual 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Thursday: Virtual 2:00 – 3:30 pm

**Levelland Campus Office Hours, Science Building, Room S183, knock-on-door:**

**In-person Office Hours:**

Friday: In office 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Course Description:** This course focuses on fundamental principles of living organisms including the physical and chemical properties of life, organization, function, evolutionary adaptation, and classification. Concepts of cytology, reproduction, genetics, and scientific reasoning are included. Laboratories will allow hands-on investigation of lecture topics. This is the first semester of an integrated course for majors in biological sciences and related studies, including the medical disciplines.

**Prerequisite:** None. Must be TSI Compliant in Reading- Must be completed prior to taking this course.

**Credit:** 4:3:3 (4 semester credit hours: 3 lecture contact hours/week: 3 lab contact hours/week)

**Textbooks:**

**Required text:** Campbell *Biology*, 11th Ed. by Urry, Reece et.al., Pearson publishers. Older editions are acceptable.

**Required Lab Simulation Program Access from McGraw-Hill:**

Connect Virtual Biology Labs, McGraw-Hill. (Students can purchase the Online Access code ahead of time directly from McGraw-Hill Publisher, ISBN 978-1-264-04596-9 or by using a credit card when clicking on an assignment for the first time (approx.\$60). OR, if a student needs to use Financial Aid to purchase through the SPC Bookstore, they will purchase the Physical Access Card, ISBN 978-1-26420-351-2). This is a stand-alone product from McGraw-Hill publishers.

### **Required Online Materials:**

- All of the following are required: regular access to a laptop or desktop computer, reliable high speed Internet access, Blackboard, SPC Email, Microsoft Office (download from mySPC), Adobe Reader (download from Adobe.com), Audio and video capabilities (for watching and listening to course content and assigned videos), Web camera and microphone (for video conferencing using Collaborate in Blackboard) and/or a Smartphone (for using Collaborate via the SPC Blackboard app), occasional access to a printer, and occasional access to Smartphone or other digital camera (for taking photos of completed worksheets, which are then uploaded into the Assignment Function of Blackboard).
- Access to a Smartphone cannot replace course requirement for access to computer, reliable Internet, Blackboard and printer.
- Smartphones or mobile devices cannot be used for testing.

### **This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement:**

Life and Physical Sciences Foundational Component Area (030)

### **Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:**

- **Communications skills-** to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills-** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Empirical and quantitative competency skills-** to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

#### **Upon successful completion of this course, students will:**

- A. Describe the characteristics of life.
- B. Explain the methods of inquiry used by scientists.
- C. Identify the basic requirements of life and the properties of the major molecules needed for life.
- D. Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of viruses, prokaryotic cells, and eukaryotic cells.
- E. Describe the structure of cell membranes and the movement of molecules across a membrane.
- F. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in metabolism.
- G. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
- H. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins.
- I. Describe the unity and diversity of life and the evidence for evolution through natural selection.
- J. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
- K. Use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
- L. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations through laboratory activities.

### **Online Course Content:**

**Blackboard** is the primary source for all course information. **Students need to access Blackboard daily.** Students should take Blackboard Quizzes and Unit Tests using a laptop or desktop computer, not using an application (app) on a Smartphone. Specific course materials available on Blackboard will include: messages and announcements from the instructor, official quizzes with deadlines, online tests and assignments, changes to the course schedule, study aids, slides and recordings from PowerPoint lectures and laboratory demonstrations, simulated laboratory exercises, absence records, grades on assignments and tests, etc.

**SPC E-mail:** Each student has an SPC E-mail account and should check it regularly. Instructors and the administration will use this E-mail address to contact the student.

**Tutoring Resources:** Online tutoring is available using the Tutor.com tool in Blackboard. For instructions, click the **Tutor.com-Instant Online Tutoring** link on the left menu.

**\*\*\*The last day for a student to drop themselves from this course is Thursday, November 19, 2020.**

**This course must be completed with a grade of C or better in order for the student to take General Biology II (Biology 1407) at South Plains College.**

## **Course Evaluation/ Student Performance Assessment:**

### **Student Performance Assessment using Examinations and Blackboard Quizzes:**

- **Four major exams (Unit Exams or Tests) will be given during the semester.** The exams will be announced in advance and will be primarily questions covering lecture material and assigned reading materials but will include some questions over the lab exercises covered during that particular unit. Test #1 will cover Unit One material, Test #2 will cover Unit Two material and Test #3 will cover Unit Three material. Test #4 will be the Final Exam (given during finals week) and will cover Unit Four materials **as well as a large comprehensive portion of the exam covering all the material from units one, two, and three and all laboratories.** Each exam is worth 100 points.
- Tests #1 through #3 will be scheduled throughout the semester. Test #4 (the Final Exam) is scheduled according to the SPC Spring Semester Final Exam Schedule and will be scheduled online with an assigned due date no later than Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Each Unit Test will be worth 100 points. **Students may NOT drop their lowest test score.** All four major exams will include both lecture and laboratory material.
- The final exam (Test #4) is comprehensive, covering material for the entire course.
- Students should NOT miss tests or quizzes—due dates will always be provided. Any student who misses a test or quiz will have a 0 score entered for that item (except for “excused-absence” criteria below, and correct notification of instructor within 24 hours of due date).
- To avoid technical issues during testing, students should take each test as early as possible and within normal business hours. If a student has problems at 2AM, there will be no services available for assistance.
- **In order to be considered for eligibility to make-up a missed test, the student must meet “excused-absence” criteria AND the student (or a representative) must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the exam due date.**
- **“Excused-absence” criteria** include: a serious illness, COVID-19 related Isolation with illness, a legitimate emergency, an official college trip, or the death of an immediate family member—in each case, **the appropriate confirmation information** must be provided to the instructor in order for accommodations to be made.
- Because this course will be delivered entirely Online, a student with COVID-19 related Quarantine **without accompanying illness** (exposure without illness, or quarantine during incubation period) **does not count as an automatic excuse** for missing a scheduled test/ quiz/ assignment/ lab exercise.

### **(Examinations and Blackboard Quizzes, continued)**

- If a student is notified by a public health, school or medical official (or nurse or doctor, etc) to undergo quarantine, then that student should immediately contact the instructor (contact by email: [hstrickland@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:hstrickland@southplainscollege.edu)), before a test or quiz or assignment/lab exercise is scheduled to be due. If adjustments to the testing date are required, then they will be discussed ahead of time.
- All quizzes in this class (called Blackboard Quizzes or BB Quizzes) will be on Blackboard.
- Blackboard Quizzes will be administered throughout the semester, and due dates will be provided within the corresponding Weekly Learning Modules. Some quizzes will be related to pre-assigned readings from the required textbook. Other quizzes will cover lecture material and lab material from the assigned Learning Module.
- All Unit Tests (Tests #1 through #4) and all Blackboard Quizzes are “open-books” and “open-notes” and “open-web searches”, BUT there is a time limit for completing each exam or quiz, and test questions and answers (if multiple choice) are randomized, so students are advised to have studied before taking the exam or quiz.
- Also, please note that not all “web searches” provide reliable information, nor do all “web searches” match evidence-based scientific knowledge. Students should study materials provided in lecture, reading assignments, laboratory exercises, and any study-aids or additional resources provided within this course when preparing for graded quizzes & tests. Internet searches for answers to test questions may not provide the student with correct answers.
- Although students are authorized to use their textbooks, notes, lab books & notes, and web searches while taking a Blackboard Quiz or Unit Test, each student must personally take each quiz/test by themselves (without the aid of another student, or a former student, or any human or virtual assistant, or a tutor, and this includes without the aid of text-messaging or instant-messaging), unless a student has received approval for specific Special Accommodations (see Policy below).
- Using the aid of another person or virtual assistant when taking a Blackboard Quiz or Unit Test is considered Cheating (see Policy above), unless a student has received approval for specific Special Accommodations (see Policy below).
- **In order to be considered for eligibility to make-up a Blackboard Quiz, the student must meet “excused-absence” criteria AND the student (or a representative) must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the Quiz due date.**
- **The lowest (1) Blackboard Quiz grade will be dropped before the final course average is calculated at the end of the semester.** If a student misses a Blackboard Quiz and does not meet “excused absence” criteria for make-up opportunity, and does not notify the instructor within 24 hours of the quiz due date, then that grade of zero will become that student’s dropped quiz grade for the semester. No student can drop more than one Blackboard Quiz.
- Please make sure to use a reliable computer on a reliable Internet connection to take Blackboard Quizzes and Unit Tests. Only on rare occurrences will the Instructor reset a student’s quiz or test attempt.

## Student Performance Assessment using Homework, Worksheets and Laboratory Exercises:

- Homework assignments, Worksheets and Laboratory Exercises will be assigned throughout the semester (approximately 15 to 20 graded assessments) related to both laboratory and lecture materials, and may include completing worksheets, performing reading assignments, completing simulated laboratory exercises, working genetics problems, writing and typing short reports, watching specific video clips, etc. and will be worth anywhere from 10 to 25 points each (total for semester approximately 280 to 340 points). These assignments will be posted within each corresponding Learning Module on Blackboard, along with instructions.
- Late assignments and lab exercises will be accepted for up to one week after the due date (except those assignments and exercises scheduled during the last two weeks of the semester, which will not be accepted late without prior approval), but automatically will lose 25% of their potential value after the original due date has passed, unless “excused absence” criteria apply AND the student (or representative) notifies the instructor within 24 hours of due date.
- When completing any handwritten assignment, the writing needs to be legible and organized.
- When photographs of handwritten assignments are submitted as uploads to Blackboard, they must be formatted in the correct file type in order to be viewed and graded by the instructor (jpg or jpeg file types, as given in each assignment instructions).

**Summary of Grades:**     **Four major Exams: ≈ 45% of Final grade**  
**Lecture Worksheets: ≈ 5% of Final grade**  
**Blackboard Quizzes: ≈ 17% of Final grade**  
**Worksheets & Lab Simulations: ≈ 33% of Final grade**

Activities	Approx Available Points	Approximate % of Final Grade
<b>Unit Exams (4)</b>	<b>4 @ 100 points = 400</b>	<b>≈ 50% Primarily Lecture Material with some laboratory concepts</b>
<b>Lecture Worksheets</b>	<b>5 @ 10 points = 50</b>	
<b>Blackboard Quizzes (lowest quiz grade dropped at end)</b>	<b>Approx 10 @ 15 points = 150</b>	<b>≈ 17% Quizzes (mostly lecture, &amp; some lab concepts)</b>
<b>Homework, Worksheets &amp; Lab Simulations</b>	<b>15-20 @ 10-20 points = 280-320</b>	<b>≈ 33% Primarily Laboratory</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Final Letter Grade Policy:

\*Course Average: Each point earned is valued equally, meaning that “one point is one point is one point”, no matter which category. **Final Grade is calculated taking total points earned, and dividing by total available points**

Final Letter Grade	Course Average*	Points Total
A	90 – 100%	810-900
B	80 – 90%	720-809
C	70 – 80%	630-719
D	60 – 70%	540-629
F	0 – 59%	0 – 539

**(approximately 900 points available), and converting that number into percent.** Example: 850 points earned, divided by 900 points available, equals 0.9444, which converts into 94.44%. If a student’s final course average is less than one half a percentage point away from the next higher letter grade, the instructor may consider giving the higher letter grade, related to bonus points/extra credit that may be available on unit exams.

Sometimes the final number of points available for the course will not reach the 900 mark or it will exceed it. In either case, the scale will be recalibrated and students will be notified.

## Policies, Procedures, and Rules:

### 1) Class Attendance Policy:

- Attendance will be measured by a student's ability to consistently log on to Blackboard and COMPLETE the assigned work. Failure to turn in assignments by due dates will be recorded as an "absence", unless and until "excused absence" criteria are met (see below).
- **"Excused-absence" criteria** include: a serious illness, COVID-19 related Isolation with illness, a legitimate emergency, an official college trip, or the death of an immediate family member—in each case, **the appropriate confirmation information** must be provided to the instructor in order for accommodations to be made.
- Because this course will be delivered entirely Online, a student with COVID-19 related Quarantine **without accompanying illness** (exposure without illness, or quarantine during incubation period) **does not count as an automatic excuse** for missing a scheduled test, quiz, assignment or lab exercise.
- When absences become excessive and, in the instructor's opinion, the minimum course objectives cannot be met, the student may be withdrawn (dropped) from the course.
- Any student who:
  - does not submit assignments/ lab exercises/ blackboard quizzes or tests on schedule, AND
  - who "goes Radio-silent", meaning that there is no communication from that student which can be verified with acknowledgement receipt from the Instructor during any three-week period (equivalent to 6 traditional class-meeting absences in a row, regardless of the reason), AND
  - who has reached a point where they no longer have a chance for a grade of "D" or better,  
  
**THEN such a student will be considered excessively absent, and will be urged to drop the class with a "W".**  
  
**If that student still does not withdraw from the course voluntarily, the instructor reserves the right to administratively withdraw (drop) that student from the course (with an "X" or an "F").**
- It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences using his or her student online account. 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.

## 2) Student Code of Conduct Policy:

- Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and 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 the virtual classroom or meeting, or administratively withdrawn 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 virtual classroom or meeting.

## 3) Plagiarism and Cheating:

Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, & 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 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.

## 4) Technical Difficulties:

- If you experience technical difficulties, please refer to the Help List (will be provided under Course Information within Blackboard menu for this course) of offices/personnel to call for help with your unique issue(s).
- All SPC campuses are expected to have internet and computer access for students throughout the semester. This link <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/wifi-resources.php> is also listed in the Help List (under Course Information), indicates where WiFi access is available on SPC Campuses.

### **(Technical Difficulties, continued)**

- Please notify the instructor immediately of these difficulties. Only on rare occurrences will the Instructor reset a student's quiz or test attempt.
- Should issues arise that are out of your control (i.e., Blackboard shuts down during a Quiz or Unit Test, or shuts down indefinitely), then the instructor will adjust availability and due dates as appropriate.

### **5) Online Course Netiquette, for emails, group discussions/chats, Collaborate Sessions, etc:**

- Remember that you are addressing a professor and/or a group, though you may not see them.
- Don't say things that you wouldn't say publicly in a traditional class setting.
- Don't address comments to individuals unless you want all to know what you are telling that person.
- Don't share confidential information.
- Read any messages or comments before sending; once it is out there, you can't change it.
- Because electronic communication does not show smiles or frowns (other than the graphic kind), or employ intonation, any humor or sarcasm might be misunderstood. Use these carefully and employ good word choice so that your meaning comes through clearly.
- Avoid sending unkind messages. Besides angering others and reflecting poorly on you, they may have the effect of shutting down discussion.
- Aim for clarity and readability in any text usage. Paragraph often, avoid using only capital letters, and stay away from character symbols and conventions that get in the way of visual comfort.
- Although electronic communication can be very informal, try for good language usage so that your message comes through rather than your mistakes (many mail programs have spell checkers). Avoid correcting other people's language, however. Try to be clear, indicating what you are talking about fully instead of presuming that others know which message you are responding to, what chapter or assignment you are referencing, etc.
- Use of inappropriate or disrespectful language, cyber bullying, etc. will result in a zero for that assignment and will require that the student attend a meeting with the Instructor and/or any other appropriate faculty to address this issue.

### **6) COVID-19 Statement:**

- It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community.
- Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students, faculty and staff properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms.
- All students, faculty, and staff should monitor their health and notify appropriate personnel and their health provider if they experience any symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Everyone should be diligent in social distancing, hand washing, and covering coughs/sneezes.



### **(COVID-19 Statement, continued)**

- Students must wear CDC-compliant face coverings if meeting with the instructor at any office door, and both students and instructor will move to an open classroom for office-hour session.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from any face-to-face class session or office-hour session.
- If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.

### **7) Diversity Statement:**

In this class, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate everyone to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, society will be modeled as it can be.

### **8) 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.)

### **9) Disability Statement:**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

### **10) Special Accommodations:**

Any student with disabilities or special needs should **identify themselves within the first enrollment week in the class**. The instructor will do everything in her power to accommodate any special needs.

### **11) Nondiscrimination Policy:**

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

### **12) Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement (revisions are pending from SPC):**

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or [email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

### **13) Campus Concealed Carry:**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php> Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

**ALiCE Active Shooter Response Training Sessions** are made available to students each semester.

### **14) Copyright Notice:**

All material presented by the instructor in this 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 for this course (ex. course information sheet, contact information, and learning module checklists). 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. 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.

**Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, the lecture and laboratory schedules, and the test and quiz dates, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.**