

BSC 1406 Introductory Biology I Syllabus (early Version) Spring 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Elizabeth McElrath

Office: Virtual

Office Hours: By Appointment

Email: Elizabeth.Mcelrath@TAMUC.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Message via Discord, GroupMe, or email
(Discord: Eliza_Mac#2906, Discord Server url: <https://discord.gg/x75vh79Ehw>),
(GroupMe: Elizabeth McElrath)

Communication Response Time: Usual response within 48 hrs

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND SUPPORT MATERIALS

Campbell's Biology, 12th Edition, with Mastering Biology; Benjamin Cummings, 2021.
See **Textbook Options** below for more details.

The laboratory that goes with this lecture will also require the **Mastering Biology** program. There is no pre-printed laboratory manual for this course; materials (other than Mastering Biology) will be available via your MyLeo Online Lab section page.

CLASS FORMAT: LECTURE AND LAB

We will be conducting the lecture and lab portion of this course totally online, with no face-to-face meetings. There is no set "lecture" time. There will be blocks of material posted to correspond with each assigned chapter which will include lecture notes, videos, and assorted guidance for what to study. Testing will be conducted online, through D2L and Mastering Biology. There will be due dates for blocks of material, so you will need to keep up with work through the semester.

NOTE THAT This is a Majors-level course, and you are expected to allot adequate time to regularly study the material on your own- this material forms the foundation for your advanced classes in the coming terms. You are expected to read all textbook chapters corresponding to topics covered in lecture. It is also strongly recommended that you read the preface of the textbook, with hints on how to best use it. We will not use every chapter of the textbook in lecture, and we may discuss some aspects in more detail than your text goes into- so be sure to keep up with the posted guidance for each section! If you have difficulty with the material, feel free to contact me *as soon as you can* for advice on how best to improve.

THE ONLINE ENVIRONMENT

You will be required to regularly login to your D2L course and the online class resources (details to come). You **MUST** take email communication seriously- it's the only way I have to ensure you are able to access all of your materials. There will be no "attendance" recorded in the traditional sense, but I will check for your activity at the website and email communication- but I will rely on YOU to communicate in a timely fashion *especially* if you are having any problems.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

BSC 1406 (formerly known as BSC 101) - Introductory Biology I - Four semester hours (3 lec/3 lab). This course is the first half of the Introductory Biology series. It is designed for the following majors: Broadfield Biology, Pre-Med, Pre-Allied Health, and Pre-Vet. Topics covered include biological evolution, biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, and microbiology.

Note: Students must register for both lecture and lab section (Please note that this is for BSC 1406.01W and 1406L.06LW- that one is online only, all face-to-face sections of 1406 are under the guidance of Dr. Lyman-Henley)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

BSc 1406 Introductory Biology I course introduces the study of biology and is intended for biology, pre-professional, and pre-vet majors. As such, a strong background in biology and chemistry is suggested. This course is designed as the first half of the freshman biology sequence and covers topics including biological evolution, biochemistry, cellular biology, and molecular genetics. With successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the above concepts by definition, explanation, and use of these ideas in examinations and laboratory exercises.

CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
- Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
- Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.
- Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.

LABORATORY:

You **must** be enrolled in the BSc1406W 06LW laboratory section in order to receive credit for the course. The laboratory will account for **25%** of your final grade. ***The laboratory sessions will begin the THIRD week of classes.*** You will receive a complete schedule, syllabus, and further instructions the second week of the semester. The lab assignments for materials not in Mastering Biology will be available for download at MyLeo Online (D2L).

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE: Fall 2021

<u>Week</u>	<u>Start Date (M)</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Other Notes</u>
1	1/12	Syllabus and Introduction to Course	
2	1/17	Ch. 1: Syllabus and Introduction to the Study of Life	Monday Holiday
3	1/24	Ch. 2: Chemistry	
4	1/31	Ch. 3: Water	
5	2/7	Ch. 4: Carbon	Exam 1 (Ch. 1-3)
6	2/14	Ch. 5: Macromolecules	
7	2/21	Ch. 6: The Cell	
8	2/28	Ch. 7 and 8: Cellular Membranes and Metabolism	Exam 2 (Ch. 4-6)
9	3/7	Ch. 9: Cellular Respiration	
10	3/14	SPRING BREAK	
11	3/21	Ch. 10: Photosynthesis	Exam 3 (Ch. 7-10)
12	3/28	Ch. 12: Mitosis	
13	4/4	Ch. 13: Meiosis	
14	4/11	Ch. 14: Mendel	Exam 4 (Ch. 12-14)
15	4/18	Ch. 17: From a Gene to a Protein	
16	4/25	Ch. 27 Bacteria	
17	5/2	Make Up Work Due	Exam 5 (Ch. 17, 27)
18	5/8		Comprehensive Final Exam (5/8-5/10)

This schedule is a general outline for your reference and is subject to change. Actual exam dates will be announced a minimum of one week in advance.

EXAMS AND GRADING:

Grades will be computed based on a "10-point scale" such that a total of 90% or higher of possible points will result in a grade of A, between 80% and 89.9% a B, and so on. If your total is lower than 60% of the class points you will fail the class (yes, that's an F). The points are planned to be as follows:

Mastering Biology	25%
Exams (5)	25%
Comprehensive Final Exam	25%
Lab grade *	<u>25%</u>
	100%

This means that you must earn at least 630 total points (700 x .9) for an A, 560 (700 x .8) for a B, 490 (700 x .7) for a C, and 420 (700 x .6) for a D in the class. Below 420 points is a Failing grade.

***Note** that lecture counts for 75% of the total course points, while lab counts for the other 25%.

Exams dates will be posted at D2L at least one week in advance and will include questions drawn from readings, powerpoint/lecture notes, handouts, or Mastering Biology assignments over the stated chapter content. All exams will be conducted online. The likely format will allow a set amount of time to complete the exam once started, but a few days period in which to take said exam- you will not need to take exams at a single specified time **No exam grades will be dropped.**

MAKE- UP WORK:

In this online format, all assignments will be posted such that you have some time (usually a couple of weeks) to complete the material. You will NOT be able to do it all if you wait until the day before it's due- plan your time. It's ok to finish early, even. So really, just get stuff done **before** the due date. If for some reason you are unable to do so, contact me ASAP.

In the case of a missed exam, with presentation of a valid and documented excuse you may arrange for a make-up exam. Such make-ups MUST be scheduled with **me** within 7 days of the missed test (if you are not in town, pick up the telephone or have a friend do it), and may be mainly short answer or essay in nature. Lack of such arrangements will result in a score of **0** for that test, and only ONE exam may be made up in this fashion. Such make-up exams will be given during finals week ONLY.

Extreme circumstances will always be taken into consideration- SEE ME before you assume anything.

MASTERING BIOLOGY ACCESS:

You are *required* to purchase the **Mastering Biology** online course component and complete all of the homework assignments and lab assignments listed. The bulk of your support material for studying each chapter will be located at this site, which is NOT the same as your D2L site.

Go to <http://www.masteringbio.com> to enroll in Mastering Biology. IMPORTANT: The course ID# for my section is **coming soon** (type this in when prompted). The course name is "**coming soon**," (and the University zipcode is 75428). Once enrolled, you will see a window that shows Recent and Upcoming Assignments (you may need to scroll down). Please note that assignments have due dates – they do not receive credit if turned in late. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates - failure to complete assignments by the due dates will result in a zero for the assignment. You will have an assignment for each chapter covered in lecture, plus a tutorial to get started. Each assignment consists of several activities, multiple-choice questions, and quizzes; your grade will be based upon the total of all of those scores combined (that is, you will have one grade for each assignment). Assignments will remain available for students to use to study for tests, although points cannot be earned after the due date; there are also many excellent resources for studying for exams in the Study Area. There are tutorials for how to use this system- be sure to complete them first to avoid blowing points on navigation errors or misunderstandings. Or ask for help.

TEXTBOOK OPTIONS:

Please note that you will need the **textbook and Mastering Biology** for both Introductory Biology I and II. There are many ways to obtain your text and MasteringBiology- here are examples, just be SURE to get the 12th **edition** textbook **AND MasteringBiology!** If you can't get both right away, GET MasteringBiology FIRST! (You will be doing your assignments for lecture and lab here...). Do note that you don't NEED both the paper text and ebook- as long as you have at least one of them. This is the newest edition- it is much easier on you in the long run if you get it, and not an older edition of the textbook.

Note: You may see subscriptions listed for 18 weeks (1 semester) or for 24 months (2 years) ...remember you will need the same book and MB access until you complete BSC 1407 as well as 1406, so may save quite a bit in the long run if you can get the longer subscription now.

1. University bookstore: <http://www.amcbookstore.com/home.aspx> (this is probably the most expensive route)
2. Pearson (publisher) website (if you are purchasing online, this is the recommended route to assure the CORRECT versions, especially of MB):
<https://www.pearson.com/store/p/campbell-biology/P100002940947/9780136781752>
3. You may also rent the textbook from sites such as Chegg.com (<https://www.chegg.com/books>), or use other online sources (Amazon.com, etc.) Be SURE you are getting the right edition of the text AND MB!!!!

Important! In many cases in which you save some money getting a text (online, etc.) you will have to purchase Mastering Biology separately, so be careful you don't end up paying more! If you purchased your textbook new it will contain an access code in a cardboard envelope. If you purchased a used book or you want to use the eText only (online textbook) you will need to purchase the access code online from <http://www.masteringbio.com>, or <http://www.mypearsonstore.com>.

TUTORING:

There are ample free tutors available for many courses on campus, including this one. In fact, extra credit will be awarded to students that have attended approved tutoring sessions. This course has assigned Learning Assistants (LAs) who will work with us and provide tutoring and other guidance throughout the semester. More information about these folks coming soon! Additionally, this course usually has dedicated tutor(s) through SI:
<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/tutorInfo/default.aspx>. The tutor (generally someone who did very well in this class in recent semesters) is available for help with homework, lab work, studying for tests, or any questions you may have, and frequently visits lectures. Tutors will also have review sessions prior to each test. In addition you may visit *JAMP Room Biology tutoring* – STC #110; schedule will be posted outside the door. For questions regarding JAMP, please contact Dr. Slovak 903-886-5368 or john.slovak@tamuc.edu.

RESOURCES: There are a variety of resources at your disposal to aid with your studies. This lecture is “Web Enhanced”- it has MyLeo Online (D2L) site that you will be expected to use regularly. There are also a wide variety of study aids available at most text’s websites- check your textbook’s introductory pages for links and other such information.

You may also find useful the **Academic Success Center** services, which include tutoring and workshops (including such topics as “Managing Test Anxiety”):
<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/default.aspx>
Try out these features early, while they have time to help you!

And of course the Academic Calendar, which does include information regarding University holidays, deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, and other such activities. This page also includes the link to each semester’s Final Exam schedule (which may also be useful for your other courses): <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/final-exam-schedule.aspx>

Additionally, you may find the following *Biology websites* useful:

- Cells Alive! <http://www.cellsalive.com/>
- The Biology Project <http://www.biology.arizona.edu/>
- Online Biology Book
<http://www.emc.maricopa.edu/faculty/farabee/BIOBK/BioBookTOC.html>

- The Tree of Life Project <http://tolweb.org/tree/>
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OTHER NOTES (INCLUDING OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS/AKA: THE FINE PRINT)

It is the responsibility of the student to inform me of any problems you may have that are affecting your performance in class, be it due to professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up, so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COVID INFORMATION:

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information, <https://www.tamuc.edu/campusrec/covid-19-guide/>

FINAL NOTE:

Computer access is assumed of all students. If you do not have one of your own (or your online access is limited), there are computer labs available all around campus- Waters Library most notably, and more locally Science building room 210. There are even kiosks for checking out a

laptop. You may need to provide your own paper for printing or pay a charge. Also, places like Staples and Office Depot will print materials for a reasonable fee if you bring your flash-drive. Last bit of advice: **Get a Calendar (or dry erase board). Learn how to use it.** 😊