



Texas A&M University-Commerce

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Biological and Environmental Sciences
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BSc 430 – Intro Virology Syllabus (Fall, 2025)

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Aug25 – Dec 12
Classroom: STC 127

University Statements

Academic integrity: As members of Texas A&M University-Commerce academic community, we all are responsible to underpin the principles of academic integrity expressed by this community. We are expected to watch these principles to be kept and appreciated by others.

- The first instance of cheating will result in an automatic Zero on the exam. A second instance will result in Zero course grade (automatic F).

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying another's test, assignment, or lecture slides
 - Communication with another during an exam (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
 - Giving or seeking aid from another
 - Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
 - Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key
- Plagiarism is a serious academic criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information with properly accredited. Copying material, whether parts or whole, will result in Zero for your term paper and can incur in further University disciplinary consequences.

USE of AI: East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Nondiscrimination Notice: East Texas A&M University 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; found at

<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.

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

Office of Student Disability Resources or Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 162
Tel) 903-886-5150, 903-886-5835
Fax) 903-468-8148
Email) StudentDisabilityService@tamuc.edu

Access to student work: Copies of your work in this course including copies of any submitted papers and your portfolios may be kept on file storage for institutional research, assessment, and accreditation purposes. All work used for these purposes will remain anonymous.

The Counseling Center at East A&M, 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

Course Description

BSc 430, Intro Virology, is a course for Biological and Environmental Sciences graduate students designed to provide general understanding of the significance of viruses to biology, the origin of life, and our current world. Viruses are the most numerous and the most ubiquitous form of life, although whether viruses are life or not is still an open debate. They are virtually everywhere and they are in tight relationship with other forms of life on earth. Topics covered in this course will include introduction to viruses, eukaryotic molecular biology, and host cell constraints, viral replication cycles, virus classification, architecture and nomenclature, viral diseases, how viruses enter and spread in the human body, host resistance to viruses, viral disease epidemiology, viruses and cancer, and prions.

Prerequisite:

BSc 306, Applied Microbiology or equivalents

Textbook:

John Carter & Venetia Saunders. 2013. Virology – Principles and Applications. 2nd Ed., John Wiley. ISBN: 978-1-1199-9142-7

Although above textbook will be the main source of my lecture, I often use other sources to provide better information.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to;

- Describe the structure and function of viruses
- Distinguish diverse characteristics of viruses – host range, target tissues, replication strategy, transmission, etc.
- Develop an awareness of the impact of viruses on other forms of life
- Describe the role of viruses in human diseases

Academic Honesty

Students who violate East Texas A&M University rules of scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment/assessment and/or test, the possibility of failure in the course, and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In all instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Graduate School. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying lecture materials while taking tests/exams
- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during an test or assignment (i.e.

- written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Plagiarism is a criminal activity and defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source Students must cite all sources of information. The copying of material whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a grade of zero and can result in further disciplinary action.

Collusion is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing assignments and taking exams/tests.

Grading Policy

Term paper (see details on next page)	= 100 points
(30 pts. Topic selection & Paper Outline + 70 pts. Term paper)	
5 quizzes	= 50 points
Attendance	= 50 points
3 lecture exams (100 pts. each)	= 300 points

Total **500 points**

Grading Scale

The final course grade will be assigned based on the following break-down;

90 – 100%	= A
80 – 89%	= B
70 – 79%	= C
60 – 69%	= D
59% and below	= F

Teaching Methodology

Term paper Write a review paper on one of the current research topics related to virology. Topic selection and paper outline is due by **Sept 19**, and the paper is due by **Nov 28**. Both outline and term paper need to be prepared in MS word (.doc or .docx) and uploaded to the corresponding “dropbox”. Misplaced assignments will not be graded.

- Contents of the paper: Discuss a focused “hot topic”, with sufficient discussion of background information to allow anyone taking the class to understand the significance. Research approaches and future directions should also be briefly discussed. The length of the paper is minimum 8 pages of double spaced text (font size no bigger than 12). You can provide figures. Write with your classmates as the

- targeted readers. You should not “reuse” a topic used for other courses.
- *Sources and their use:* In recent years there has been a tendency to rely more heavily on web pages as sources. Students are warned that plagiarizing any source is a serious violation of academic standards—credit and use your sources properly. A definition of plagiarism can be found in the section of University Statement. ****Note:** I allow the use of figures downloaded from the web, but you should cite the reference or give the website. Figure legends should be your own with succinct and clear information.
 - *Style:* Papers will be judged on their organization and the clarity of writing. Papers that have numerous misspellings or grammatical errors will be rated poorly and this rating will seriously impact the grade. Proofread carefully. Use spelling checkers. Have others read the paper both for clarity and content. The paper should follow a review paper writing style with citation systems of either Citation-Sequence or Name-Year.
 - *Paper Outline:* You have to provide **1- page outline** of your term paper along with minimum 3 references (full-text scientific research papers in PDF format) covering your term paper topic (**Due: Sept 19**).

Term paper topics you can use;

- Emerging viruses; Zika virus
- Emerging viruses; SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
- What are the fundamental differences between SARS and influenza pandemics?
- Is Ebola likely to become a worldwide pandemic?
- 'Smallpox has been eradicated through a worldwide vaccination program.' Comment on this statement with respect to our current knowledge and future possibilities.
- What is the best polio vaccine and what are the major barriers to the final eradication of poliovirus?
- Describe how poxviruses manipulate the mammalian host response.
- Discuss why viruses have been proposed as bioterrorism weapons?
- Discuss the emergence and control of swine flu (H1N1)
- Describe the cervical cancer vaccines currently available and discuss their effectiveness in preventing cervical cancer.
- Discuss viral inhibition of apoptosis
- Discuss the role of NEF in HIV infection
- Discuss micro-RNA and the regulation of host/virus interactions?

Exams There will be 3 exams starting from the 4th week. The exams will consist of multiple choices and short answer & short essay questions.

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Makeup Students are responsible for requesting a makeup when they are unable to take the regularly scheduled exams. The request should be made within 7 days of the absence. Makeup exams will be scheduled only in the event of EXCUSED absence (as defined in the Student's Guidebook). If the test is not made-up, the student will receive Zero for that exam. **No make-ups for quizzes.** Excused absences include;

- Verified illness (with Doctor's note)
- Death in a student's immediate family
- Obligation of student at a legal proceedings in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen
- Elective TAMUC activities (with the activity director's note)

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	<p>The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.</p> <p>Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</p>
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)

- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

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

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student 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 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words "[click here](#)" to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Class Schedule

Week 1

Introduction

Week 2

Lecture 1: Chapter 1&3 – Virus structure and infection

Week 3

Lecture 2: Chapter 10 – Viral classification and evolution

Week 4

Lecture 3: Chapter 5-8 - Viral replication, transcription, translation, assembly, & exit/release

Exam I (Lecture 1 – 3)

Topic selection due

- Week 5
Lecture 4: Chapter 9 – Immune response and evasion (outcomes of viral infection)
- Week 6
Lecture 5: Chapter 11 – Class I: dsDNA viruses
- Week 7
Lecture 6: Chapters 12 & 13 – Class II: ssDNA viruses & Class III: dsRNA viruses
- Week 8
Exam II (Lecture 4 – 6)
- Week 9
Lecture 7: Chapter 14 – Class IV: ssRNA (+) viruses
- Week 10
Lecture 8: Chapter 15 – Class V: ssRNA (-) viruses
- Week 11
Lecture 9: Chapter 16 – Class VI: Retroviruses
- Week 12
Lecture 9: Chapter 16 – Class VI: Retroviruses
- Week 13
Exam III (Lecture 7 – 9)
- Week 14
Thanksgiving break, no classes
- Week 15
Reserved for class activities
- Week 16 (Finals week)
Comprehensive final exam (**(10:30AM-12:30PM, Dec. 10th)**).

All dates and assignments are tentative and subject to change.