



BSC 1407 - Biology II for Science Majors Syllabus Spring 2026

Instructor: Angela Rouse

Office Location: CCA 313 at RCHS

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COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook Required:

Biology on OpenStax by Mary Ann Clark, Matthew Douglas, and Jung Choi. The textbook will be imbedded into the D2L Brightspace course. You may request a copy at <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e> . ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-51-7

Course Description:

BSC 1407 - Introductory Biology I - Four semester hours (3 lec/1 lab). This course is designed for the following majors: Broadfield Biology, Pre-Med, Pre-Allied Health, and Pre-Vet. Topics covered include Course Description. This class will cover the anatomy, physiology, classification and evolution of animals. This course will employ lecture and discussion.

Course Objectives:

To give the beginning biology student a conceptual and practical understanding necessary for mastery of the life science curriculum. In addition, the student will learn thinking skills necessary for understanding and interpreting scientific information.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the mechanism of natural selection.
- Students will demonstrate a knowledge of homeostasis.
- Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
- Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.
- Students will give a group presentation on the results of one of their lab assignments and explain the methods, results and conclusions of their experiment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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.

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 lecture notes too! If you miss a lecture, you are still responsible for that day's material- read the chapter, get notes from someone in class, and see me for any clarification. If you have difficulty with the material, feel free to see me as soon as you can for advice on how best to improve.

Instructional Methods

This course meets daily and includes multiple types of instruction—lecture, texts, videos, and student-led activities. Students are expected to engage in all parts of the lesson and provide feedback on their learning needs. Content quizzes will be given weekly in order to assess the topics and activities. Quizzes will be completed online and if you are absent, you must complete the quiz online before the availability window closes. Unless announced, quizzes will open when class begins and close at 4PM. Content quizzes build the exams. You may use your notes on the content quizzes but not on the exams. There will be 4 content exams and an additional comprehensive final exam. Exams are taken in class only. You may not retake or make up missed exams. YOU MUST COMMUNICATE AN ABSENCE IN ADVANCE OF MISSING AN EXAM. Missed exams without prior communication will result in a zero and no opportunity for retake.

Lab work and Project/Presentation

As we continue to look at the importance of empirical data in biology, we will complete 3 major labs together this semester. In addition, students will design, implement and report an experimental test on their own following the steps for scientific inquiry. This individual project will be graded both as a lab report and as a class presentation.

GRADING

Students will be given the following opportunities to demonstrate knowledge of class material. The course has a total of 1000 points.

Lecture Grades: 75% of total grade

Exams:	= 360 points (4 exams; each exam is worth 90 points)	
Comprehensive Final:	= 90 points (1)	
Quizzes:	= 180 points (12 quizzes; 18 points each, 2 lowest quiz will be dropped)	grades
Assignments:	= 120 points (12 HW assignments)	

Lab Work: 25% of the total grade

Participation	= 150 points (3 labs; 50 points each)
Project Lab Report	= 75 points (due 4/10/26)
Project Presentation	= 25 points

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Schedule: The college course officially begins January 12 and ends May 8, 2026

1/8	0	Ch 25	Kingdoms, Classification & Dichotomy	Quiz 1, HW 1
1/12	1	Ch 22-23	Evolution	Quiz 2, HW 2
1/19	2	Ch 24-26	Origin of Species	Quiz 3, HW 3
1/26	3	Exam/Lab	Exam 1, Lab week - Quail Lab	Exam 1 (1/28), Lab 1
2/2	4	Ch 28-29	Protista & Fungi	Quiz 4, HW 4
2/9	5	31-32	Plant diversity & taxonomy	Quiz 5, HW 5
2/16	6	33-34	Animals	Quiz 6, HW 6
2/23	7	Exam/Lab	Exam 2, Plant Structure Labs	Exam 2 (2/25), Lab 2
3/2	8	Ch 35 & 41	Vertebrate Structure & Function	Quiz 7, HW 7
3/9	9	Ch 42-44	Neuroscience	Quiz 8, HW 8
3/16	RCHS Spring Break -			
3/23	10	Ch 46-47	Energy & Digestion	Quiz 9, HW 9
3/30	11	Exam/Lab	Exam 3, Animal Behavior labs, Report	Exam 3 (4/1), Lab 3
4/6	12	Ch 48	Circulatory & Respiratory systems	Quiz 10, HW 10
4/13	13	Ch 50	Endocrine	Quiz 11, HW 11
4/20	14	Ch 56-57	Ecology	Quiz 12, HW 12
4/27	15	Exam/Lab	Exam 4, Diversity lab	Exam 4 (4/29), Lab 4
5/4	16		Exam Week	Finals

*Last Day to Withdraw with a "W" is April 16, 2026

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

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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

I will be available during the posted office hours in person. Please reach out anytime you feel the need to confer, and I can arrange a virtual meeting at other times as well. I am always ready to answer any questions via email also.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

There will be NO opportunities for extra credit. I drop one quiz grade and as a rule, I am not allowed to accept late work. Of course, extenuating circumstances will be considered so please communicate with me directly. Please be prepared for class by being on time, reading the assignment in advance, and preparing for class discussions.

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/studentGuide_book.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](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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 Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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/rulesProcedure/s/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.

Pandemic Response Statements

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.