



BSC 526.01B Advanced Developmental Biology

Spring 2026 Course Syllabus CRN: 23657

Course Location and Times: Blended, D2L

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Hunkar Gizem Yesilyurt, PhD

Email: HunkarGizem.Yesilyurt@etamu.edu

Office Location: STC 255

Office Hours: MWF 10-10:50AM and MW 12-12:50AM; (in office and virtual (Zoom link will be shared at D2L), for other times, please email for a(n) (virtual) appointment

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: less than 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook (Recommended): Developmental Biology by Barresi, 13th edition; 2023, Sinauer Associates, Inc., ISBN: 9780197574591, ISBN(EB): 9780197574591

Course Description: This course is intended for master's level students who understand genetics and cell biology/biochemistry. This course examines the molecular mechanisms of development covering fertilization through senescence. It is organized around an in-depth analysis and careful reading of primary research papers taken from the current literature. Topics vary but include events in early embryogenesis such as fertilization, embryonic stem cells, gastrulation and layer determination, and axis formation. Later events in embryogenesis covered include tissue specific stem cells, digit formation, cell differentiation, muscle formation, neural development, and synapse formation. Postembryonic development includes studies on hormonal regulation, aging, and senescence. A variety of organisms are introduced, with common mechanisms of development emphasized.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the students will be able to:

1. Describe the general cycle of life in animals beginning with an unfertilized egg through maturation to adulthood.
2. Explain the sequence of events and the mechanisms directing various stages of animal development including gametogenesis, fertilization, cleavage, gastrulation, organogenesis, larval stages and maturity.

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3. Explain the role of differential gene expression in embryonic development.
4. Describe how cell-cell communication and tissue induction processes direct the differentiation of cells, tissues, organs during embryogenesis.
5. Describe the general similarities and differences between invertebrate and vertebrate development.
6. Describe the similarities and differences among the classes of vertebrates with respect to embryonic patterns of cleavage, gastrulation and organogenesis.
7. Think **experimentally and critically** about the concepts and phenomena described above.

Course Requirements:

- Proficiency in using the D2L Brightspace Learning Management System through myLeo Online
- Proficiency in use of Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint
- Other relevant graphics programs for preparing effective PowerPoint presentations

Instructional Methods: Instruction will consist of weekly face-to-face appointments (scheduled with students), web-based delivery of notes, some short videos and student-oriented appointments. Learning will also be achieved through reading of relevant chapters in the recommended textbook. PDF files of all notes will be made available in the D2L Learning, Management System at myLeo Online. Announcements and reminders for important events will also be regularly posted through this system. Course progress can be monitored through the online system.

Student Responsibilities:

- Dedicated study time each week to go over the materials at D2L and the information in the relevant book chapter(s)
- Regularly check both myLEO Online and university email accounts for announcements or class emails.
- Attend and participate in discussions via forums at D2L.
- Submit exams and assignments on time.

Grading Scale:

A = 89.5-100%

B = 79.5-89.49%

C = 69.5-79.49%

D = 59.5-69.49%

F = <59.5%

Assessments (total of 400 points)

3 Term Exams – 60 points each = 180 points

Cumulative Final Exam = 100 points

5 Quizzes = 50 points,

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2 Assignments = 70 points

Total = 400 Points

Tentative Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week of	Topics (Book Chapters)
Jan 12	Welcome and Course Orientation (1) Developmental Anatomy and Genetics
Jan 19	(2) Cell-Cell Communication
Jan 26	(3) Fertilization and Sex Determination
Feb 2	(4) Early Development in Sea Urchins and Snails Exam #1 (Topics 1-3; open all week due Feb 8th midnight)
Feb 9	(5) Development of <i>Drosophila</i>
Feb 16	(6) Amphibian and Fish Development
Feb 23	<u>Assignment #1 due March 2nd (Monday midnight)</u>
Mar 2	(7) Development of Birds
Mar 9	Spring Break
Mar 16	(8) Mammalian Development Exam #2 (Topics 4-7; open all week due March 22nd midnight)
Mar 23	(9) Ectoderm and Organogenesis
Mar 30	(10) Mesoderm and Organogenesis
Apr 6	(11) Endoderm and Development of Limbs
Apr 13	(12) Postembryonic Development Exam #3 (Topics 8-11; open all week due Apr 19th midnight)
Apr 20	(13) Evolutionary Aspects
Apr 27	<u>Assignment #2 due May 1st (Friday midnight)</u>
Finals (May 2-8)	Final Exam (50% Cumulative (Topics1-11), 50% on Topics 12-13)

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Assignments: At home questions and/or research will be assigned two times during the semester. Be sure to check D2L announcements for updates.

Quizzes and Exams: Consist of multiple-choice questions (70-80%) and essay-type answer questions (20-30%). The quizzes will be approximately from 1-3 chapter(s). The term exams will be taken at the date range in the course schedule and the final exam will be cumulative and take place during the university final exam week. Some questions for exams from a given chapter may be derived from the same Test Pool and repeated.

Makeup Policy: The student is responsible for requesting a makeup when they are unable to attend the regularly scheduled examination and must schedule the makeup within 2 days of the absence. Makeup exams will be scheduled only in the event of an EXCUSED absence (as defined in the Student's Guidebook). If the test is not made-up, the student will receive a zero for that exam.

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: Netiquette

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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:

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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>

AI Use in Course: 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

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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

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East Texas A&M University

Waters 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

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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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 *The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

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	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

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			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. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
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:
 - o 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - o Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - o Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- **For Zoom Meeting sessions 8 Mbps is required.** You must have a:
 - o Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - o Speakers or headphones.
 - o *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>
- 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:
 - o Adobe Reader <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

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o Adobe Flash Player (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

o Adobe Shockwave Player <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>

o Apple Quick Time <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 ETAMU 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

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

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The grading of the assignments, quizzes, and exams will be completed within 1-5 days depending on the length of the assignment or test. In most cases, the grading will be completed within 24 hours, and the questions will be discussed during the next class period. Students are encouraged to make an appointment with the instructor outside the office hours to discuss any issue related to the course individually or in groups.

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