



BIOL-1309-CME Human Biology: Structure and Function
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jenny Hodnett
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Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: <24 weekday hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook: *Human Biology*
Edition: 17th Edition
Authors: Sylvia S. Mader and Michael Windelspecht
Publisher: McGraw-Hill
ISBN: 1264407505

You can rent the ebook at this link for \$50

[Human Biology \(Mader\)](#)

Free Supplemental Material:
<https://openstax.org/details/books/anatomy-and-physiology>

Course Description

BSC 1309.01W is a three-hour credit course for non-biology majors designed to apply the principles of biology to humans as a functional unit of our social organization. Fundamental principles of humans, as in all living organisms, include physical and

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chemical properties of life, organization, function, and evolutionary adaptation. This course will explore basic biological concepts in a manner that stresses relevance to the human population by focusing on current issues and should engage the student in thought-provoking analyses to reflect and integrate into societal interactions.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Critical Thinking - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. Communication - In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Empirical and Quantitative Skills - Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data and/or observable facts.
4. Teamwork - 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Software Required:

Must have access to computer/device and internet service provider for participation and completion of the coursework. A reliable computer/device and access to link with the internet is essential for this course. Students who do not have access to a compatible and reliable computer/device and/or internet provider may utilize the resources provided by Texas A&M University - Commerce in Gee Library or the various computer labs located on the campus.

Instructional Methods

This is a face to face course. A minimum of three days a week will consist of lecture, note-taking, and discussion/activities. Your performance in this course will be assessed by means of:

1. Quizzes

You will complete a quiz each week over the previous week's reading material and notes. These quizzes will ensure that you are learning the material that is covered during the lecture and you are reading the chapters. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. One quiz is a chapter summary. Follow the guidelines in D2L to complete and submit the chapter summary.

2. Group Project

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You will complete a group project (2-4 people in each group) that includes all 4 learning competencies of the course. The group project is due **May 1 at midnight but needs to be submitted by April 30 to check for plagiarism**. The instructions for the group project are as follows:

3. Empirical and Quantitative Data Assessment:

The empirical and quantitative data assessment will cover genetics and heredity and will meet the course core competency of empirical and quantitative skills. This assessment will consist of 10 genetics problems that will require you to use punnett squares. This assessment will be taken the week of the exams.

4. Attendance/Participation

It is imperative that you are present, paying attention, and taking notes during lecture. Points will be deducted for unexcused absences.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Communication throughout this semester is imperative for success. Reach out to me if you have questions before the assignment is due. If you wait until the due date, it is too late. It is important for you to be in class for lectures everyday. It is also important that you stay up to date with due dates. All due dates are at 11:59pm on the date the assignment is due. Do not wait until the last minute to complete graded assignments to avoid unforeseen “life” situations from interfering with due dates. Late work is **not** accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances. It is important that you begin communicating with your group members and begin the group assignment well before it is due so you can come to me with any questions. You should check your email regularly for important information or changes that may be made to the coursework. Log into D2L regularly to check due dates. If you are absent from class the day of a quiz it may only be made up if the absence is excused based on university policy. If it is not made up, you will get a zero for the quiz.

GRADING

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

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C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Quizzes:	55%
Group Project:	30%
Empirical and Quantitative Data Assessment:	10%
Attendance/Participation	5%
TOTAL	100%

Assessments

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@etamu.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

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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.

<https://inside.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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 [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generallInformation/attendance.aspx>

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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:

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.etamu.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

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.

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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.etamu.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.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas 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.etamu.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Calendar

Week	Chapter Readings	Assignment
1	Chapter 2 - Chemistry of Life	Chapter Quiz
1	Chapter 3 - Cell Structure and Function	Chapter Quiz
2	Chapter 4 - Organization and Regulation of Body Systems	Chapter Quiz
3	Chapter 5 - Cardiovascular System: Heart and Blood Vessels	Chapter Quiz
3	Chapter 6 - Cardiovascular System: Blood	Chapter Quiz
4	Chapter 9 - Digestive System	Chapter Quiz

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5	Chapter 10 - Respiratory System	Chapter Quiz
6	Chapter 11 - Urinary System	Chapter Quiz
7	Chapter 12 - Skeletal System	Chapter Quiz
8	Chapter 13 - Muscular System	Chapter Quiz
9	Chapter 14 - Nervous System	Chapter Quiz
10	Chapter 16 - Endocrine System	Chapter Quiz
11	Chapter 19 - Patterns of Chromosome Inheritance	Chapter Quiz
12	Chapter 20 - Cancer	Chapter Quiz
13	Chapter 17 - Reproductive System	Chapter Quiz - Summary
13	Chapter 18 - Development and Again	Chapter Quiz - Summary
14	Chapter 21 - Genetic Inheritance	Empirical and Quantitative Data Assessment
	Chapter 7 - The Lymphatic and Immune Systems Chapter 8 Biology of Infectious Disease	Research Paper

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