



## **BSC1413, Sections 8AE/8JE, Zoology Lecture**

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR SPRING ~~2026~~

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Mr. Christian A. Browne

Office Location: 8750 N Central Expy, Suite 1900, Box 30, Dallas, TX 75231, 9th Floor  
Room 919 (Dallas Campus)

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 - 2:30 pm

Office Phone: (903) 886-5525

Office Fax: N/A

University Email Address: Christian.Browne@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: University E-mail or MyLeo Online

Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours on weekdays. Longer response times may occur on weekends, so it is best to communicate issues during the weekdays.

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### **Required Materials**

**Textbook:** *Biology* 2e. (2020, Rice University). Mary Ann Clark, Jung Choi, and Matthew Douglas. Link: <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e>

**Note:** Selected readings of zoology-relevant articles from research journals may be used as well. If so, your instructor will provide these in D2L for you to read.

The textbook above is available online for free as an open-access source. You can either view them online or download them as a PDF (or a similar format). While this is a general biology text, many chapters provide valuable zoological information, and we will use selected chapters throughout the semester. Be sure you have access to the correct edition. Earlier editions will still contain much of the same information, but some may be outdated, and the chapter layout may differ from how the chapters are covered in class. Units will vary depending on the textbook used. Be sure to listen to your instructor to know which chapters and sections (or articles) you should read for a given unit.

*The syllabus and schedule are subject to change.*

You may purchase or rent another similar textbook that covers zoology concepts as well, but note that the material may not always line up with what is discussed in class.

There is no pre-printed laboratory manual for this course; materials will be available in the lab and via your MyLeo Online Lab section page. **A computer or tablet with internet access is needed both inside and outside class.**

## Course Description

**Student Learning Outcomes:** With successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the following concepts, explanation, and use of these ideas in examinations and laboratory exercises:

1. Fundamental concepts of biology (with emphasis on animal systems), including aspects of cellular and molecular function as well as genetics and evolution.
2. Biodiversity and structure/function of organisms traditionally covered in zoology courses- protists, invertebrates, and vertebrate animals.
3. Fundamental aspects of animal ecology and conservation.
4. In addition, students will communicate ideas and concepts developed in the course through written and multimedia presentations.

## Core Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to discern between relevant and irrelevant information, recognize bias in source material, and critically examine a diversity of source material.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize a cogent body of knowledge from various sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.
3. Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and will make appropriate use of evidence, data, and technology as applicable.
4. Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
5. 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

**Computer Access:** Students will need access to either a personal computer, tablet, or the computer labs. Ask at the front desk for the locations of any student computer labs.

**Calculators:** You may need calculators on some of the exams and essays. Be sure to bring an instructor-approved calculator to class and become familiar with its use. Make sure your calculator has fresh batteries.

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**D2L:** You will need to be familiar with navigating the D2L platform. Ask your instructor if you are unsure how to use D2L.

**Word, PowerPoint, and PDF Files:** You will need to be familiar with making Microsoft Word and PowerPoint documents. You should also be familiar with using Adobe applications and viewing PDF files.

## Instructional Methods

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory for both the lecture and the lab. A seating chart may be used. Attendance will be taken every day for lab and lecture. Repeated absences are associated with lower academic performance. Disruptive behavior in class will not be tolerated. Missing 20% or more of the lecture (unexcused absences) is grounds to receive a grade of F for the course. Note that Labs have similar policies, and failing a lab will virtually ensure failing the course. Of course, these policies may be adjusted as needed for health and safety.

**Seating:** You may have assigned seating for exams.

**Computers:** Students will need to bring laptops to class, as many assignments, quizzes, and exams will be carried out on the computer in D2L. Exams will be held in class on the day of the exam, using a computer.

**Free-Response Questions:** Paper for free-response questions will be provided separately if needed. Ensure that your answers are legible and that any drawings are sufficiently detailed and labeled so that the instructor can clearly understand what you drew. This will be important for some of the lab assignments, particularly those that require printouts.

**Materials for Exams:** Students will need to bring their own pencils, erasers, and calculators for in-class paperwork. Other assignments will be online. Phones and tablets are not calculators and are not permitted for use on exams and quizzes (other than for logging into D2L).

**Items Not Permitted:** During exams, no electronics other than calculators and computers are allowed. Additionally, no food, drinks, books, notes, hats, sunglasses, or backpacks are permitted on the exam. Backpacks will need to be put at the front of the class during exams. Items left out, such as cell phones, will be taken by the instructor for the duration of the exam if left out after logging into D2L. Having books, notes, or electronics out is considered cheating and could result in a zero for the exam.

**Groups for Quizzes:** Exams and quizzes are taken individually, not in groups. Taking an exam or quiz in a group is considered cheating and results in a zero for the grade.

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**Final Exams:** Final exams are assigned dates by the University. Please see <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/final-exam-schedule.aspx>

**Cheating and Academic Dishonesty:** Any student caught with notes, books, electronics, etc. that should not be out during exams or other assignments may receive a zero for the assessment. Anyone working in groups will also receive zeros on the assessment if it is an individual activity. Looking at other students' papers or computers is also considered cheating and may result in a zero for the assessment. If answers to free-response questions are sufficiently similar to your neighbor's, this may also result in a zero for the assessment. Possible additional disciplinary action may occur depending on the instance, including expulsion from class.

**Make-Up Work:** If you miss any exams, quizzes, or other in-class assignments, valid proof of absence must be provided and the absence excused by the university before the assessment can be made up. A valid proof of absence includes a doctor's note or other official paperwork. Note that for any online assessments, technical difficulties may not be accepted as a valid reason for make-up of the assessment if you had sufficient time to complete the assessment. If you miss an assessment, you must let me know within 7 days to have it made up. Note that only one exam can be made up near the end of the semester. The makeup exam will be either a short-answer or an oral exam. Missed online assessments need valid proof of the reason for being unable to submit the assignment before they can be reopened.

## **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

**Notes on Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory for this class. Students who miss class usually receive lower grades due to missed lectures and labs. Participate in all lectures and lab activities.

**Late Work:** To support fairness and academic integrity, the following policy applies to all assignments submitted after the posted deadline:

- **Standard Late Penalty:** Assignments can be submitted up to 1 week late with a 10% deduction from the total possible points for each day past the due date.
- **No Late Work Accepted:** After one week past the due date, late work will not be accepted unless there is documented evidence of extenuating circumstances (e.g., medical emergency, family crisis, etc.)
- **Extensions:** Students may request an extension at least 24 hours before the due date. Approval is at the instructor's discretion and may require documentation.
- **Technology Issues:** Technical problems are not valid excuses for late work. Students are encouraged to submit assignments early and ensure compatibility with the submission platform.

**Studying:** Do not wait until the last minute. Make sure you get sufficient rest before exams and quizzes. Study at least a week in advance for exams. Make flashcards for key terms. Practice drawing examples of plant anatomy and physiology. Take handwritten notes each day in class. Take good lab notes. Study all the lecture and lab notes from the slides and the textbook. Use the textbook practice questions and any

staff with useful data to assist students and enhance retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

**Other Notes:** I make efforts to conserve resources when providing class materials. All materials provided in class are available on the D2L website. I will not provide hard-copy handouts of anything that you can access there- you may print what you need, when you need it, or just download a copy to have handy. Computer access is assumed for all students. If you do not have one of your own (or your online access is limited), computer labs are available (ask the front desk if you are unsure where they are). 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. Be sure to keep a calendar.

## GRADING

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

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades:

A =  $\geq 900$  Points

B = 800-899 Points

C = 700-799 Points

D = 600-699 Points

F =  $\leq 599$  Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade. The lecture and lab will be combined at the end of the semester, with 75% of the final grade from the lecture and 25% from the lab.

Grading Weights:

Discussions 20%

Quizzes 20%

Research Paper 10%

Exams (3) 30%

Cumulative Final 20%

TOTAL 100%

Final overall grade combined between lecture and lab:

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Lecture	75%
Lab	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100% (combined)</b>

## Assessments

**Exams (including the Final):** Multiple-choice, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Exams will be taken in class on the computer and will be timed. There will only be one attempt per exam. Exams will cover chapters discussed in class, and questions may come from the textbook, lectures, activities, labs, and other out-of-class assignments, such as videos. Online exams will have reviews. Do not expect review time in lecture or lab. Notes and textbooks are not allowed on exams. You are responsible for studying all the exam materials and knowing the exam dates. **Note that no exam grades will be dropped. Do not expect extra credit on the exams. Bonus points questions of up to 5 pts on an exam may be provided, but are not guaranteed.**

**Student Research Paper:** Students will be assigned an individual research paper. **Note that this is an individual grade and not a group project.** You will choose an animal species of your choice, such as the orca (*Orcinus orca*), and research the evolution, ecology, interactions with humans (if applicable), and conservation threats to the animal (or to specific varieties of that species). Reports should be 2-3 pages long, include figures of any important statistics, anatomy, etc., and have sources properly cited (figures included).

**Note on Research Paper:** Your paper is an individual project. Any papers that look similar to each other or show evidence of plagiarism from online sources, books, etc., will receive a zero, and further disciplinary action may occur, such as expulsion from the class.

**Quizzes:** There will be five quizzes this semester. Quizzes will include multiple-choice, free-response, and fill-in-the-blank questions. Quizzes will be online in D2L. Be sure to check D2L regularly for any announcements. **The lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester. There will be no extra credit on any of the quizzes.**

**Lecture Attendance and Participation:** Students are expected to attend all lectures and participate in class discussions and activities.

## 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 the technical requirements:

LMS Requirements:

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

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LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](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](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](mailto: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 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

It is the student's responsibility to inform their instructor of any problems that may affect their performance in class. This may be due to a professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up. In such cases, the appropriate adjustments can be made, provided they fall under university policy, such as disability accommodations. Please contact your instructor if any issues arise or if you need more information or suggestions for studying.

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# **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 necessitate the instructor modifying 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 detailed 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/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

### **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>

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## **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 reasonable accommodations for 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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu)

Website: [Student Disability Services](http://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/)

[https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/](http://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.

### **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.

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## **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](http://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>

### **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

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## COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Week Start Date (Start Date is Monday, Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup> )	Chapter/Unit	Assessments
1	Week of Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Class Introduction and Unit 1: Introduction to Zoology (Ch. 27)	Discussion 1 (Unit 1) due Jan. 18 <sup>th</sup>
2	Week of Jan. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 2: Cells, Tissues & Organs (Ch. 4 and 33, selected parts of Ch. 34-43)	
3	Week of Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Units 3 and 4: Cell Division and Classification (Ch. 10 and 20)	Discussion 2 (Unit 4) due Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup> , Quiz 1 (Units 1-4) due Feb. 1 <sup>st</sup>
4	Week of Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Units 5 and 6: Inheritance and Protists (Ch. 12, 13, and 23)	
5	Week of Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Units 5 and 7: Inheritance and Animal Origins (Ch. 12, 13, 18, and 27)	<b>Exam 1 (Units 1-7), Wed., Feb. 11<sup>th</sup></b>
6	Week of Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Units 8 and 9: Basal Animal Phyla and Smaller Spiralian Phyla (Ch. 27 and 28)	Discussion 3 (Unit 8) due Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , Quiz 2 (Units 5-9) due Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup>
7	Week of Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Units 10 and 11 (Mollusca and Annelida (Ch. 28)	
8	Week of March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Units 12 and 13: Evolution and Smaller Ecdysozoan Phyla (Ch. 18-20 and 28)	Quiz 3 (Units 10-13) due Mar. 8 <sup>th</sup>
9	Week of March 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Spring Break-No Classes</b>	<b>Spring Break-No Classes</b>
10	Week of March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Units 12 and 14: Evolution and Arthropoda (Ch. 18-20 and 28)	Discussion 4 (Unit 14) due Mar. 22 <sup>nd</sup>

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11	Week of March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Unit 15: Pancrustacea (Ch. 28)	<b>Exam 2 (Units 8-15), Wed., Mar. 25<sup>th</sup></b>
12	Week of March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Unit 16: Deuterostomes (Ch. 28 and 29)	Quiz 4 (Units 12-16) due Apr. 8 <sup>th</sup>
13	Week of Apr. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Units 17 and 18: Ecology and Fish (Ch. 44-47 and 29)	Discussion 5 (Unit 17) due Apr. 12 <sup>th</sup>
14	Week of Apr. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Units 19 and 20: Reptiles and Amphibians (Ch. 29)	Quiz 5 (Units 17-20) due Apr. 19 <sup>th</sup> , <b>Research paper due Apr. 19<sup>th</sup></b>
15	Week of Apr. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Units 17, 21, and 22: Ecology, Birds, and Mammals (Ch. 44-47 and 29)	<b>Exam 3 (Units 17-22), Wed, Apr. 29<sup>th</sup></b>
16	Week of May 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>Comprehensive Final Exam, Mon., May 4<sup>th</sup>, from 11:15 am-12:30 pm (Computer required)</b>

**Meeting Days:** Class will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 11 am or 11:15 am to 12:30 pm. **Lecture is a face-to-face class, and attendance is mandatory.**

**Notes:** The schedule is subject to change if necessary due to unforeseen events, such as inclement weather or other unexpected circumstances. Units in the calendar will be drawn from the required textbooks and will cover selected chapters, as well as occasionally from zoology research articles and reviews in academic journals. Listen to your instructor during lecture to know which chapters and sections to read for a particular unit.

**Note on Quizzes:** Quizzes will be determined by the instructor and handed out and taken in class or posted in D2L.