



BSC1413L, Sections 8DE/8JE/8ME, Zoology Lab

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: 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

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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

Text: None. The lab manual and other materials will be provided in class and posted on D2L.

Course Description: This lab is conducted in conjunction with the lecture and is designed to illustrate and augment the topics covered in the lecture portion. These subjects include animal cell structure, anatomy, morphology, physiology, biochemistry, genetics, evolution, classification, and ecology.

Computers: A computer or tablet with internet access is also needed. Exams will be taken on the computer in D2L and lab assignments will be submitted in D2L.

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change.

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 animals), 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 the front desk for the locations of any student computer labs.

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

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.

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Microscope Use: Students must be familiar with using both a stereomicroscope and a compound light microscope. Proper use will be reviewed in the lab.

Other Laboratory Equipment: In each unit, various types of laboratory equipment, such as graduated cylinders and balances, may be utilized. Students will be shown in the lab how to use the equipment properly, but are expected to pay attention and become proficient in handling all laboratory equipment after learning the proper steps.

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 lab (unexcused absences) is grounds for receiving a grade of F in the course. Lab attendance is mandatory. Please let me know if you will be missing the lab and provide any necessary documentation to excuse your absence. Excused absences will not count against your grade. You are responsible for making up any notes and assignments passed out during the lab you missed. **Note that the labs start in the third week of classes.**

Lab Notebook: Students must keep their lab manual data sheets and handouts with written data, drawings, etc., for scanning and submission in D2L. This will be part of the grading.

Seating: You may have assigned seating for exams.

Free-Response Questions: Paper for free-response questions will be provided separately if free-response questions are used, such as bonus questions on exams. 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.

Materials for Exams: Students must bring their own pencils, erasers, and calculators. Phones and tablets are not calculators and are not permitted for use on exams and quizzes (phones can be used to log into D2L). You will need a laptop computer to take the exam in class in D2L.

Items Not Permitted: During exams, no electronics other than school computers and calculators 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. Having books, notes, or electronics out is considered cheating and could result in a zero for the exam.

Groups for Exams: Exams 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 quizzes may receive a zero for the exam or quiz. Anyone working in groups will also receive zeros for the assessment. Looking at other students' papers 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 the class.

Make-Up Work: If you miss any exams, lab activities, or other in-class assignments, valid proof of absence must be provided, and the absence must be excused by the university before the assessment can be made up. A valid proof of absence includes a doctor's notes 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 will be made up at the end of the semester. The makeup exam may be either a short-answer or an oral exam.

Late Assignments Policy: Assignments must be turned in on time. For discussions and the project, after the due date, 10% of the overall grade will be deducted for each day the assessment is late, and after 7 days, the assessment will not be accepted if turned in late, and the grade will be a zero. Late work is not accepted for exams and quizzes (unless there is an excused absence or exceptional circumstances, such as a major power outage in the case of quizzes, that may have prevented completion of the assignment).

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

notes from the slides and the textbook. Use the textbook practice questions and any D2L-provided practice questions.

Early Intervention for First Year Students: Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

Other Notes: I make efforts to conserve resources in providing materials for class. All materials provided in class are to be found at 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 of all students. If you do not have one of your own (or your online access is limited), there are computer labs available (ask the front desk if you are unsure where the computer labs 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. Last bit of advice: 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 = ≥ 900 Points

B = 800-899 Points

C = 700-799 Points

D = 600-699 Points

F = ≤ 599 Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade. The lab grade will be 25% of the final overall class grade.

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Grading Weights:

Weekly Work	30%
Lab Reports	30%
Presentation	20%
Exams (2)	20%
TOTAL	100%

Final overall grade combined between lecture and lab:

Lecture	75%
Lab	25%
TOTAL	100% (combined)

Assessments

Weekly Graded Work (Including Quizzes): This includes any worksheets and quizzes not part of the weekly participation grade. Work besides quizzes will be assigned periodically through the semester and will usually consist of short take-home assignments to be turned in during class or taken online in D2L. Quizzes may be both in class and online in D2L. Listen to your instructor for announcements and check D2L announcements regularly. Quizzes are individual and not group assignments. At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Exercises: Any exercises will be posted in D2L and will usually be due within one week. These will be done outside of the lab.

Lab Reports: There will be several written assignments that will need to be scanned and turned into D2L each week. Specific instructions will be provided for these and posted on D2L. Students are expected to compose their own unique lab reports individually. Any assignments exhibiting evidence of plagiarism will receive a grade of zero and are subject to further disciplinary action. All lab reports must be orderly and utilize correct grammar and spelling. Failure to comply with this will result in points deducted from the assignment. Incomplete lab reports will receive a reduced grade. Further instructions for these assignments will be given in class.

Presentation: Groups will give at least one presentation on a wild animal species during the semester and present their findings to the class.

Exams: There will be a final and a midterm exam. **If you must be absent on exam day for an excused reason, you must let the instructor know prior to exam time so an alternative can be planned.**

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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>

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 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.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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.

Technology-Related Issues

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

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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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

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

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as disability accommodations. Please contact your instructor if any issues arise or if you need more information or suggestions for studying.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your "myLeo" mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no "text" emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

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>

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

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<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generallInformation/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 University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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: [Office of 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 ETAMU 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.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University 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>

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

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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

COURSE CALENDAR

Lab	Week Start Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Week of Jan. 26 th	Lab 1: Introduction, Safety Training, Measurements, and Microscopy	Lab 1 due Feb. 1 st , Lab Assignment 1 due Feb. 1 st
2	Week of Feb. 2 nd	Lab 2: Microscopy, Animal Cell Types, Tissues, and Organs	Lab 2 due Feb. 8 th , Lab Quiz 1 due Feb. 8 th
3	Week of Feb. 9 th	Lab 3: Cell Division and Classification	Lab 3 due Feb. 15 th , Lab Assignment 2 due Feb. 15 th
4	Week of Feb. 16 th	Lab 4: Inheritance and Protists	Lab 4 due Feb 22 nd , Lab Quiz 2 due Feb. 22 nd
5	Week of Feb. 23 rd	Lab 5: Animal Evolution	Lab 5 due Mar. 1 st , Lab Assignment 3 due Mar. 1 st
6	Week of Mar. 2 nd	Lab 6: Basal and Spiralian Animal Phyla	Lab 6 due Mar. 8 th , Lab Quiz 3 due Mar. 8 th
7	Week of Mar. 9 th	University Spring Break-No Classes	University Spring Break-No Classes
8	Week of Mar. 16 th	Lab 7: Mollusca/Annelida and Midterm Exam (Labs 1-7)	Lab 7 due Mar. 22 nd , Midterm Exam (Labs 1-7) on Thurs, Mar. 19th
9	Week of Mar. 23 rd	Lab 8: Smaller Ecdysozoan Phyla and Arthropoda	Lab 8 due Mar. 29 th , Lab Assignment 4 due Mar. 29 th
11	Week of Mar. 30 th	Lab 9: Animal Ecology	Lab 9 due Apr. 5 th , Lab Quiz 4 due Apr. 5 th

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12	Week of Apr. 6 th	Lab 10: Deuterostomes, Chordates, and Fish	Lab 10 due Apr. 12 th , Lab Assignment 5 due Apr. 12 th
13	Week of Apr. 13 th	Lab 11: Reptiles and Amphibians	Lab 11 due Apr. 19 th , Lab Quiz 5 due Apr. 19 th
14	Week of Apr. 20 th	Lab 12: Birds and Mammals	Lab 12 due Apr. 26 th
15	Week of Apr. 27 th	Student Project Presentations	Student Presentations Due by Apr. 28th in D2L
16	Week of May 4 th	Review and Final Exam (Labs 8-12)	Final Exam (Labs 8-12) on Thurs., May 7th, from 9:45 am-11 am and from 1 pm-2:15 pm

Meeting Days: Class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45 am-11 am and from 1 pm-2:15 pm. **Lab is a face-to-face class, and attendance is mandatory. Note that the labs start in the third week of classes.**

Note on Schedule Changes: The schedule is subject to change if needed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

Note on Weekly Graded Work, Exercises, and Quizzes: Weekly assignments and quizzes will be determined by the instructor each week and handed out or posted in D2L.

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change.