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BSC 1309.01W Human Biology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer I 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kaitlin Allen-Tapondjou
Office Location: Zoom
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Phone: None
Office Fax: None
University Email Address: kaitlin.tapondjou@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours excluding weekends and holidays

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: Mader & Windelspecht. *Human Biology*. 17th ed., McGraw Hill LLC.
Software Required: McGraw Hill Connect®

ISBN: Looseleaf with Connect® access- 9781265508326

-or-

ISBN: eBook with Connect® access- 9781264407408

Please Note: Students may choose either the looseleaf with Connect® Access Card or eBook with Connect® Access card depending on their preference. The textbook or eBook with Connect® access card are required when the semester commences. If funding is a temporary issue preventing acquiring the required course materials, students can register for a “free” two-week courtesy access which begins with the first day of the semester. Extensions on graded course assignments will not be granted due to delay(s) in obtaining the required textbook and access code for this course.

In addition to the required textbook with Connect® access code, students enrolled in this course must have access to a compatible and dependable computer/device and Internet service provider for participation and completion of the coursework. A reliable computer/device and access to link with the Internet course is essential for participation in this online 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 Velma K. Waters Library or the various computer labs located on the Texas A&M University - Commerce campus.

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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 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, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to 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

1. Ability to use and navigate MyLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) containing the coursework components.
2. Ability to use and navigate McGraw-Hill's Connect® website containing the coursework Homework Chapter assignments.
3. A basic knowledge of Microsoft Office for the group research paper.
4. The abilities to research, compose, and submit the research paper on stem cells in APA format for the core competencies of Critical Thinking and Communication in the appropriate **Assignments** in the MyLeo Online course.
5. Ability to upload the graded teamwork rubric for each group member for the group project on stem cells in the appropriate **Assignments** in the MyLeo Online course.

Instructional Methods

BSC 1309.01W is delivered 100% online through MyLeo Online, thus students will need an accessible, dependable, and compatible computer/device and Internet connection. BSC 1309.01W provides specific activities and assessments to assist students in achieving the outcomes/objectives identified for the course. Critical Thinking, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Communication, and Teamwork are required components by SACS (Southern Accreditation of Colleges and Schools) for this course.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Students should adhere to the weekly course readings, studying for the course assignments/exams, and completing course assignments/exams.
2. Students should meet the due date and time for the graded course assignments/exams and should not wait until the last minute to complete graded assignments/exams for the course. **The course scheduling allows ample time for all students to meet the due date and time regardless**

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of academic, personal, work, unforeseen life circumstances, device, and/or Internet problems. Late work will not be accepted.

3. Students should be dedicated to communicating and participating with their group members for the group assignment on a regular basis.
4. Students should check their MyLeo email daily for pertinent information, notifications, or changes that may be necessitated for the coursework required.
5. Students needing clarification should utilize resources of the instructor and/or the tutors at the Academic Success Center.

GRADING

There are 2400 points that may be earned on the graded components for BSC 1309.01W. The assessments/assignments for BSC 1309.01W constitute 100% of the total course grade. Grades are available in the grade book of the BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online course. Students can track their progress in the course in “real time” as the points and percentage for each assignment is reflected in the criterion of the MyLeo grade book.

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

- A = 89.5% - 100%
- B = 79.5% - 89.4%
- C = 69.5% - 79.4%
- D = 59.5% - 69.4%
- F = 59.4% or Below

The graded course components for BSC 1309.01W include:

1. **Twenty-one (21) Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments** - All Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments are available when the semester begins; however, each has a specific due date and time identified on the course syllabus. The Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments are **not** timed; however, each allows only **one** access. Since the Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments can only be accessed once; students should ensure computer/device and Internet reliability/compatibility as well as adequate time to complete once accessed. The questions within each of the Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments consist of true/false, labeling, sequencing, composition, classification, select all that apply, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, and/or yes/no. Each of the Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments derive from a question pool, thus each student’s Connect® Chapter Homework Assignment will be unique. However, each student’s Connect® Chapter Homework Assignment will contain the same number of questions. The number of questions assigned for each of the Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments varies.
2. **An assessment covering Genetics and Heredity meeting the course core competency of Empirical and Quantitative Skills.** The Genetic and Heredity assessment will **only** be accessible during the dates and timeframes noted on the course syllabus. The Genetics and Heredity assessment is composed of 10 multiple-choice questions with **30 minutes** to complete. The assessment can only be accessed **once**, thus students should ensure computer/device and Internet reliability/compatibility as well as adequate time to complete once accessed. As the multiple-choice questions for the assessment derive from a question pool, each student’s assessment will contain distinctive questions.

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3. **A group project meeting the course core competencies for Teamwork, Critical Thinking, and Communication.** Students will select a group to self-enroll at the beginning of the semester, thus the **due date** for the group paper and teamwork rubric submissions will **vary** by the group in which a student self-enrolls.

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade

BSC 1309.01W Grade Determination

Course Component	Possible Points	% of Course Grade
21 Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments - 100 Points Each	2100	80%
Genetics and Heredity Assessment	100	10%
Teamwork - Average Teamwork Rubric of Group Members	100	5%
Communication and Critical Thinking - Group Paper	100	5%
Total Possible Points and Percentages	2400	100%

Assessments

BSC 1309.01W Course Weekly Readings

There are assigned chapter reading(s) for each week during the semester for BSC 1309.01W. Students will find the weekly scheduled textbook chapter reading(s) under COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR corresponding to the individual week modules located within the BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online course.

BSC 1309.01W Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments and Registration

There are assigned Connect® Chapter Homework Assignment(s) for each week during the semester for BSC 1309.01W. There are twenty-one (21) Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments corresponding to the chapter reading(s) assigned. All Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments are available when the semester begins; however, each has a specific due date and time. Students will find the weekly scheduled Connect® Chapter Assignment(s) due dates and times under COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR.

The Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments are **not** timed; however, each allows only **one** access and composed of **50** questions. Since the Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments can only be accessed once; students should ensure computer/device and Internet reliability/compatibility as well as adequate time to complete once accessed. The questions within each of the Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments consist of true/false, labeling, sequencing, composition, classification, select all that apply, fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, and/or yes/no. Each of the Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments derive from a question pool, thus each student's Connect® Chapter Homework Assignment will be unique.

The following is the criterion associated with the Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments:

- a. Connect® Chapter Homework assignments are composed of **50 questions**; however, they are **not** timed.
- b. Connect® Chapter Homework assignments allow only **one** access, thus students should ensure upon accessing 1) time to complete/submit as well as 2) computer/device and/or Internet reliability.
- c. Connect® Chapter Homework assignments total scores will be displayed after submission.
- d. The following is a YouTube® link that shows "how" students can review submitted assignments (students should type website address into browser)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA4oap2nnvM>

Note: Should students find an "error" in the grading key, they should send me the 1) number of the chapter assignment, 2) the question number, and 3) the page from their textbook where they find their

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answer to be correct and the “key” incorrect. Students must report any discrepancies for review within **one week** of the due date and time for the assignment.

Teamwork, Communication, and Critical Thinking Assessment/Assignment (Worth 200 Points)

Students will work within a group/team environment consisting of the student and up to nine additional class members through BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online to research and compose an APA paper (guidelines listed under ***Assessment/Assignment for Communication***) covering the topics for stem cells (listed under ***Assessment/Assignment for Critical Thinking***).

The due date for the group paper along with each of the group member’s graded Teamwork rubric will **vary** based on the group in which the student self-enrolls. This assessment/assignment will include the BSC 1309.01W core competencies for Critical Thinking, Communication, and Teamwork. Students will work within a group of class members to complete the assessment/assignment. The assessment/assignment is worth 200 points of the course grade (50 points for Critical Thinking, 50 points for Communication, and 100 points for Teamwork). The grading for Critical Thinking and Communication core competencies is explained within the respective guidelines. The grade earned for teamwork will **vary** based on the average score from the Teamwork grading rubric returned for each group member by their other group members.

Students are required to **self-enroll** in a group for the group assignment for the course core competencies of Communication, Critical Thinking, and Teamwork. The groups are limited to a maximum self-enrollment of ten (10) students. Students failing to self-enroll in one of the groups by the given date will **not** be enrolled in a group by the instructor. This is a graded assignment for BSC 1309.01W constituting a possible 200 points of the course grade (Communication - 50 points; Critical Thinking - 50 points; and Teamwork - 100 points). Students who **do not** self-enroll in a group are demonstrating they **have chosen not** to participate in the assessment/assignment and/or points towards the BSC 1309.01W course grade. Students should understand failure to self-enroll in a group and/or communicate and participate in the potential 200 points for the graded assignment will negatively affect their course grade.

Please Note: The number of groups is based on the maximum enrollment for the BSC 1309.01W course. If the enrollment is below and/or above the maximum, the instructor reserves the right to modify the number of groups and/or number of members in a group. Changes necessitated by enrollment number affecting modification to group and/or group members will be communicated to BSC 1309.01W students through their University email.

How To Self-Enroll in a Group

1. Click on **Communication Tools** across the BSC 1309.01W Course Tool Bar
2. Click on **Groups** (this will display the list of groups)
3. Click on **View Available Groups**
4. Select **Actions to Enroll** in Chosen Group Allowing Self-Enrollment

After **self-enrollment** in a group and formation of the group members, students are to use the **Discussion Area** within their group to communicate and plan with their group members.

Note: Groups are **NOT** permitted to use alternative means of communication such as “chats” or “phone texts”. The communication and participation for a student should **NOT** divulge personal information such as phone numbers, schedules, personal emails, or any other means of personally identifiable information nor does the assessment/assignment require students to meet face-to-face for communicating, planning, and/or participating. Students **MUST** use their Group Discussion Board for **ALL**

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communication, planning, and/or participating for the assignment. The Group Discussion Board is available to **ALL** students 24/7 thus every student has the same opportunity to communicate and/or participate in the assignment.

How to Communicate and Plan with Group Members

Option One

1. Under **Content** across BSC 1309.01W Course Tool Bar
2. Click and Expand **Table of Contents** to the **BSC 1309.01W Course Home Module**
3. Locate and click on **Student Lounge/Introductions**
4. Click on **Communication, Critical Thinking, and Teamwork Group Assignment Group Discussion**
5. Under the **Filter By** select **All Groups** which will pull up the list of group numbers
6. **Select** the group number the student self-enrolled to communicate and plan with other group members

Option Two

1. Locate **Communication Tools** across BSC 1309.01W Course Tool Bar
2. Click on Arrow Down to Groups
3. Locate and click on **Discussions** in the **Appropriate Group**
4. Under the **Filter By** select **All Groups** which will pull up the list of group numbers

Assessment/Assignment for Teamwork (Worth 100 Points)

A student's grade earned for Teamwork for the assessment/assignment will be determined by the **average score** submitted for the student by the other members of their group. The grade for Teamwork will be individual and is based on each group member's level of participation as identified by their group members on the grade returned for that group member on the graded Teamwork form. Group members in their communication and participation are to determine the role each group member will contribute to the assignment. For example, the maximum self-enrollment for a group is ten (10) students, and there are nine (9) individual topics to be included in the paper. Early communication between group members should identify the role of each group member, such as who is responsible for researching/composing each topic and/or topics, who will compile and submit the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION**, or other aspects leading to a successful completion of the group's assignment and teamwork.

Important Notes Regarding Teamwork for the Assessment/Assignment:

1. Students are to use the **Discussion Area** within their group to plan and communicate with their group members (see instructions above on How to Communicate and Plan with Group Members).
2. Once the group/team is formed, the responsibility of communication, planning, and teamwork resides exclusively with each group and group members.
3. Once the group is formed the members should begin communicating, planning, and working on the assignment on a **regular** basis.
4. Once the groups are formed there will **not** be changes.
 - a. If a group member(s) drops the course and/or does not participate in the assignment, the remaining group members are responsible for their group paper in its entirety.
 - b. If a group member(s) is/are 1) not **regularly** communicating and participating in the assignment; 2) do not respond to communications from other group/team member(s) and/or 3) participate in the assessment/assignment supporting the objectives and grade

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- for the course, the remaining group member(s) have sole discretion as how to proceed. Self-enrollment does not satisfy the requirements of the assignment. Each student **MUST** communicate and participate with their group members on a regularly basis.
- c. This is a required component for the BSC 1309.01W course grade and the participation or non-participation is the **sole responsibility** of each individual student. Students **should not or cannot** expect for other group members to “wait” for group members who are not communicating and participating on a regular basis. Each group member is responsible for grading each of their group members on Teamwork.
 - d. Group members are **required** to submit the “teamwork rubric and score” prior to the due date and time for the group for which they self-enrolled for **each** of their group members even if a group member and/or group members **did not** participate and are still enrolled in the course. **Please Note:** Students failing to submit the graded teamwork rubric(s) on or before the due date and time for the group’s paper for **each** of their group members (even group members who did not participate in the assignment) will have **10 points** deducted from their **personal teamwork grade** for **each** group member not submitted.
 - e. The due date and time for the submission of the teamwork rubrics will be determined by the group number in which the student self-enrolled.
 - f. The Teamwork Rubric is located within the BSC 1309.01W course module titled **BSC 1309.01W Course Resources** contains sufficient individual teamwork rubrics so only **one** submission is necessary. Students should:
 1. File the Word Document onto their computer.
 2. Input their name (grader), group member’s named graded, grade for each of the five (5) components, and total score.
 3. Completed and graded document will be returned as Word Document or PDF (**not** other imagery such as jpeg or jpg).

Where to Submit Completed/Graded Teamwork Rubric

Option 1

Students will upload their graded teamwork rubric for each of their group members in the appropriate **Assignment** submission within their group of BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online **prior** to the student’s group due date and time. Individual submissions in the group’s Assignment submission are **accessible and visible to all** group members.

Option 2

If the student wishes their teamwork grading of other group members to **remain private**, they may send as an attachment to kaitlin.tapondjou@etamu.edu **prior** to the student’s group due date and time.

Where to Locate and Upload the Teamwork Rubric

1. Click on **Content** under BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online
2. Under **BSC 1309.01W Course Resources** locate **Teamwork Grading Rubric**
3. Download Document and File to Computer
4. Input **Grader’s Name** and **Name of Group Member Graded**. **Please Note:** The one document contains sufficient individual grading rubrics so only one document is required. Students will **not** grade themselves only the other group members.

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5. Student will enter the group member's grade for 1) Contributions; 2) Problem Solving; 3) Attitude; 4) Focusing on the Task; 5) Working with Others; and 6) Enter the **Total Points** (this will be done for each of the Group Members).
6. After completion, student will file the completed and graded document on their computer.
7. Student will upload the completed and graded rubric into the **Teamwork Submission Folder** for their Group **or** if the student wishes their grading of other group members to remain private and not be viewed by other group members they may send as an attachment to kaitlin.tapondjou@etamu.edu
 - a. Click on **Activities**
 - b. Click on **Assignments**
 - c. Click on **Appropriate Group and Submit File**

Assessment/Assignment for Communication (Worth 50 Points)

Although the assessment/assignment is to incorporate the core competency of Teamwork and working with group members for the course, the grade earned for Communication and Critical Thinking (total 100 points) for a student's individual grade for the assignment will be determined **solely** by that student's writing of topic and/or topics completed for the paper and/or the student's contribution/role for the assignment. However, the group is to submit the paper in its entirety as a **single document** noted as **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** in the appropriate group's folder.

NOTE: A group will need to have a group member volunteer and/or elected by the group to compile submissions from the individual group submissions. If the sole contribution of the elected and/or volunteered group member is to compose the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** (e.g. did not contribute to the assignment writing), this student will also be graded solely on their responsibility to ensure the paper is APA format, organization of paper, References double-spaced and alphabetized, and page following References of each group member's contribution. **NOTE:** The group member volunteering and/or elected by the group is **NOT** responsible for another group member's spelling, grammar, punctuation, and/or referencing within the text of the paper, providing source information for the References, paper formatting, or any aspect of another's student's individual contribution. As the grade for a student is based solely on their writing of a section(s)/topic(s), the student who composes a section(s)/topic(s) has the **sole responsibility** to adhere to academic writing guidelines.

The **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** paper should include:

1. A cover page with the names of all participating group members
2. Have appropriate APA heading and page numbers in Times New Roman 12 point font
3. paper must have topics/sections organized with title of topic/section centered as identified under **Critical Thinking**
4. References pages should be double-spaced, alphabetized, and with the first line of each source left-aligned with subsequent lines indented
5. A stand-alone page following the References pages with the topic/section name and the student who composed/authored that topic/section and the name of the group member who volunteered and/or was elected by the group to arrange and submit the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** paper.

Communication Guidelines

The paper must be written in APA format (e.g. cover page including the names of each of the participating group members, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1" margins, double-spaced throughout, sections in appropriate order with titles center, References pages should be double-spaced,

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alphabetized, and with the first line of each source left-aligned with subsequent lines indented, and include a stand-alone page following the References with the topic/section name and the student who composed/authored that topic/section).

On the stand-alone page following the References pages, the submitted paper is to include a list of each of the nine (9) individual topics and the group member's name(s) responsible for the composition of the information for that topic and the name of the group member volunteering or elected to arrange and submit **FINAL SUBMISSION COPY** for grading prior to the due date and time for the group. Any topic and/or topics found to be **plagiarized** will result in a **zero** for both Communication and Critical Thinking for the group member(s) who composed the information for the topic and/or topics. **USE OF AI FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE ASSIGNMENT WILL CONSTITUTE PLAGIARISM AND WILL BE GIVEN A ZERO.** **Errors** in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and/or referencing will be graded on the completed paper (grading for Communication follows instructions).

Guidelines:

1. The submission should demonstrate proper APA guidelines, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and referencing.
 - a. When formatting the paper for double-spacing, students must ensure they **remove** "add extra space before paragraph" and/or "add space after paragraph". If not, the paper will **not** be double-spaced and include extra lines.
 - b. The paper should be organized as listed for topics identified under **Critical Thinking** with title centered.
 - c. Students needing information as to proper APA formatting and/or proper referencing may:
 - i. Use a writer's handbook.
 - ii. Utilize the Writing Center as a resource (information provided at the end of the Communication assignment instructions).
 - iii. Locate proper formatting or proper referencing guidelines on the Purdue Online Writing Lab at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>
2. The paper should have the title centered above section and be written in paragraph form.
3. Each of the nine aspects listed to be covered in the paper must: 1) be listed and title centered in the order given with a minimum of one paragraph for each section/topic and 2) include all information required for the topic/topics.
4. **Any** outside sources for information utilized in the assessment/assignment **MUST** be cited properly **both** within the text (writing) of the paper as well as on the References page according to APA guidelines. Proper referencing applies to paraphrasing as well as to direct quotes. **Note:** Direct quotes **MUST** include page number or if there is no page number the paragraph number. Failure of a student to include referencing **BOTH** within the text of a paper and on their References constitutes plagiarism and will result in a grade of zero for Communication and Critical Thinking (total of 100 points).
 - a. Students should ensure they understand proper referencing as failure to include proper citations **both** in the writing of the text of the paper as well as on the Reference(s) page constitutes plagiarism discussed under **Course Specific Policies** of the course syllabus.
 - b. Submissions found to be plagiarized will result in a **grade of zero** for both Critical Thinking and Communication for the group member(s) who composed the information for the topic(s). **USE OF AI FOR THE COMPOSITION OF THE**

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ASSIGNMENT WILL CONSTITUTE PLAGARISM AND WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF ZERO FOR THE TOPIC IN WHICH AI WAS USED.

5. There is no required length for the assignment but **must** include the information required for the assignment in the proper order with section/topic title centered and include all information related to the specific section/topic. Submissions that do not satisfy the requirements of the topic will incur a deduction of points. It should be detailed enough to cover the topics; however, a lengthy submission does not necessarily correlate to a grade (e.g. writing without a focus and purpose and/or does not relate to the topic).
6. All individual group members are to upload their proofread, cited, and submission-ready topic(s)/section(s) to the group's **Communication and Critical Thinking Group Paper** folder located for their group within the MyLeo course **at least 72 hours prior** to the due date and time for the group. This timeframe allows the group member who volunteered/and or elected by the group to **arrange and submit** a single paper containing all those from group members as the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** prior to the due date and time. This timeframe also allows group members the ability to proofread the submissions of other members of the group further supporting teamwork among group members. **PLEASE NOTE:** A student is to ensure the copy they upload to the **Communication and Critical Thinking Group Paper** folder has met the guidelines for the assignment, such as: 1) APA format (e.g. double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins, paragraphs indented); 2) proofread for spelling, punctuation, grammar, and referencing with section title centered and submission-ready; 3) outside sources of information properly cited within the text of the paper, (4) outside sources of information for References pages are Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced, references alphabetized with the first line of a source left-aligned and subsequent lines indented, and proper referencing for sources of information used in writing.
7. The group member who volunteers and/or elected by the group is designated to submit the group's paper in its entirety prior to the due date and time for the group. The group member who volunteered and/or was elected by the group must submit the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** to the appropriate group's submission folder for grading. **NOTE:** Although the group member who volunteers and/or elected by the group to compile, arrange the submissions of other group members, and submit prior to the group's due date and time into the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION**, this group member is still responsible for communicating and participating in the group discussions within the group's Discussion Board in MyLeo. As this student is a participating member, a teamwork rubric will still be required for these individuals.
 - a. In the event the group member whose role for the assignment was to compile, organize, and submit the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** fails to meet the due date and time for the group, they will receive a **grade of zero** for Communication and Critical Thinking.
 - b. In the event, the volunteer and/or designated group member fails to upload the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** prior to the due date and time for the group, a student's submission to the **Communication and Critical Thinking Group Paper** folder will be graded for the individual student.
8. Students identified by group members as **not** participating in the assignment will receive a grade of **zero** for both Communication and Critical Thinking. As students are required to use the **Discussion Area** within their group to communicate and participate with their group members, the instructor will be able to view communication between group members should a discrepancy occur in which a student disputes their participation in the assignment.

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- If a group member receiving a grade of zero for Communication and Critical Thinking due to identification by other group member(s) as **not** communicating, contributing, and/or participating in the assignment challenges the grade of zero, the instructor will be able to view information both in the group's **Discussion Board** as well as the **Communication and Critical Thinking Group Paper** folder for the assignment.
9. As this is a group assignment, individual papers will **not** be accepted except in the event that no other group member communicates, participates, and contributes to the group paper. In the event multiple submissions of the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** occur, the submitting group member **MUST** identify the submission to be graded in the text for the submission.
 10. The group's completed paper **MUST** be uploaded to the group's Communication and Critical Thinking Group Paper folder within the BSC 1309.01W MyLeo course **at least 72 hours prior to the due date and time** to allow the group member who volunteered and/or elected by the group to compile the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION Communication and Critical Thinking Group Paper** and/or allow group members to proofread those of other group members further supporting teamwork. **NOTE:** Each student who composes a specific section(s)/topic(s) has the **sole responsibility** to ensure the copy submitted for inclusion to the paper to the **Communication and Critical Thinking Group Paper** folder has been proofread and meets all requirements for academic writing. The student composing a section(s) will incur point deductions for formatting, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and proper APA referencing. APA referencing in this context refers to **proper** APA referencing **NOT** the omission of referencing which constitutes **plagiarism** and a grade of zero for the group member(s) who composed the topic(s) for the paper.

Critical Thinking Criterion for the Assessment/Assignment

Stem cells are categorized by their degree of flexibility in their developmental path. For example, totipotent stem cells can become any type of cell required by the body, pluripotent stem cells can become nearly any type of cell required by the body, multipotent stem cells can become many types of cells required by the body, and unipotent stem cells can only become one type of cell required by the body. The group assignment is to examine the source of the different categories of stem cells, the potential use of stem cells in curing human illnesses, and the controversies surrounding the use of embryonic stem cells. The debate on stem cells encompasses political, ethical, social, medical, financial, and legal considerations. Stem cell research also has elicited debates regarding cloning for therapeutic uses. The assignment for Critical Thinking for BSC 1309 is to apply the criterion to the topic of stem cells. The grade earned for Critical Thinking will be entered for each of the participating group members.

Assessment/Assignment for Critical Thinking (Worth 50 Points)

Each of the following nine aspects to be covered in the paper should have the **heading title centered and listed in the order given** (do **not** include the bullet point or the number of examples/sources and/or the point value in the title of the section of the paper) with a **minimum of one paragraph for each** aspect. The group member responsible for a specific section/topic must ensure that all required information is included (e.g. examples, sources, and challenges).

The following are the aspects to be covered in the paper including the point value associated with each of the nine aspects for **Critical Thinking**:

1. Categorization of Stem Cells by Their Degree of Flexibility in Their Developmental Path and Where They Can Be Located in the Human Body - **5.5 points**
2. Differences Between Embryonic and Adult Stem Cells (at least 3 examples) - **5.5 points**
3. Current Sources of Embryonic and Adult Stem Cells (at least 3 sources for each) - **5.5 points**

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4. The Potential Uses of Human Stem Cells in Biomedical Research (at least 4) - **5.5 points**
5. Methodology by Which Scientists Harvest and Use Stem Cells - **5.5 points**
6. Challenges Facing Stem Cell Research (identify at least four challenges) - **5.5 points**
7. Arguments Endorsing the Use of Stem Cells in Biomedical Research - **5.5 points**
8. Arguments Against the Use of Stem Cells in Biomedical Research - **5.5 points**
9. Explain Your Informed Personal Opinion on Stem Cell Topic Supported by Evidence and/or Examples - **6 points**

Please Note: The group member elected and/or volunteering to submit the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION** must ensure the paper is properly formatted and organized. The failure to **organize and center title** in the paper as identified above will result in a **deduction of 20 points** from the grade of Critical Thinking for that individual. All group members will be graded (possible total of 50 points) on the contribution of section(s)/topic(s) submitted by other group members for Critical Thinking. The failure to include proper referencing for outside sources **both** within the text of the paper and/or on the References pages will be considered plagiarism and will result in a grade of **zero** for Communication and Critical Thinking for the group member(s) who composed that topic(s) for the paper. As each group member is to submit their proofread and submission-ready section(s)/topic(s) to the **Communication and Critical Thinking Group Paper** folder at least **72 hours prior** to the group's due date and time to allow the elected and/or volunteering group member to compose the **FINAL GROUP SUBMISSION**, this timeframe also allows all group members the opportunity to further teamwork in proofreading submissions for other group members to discover error(s) such as organization of topics, topics titled and centered, failure to include appropriate identifiers (e.g. examples, sources, challenges), and/or meets requirements for academic writing. The student composing a section(s)/topic(s) will incur point deductions for formatting, grammar, spelling, punctuation, and proper APA referencing. APA referencing in this context refers to **proper** APA referencing **NOT** the omission of referencing which constitutes **plagiarism** and a grade of zero for the group member(s) who composed the section(s)/ topic(s) for the paper.

Where to Upload Completed Group Paper

The designated group member will upload the completed group paper in the group's submission folder.

1. Click on **Activities under the BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online Tool Bar**
2. Click on **Assignments**
3. Click on **Appropriate Group and Submit File**

Assignment Resources

The following resources are available for TAMUC students if a group member/group needs assistance with the group assignment.

1. **Writing Center Location and Email Contact** - The Writing Center is located in Hall of Languages Room 103. The Writing Center also offers the Online Writing Lab, which can be accessed by sending an e-mail to writing.tamuc@gmail.com
1. You may check their hours of operation at the following website address:
2. <http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiessocialsciencesarts/departments/literatu reLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx>
3. Students may access **Velma K. Waters Library** from the **Campus Resources** through their MyLeo Online BSC 1309.01W course.
 - a. Click on **More** across the BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online **Tool Bar**
 - b. Click on **Campus Resources**
 - c. Click on **Velma K. Waters Library**

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4. Within the **BSC 1309.01W Course Resources** module under **Content** of the BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online Course, students have access to 1) a check sheet students should use to compare to their writing(s) to ensure assignment requirements, policies, and guidelines are met and 2) teamwork rubric students are to complete, grade, and return for each of their group members prior to their group's due date and time.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills Assessment/Assignment

The assignment given to support the student learning outcome/objective for the course of Empirical and Quantitative Skills will cover the specific topic of Genetics and Heredity. The assignment/assessment will evaluate a student's ability to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data. In this assignment, students will demonstrate how the inherited genotype of the parents determines the probability of characteristics (phenotype) and genotype of their offspring. Students should be able given information to do a monohybrid Punnett square to obtain the answer. The question pool for this assignment also includes how sex chromosomes may affect the probability of an offspring phenotype (e.g. X-linked recessive more prominent in male offspring) as well as other aspects presented for the topic from the textbook.

The Genetics and Heredity assignment is located within the **Connect** module of the BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online course. The Genetics and Heredity assignment will consist of 10 multiple choice questions derived from a question pool for the topic. Students will have **30 minutes** in which to complete and submit the assignment before it will automatically be submitted "as is." The assessment/assignment can only be accessed **once** thus students need to ensure adequate time to complete as well as computer/device and Internet compatibility and reliability before accessing. The assignment is available on **July 2nd** and is due prior to **11:59 p.m.** Students will receive an "auto grade" upon submission; however, after the due date and time for the assignment/assessment students have access to view missed questions/answers.

BSC 1309.01W Course Resources

1. Within the BSC 1309.01W Human Structure and Function MyLeo Online course, students will find modules under **Content** which contain the following course resources:
 - a. Student checksheet ensuring requirements are met for the group paper.
 - b. Teamwork rubric students will submit for each of their group members.
 - c. Genotype and Phenotype document (Genetics and Heredity Assessment).
 - d. PowerPoint for chapters (not provided or intended to replace textbook).
2. Instructor - Students should utilize the instructor as a course resource if needing guidance and/or clarification on: 1) course assignments and/or 2) course policies.
3. Academic Success Center - Students may take advantage of free tutoring provided through the Academic Success Center at Texas A&M University - Commerce leading to BSC 1309.01W course success. Students should refer to the course syllabus for contact information for the Academic Success Center.

Course Outline/Calendar

The instructor will make every effort to adhere to the BSC 1309.01W course calendar as noted below; however, the instructor reserves the right to change the schedule if a circumstance(s) necessitate. The instructor will send communication of any change(s) through the BSC 1309.01W MyLeo Online Course Announcements and/or to the student's University email.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Class Reading Assignments, Connect® Chapter Homework Assignments, and the Genetics and Heredity Assessment			
Week Assigned	Chapter Reading(s) and Course Assignments	Available	Due 11:59 p.m.
1	Chapter 2 - Chemistry of Life	June 1	June 6
1	Chapter 3 - Cell Structure and Function	June 1	June 6
1	Chapter 4 - Organization and Regulation of Body Systems	June 1	June 6
1	Chapter 5 - Cardiovascular System: Heart and Blood Vessels	June 1	June 6
2	Chapter 6 - Cardiovascular System: Blood	June 1	June 13
2	Chapter 7 - The Lymphatic and Immune Systems	June 1	June 13
2	Chapter 9 - Digestive System and Nutrition	June 1	June 13
2	Chapter 10 - Respiratory System	June 1	June 13
3	Chapter 11 - Urinary System	June 1	June 20
3	Chapter 12 - Skeletal System	June 1	June 20
3	Chapter 13 - Muscular System	June 1	June 20
3	Chapter 14 - Nervous System	June 1	June 20
4	Chapter 16 - Endocrine System	June 1	June 27
4	Chapter 17 - Reproductive System	June 1	June 27
4	Chapter 19 - Patterns of Chromosome Inheritance	June 1	June 27
4	Chapter 21 - Genetic Inheritance	June 1	June 27
	Group paper	June 1	June 30
	Genetics and Heredity Assessment	July 2	July 2

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.tamuc.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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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>

McGraw-Hill Connect® 24/7 Technical Support

If students should have issues while registering or using Connect®, they may contact McGraw-Hill's CARE through <http://www.mhhe.com/support> or at **800-331-5094**. To avoid problems related to unexpected technical issues, students are advised not to wait until the last minute to complete assignments/exam. The technical support team at Connect® can take care of problems students might incur. **Please Note:** MyLeo Online (D2L Support) **will not** be able to assist with the publisher's website or likewise the McGraw-Hill Connect® team will not be able to assist with the MyLeo Online (D2L) platform.

BSC 1309.01W Course Student Support

If students have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material or policies, please contact your instructor at kaitlin.tapondjou@etamu.edu

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 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.

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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 McGraw-Hill's Connect® containing the coursework components.

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor's primary form of communication with students will be through the **Course Announcements** and/or the University email system. Any changes to the syllabus or other course information will be disseminated to students in these manners via the MyLeo Online course and/or the student's official University email address available to the instructor through the MyLeo Online course. It is the student's responsibility to check the **Course Announcements** and their University email regularly for pertinent information relating to the course assignments/exams and/or due dates/time. If a student emails the instructor during a typical class week, they can expect a reply within 24 hours.

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)

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- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all 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](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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.

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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

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.

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

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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 – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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.tamuc.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.



As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Department and Accrediting Agency Statement:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

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