

BSC 1406 Introductory Biology I Syllabus (early version)**Fall 2026**

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Office: STC 237 (McFarland Science Building)

Course Website: at MyLeo Online (D2L)

Office Hours: MWF 11-12; appointments as needed

Message via email, text, Discord, & D2L anytime (usual response within 24 hrs.) More contact information will be posted at D2L

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

ISE Biology, 6th Ed, Brooker, Widmaier, & Graham (McGraw-Hill) **with Connect access**. 2022
See **Textbook Options** below for more details.

There is no pre-printed laboratory manual for this course; materials will be available in lab and via your MyLeo Online Lab section page.

COURSE MEETING TIME/ PLACE:

- Section 01E (82193): MWF 9:00-9:50, STC 127
- Section 02E (82198): MWF 10:00-10:50, STC 127

COURSE DESCRIPTION: BSC 1406 - Introductory Biology I - Four semester hours (3 lec/3 lab). This course is the first half of the Introductory Biology series. It is designed for the following majors: Broadfield Biology, Pre-Med, Pre-Allied Health, and Pre-Vet. Topics covered include biological evolution, biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, and microbiology. Note: All courses carrying four semester hours have labs. Students must register for both lecture **and** lab sections (but NOT 1406L.1LW- that one is online only, and tied to lecture 1406.01W with Ms. McElrath)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: BSc 1406 Introductory Biology I provides an introduction to the study of biology and is intended for biology, pre-professional, and pre-vet majors. As such, a strong background in biology and chemistry is suggested. This course is designed as the first half of the freshman biology sequence and covers topics including biological evolution, biochemistry, cellular biology, and molecular genetics. With successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate understanding of the above concepts by definition, explanation, and use of these ideas in examinations and laboratory exercises.

CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
- Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
- 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.
- Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.

LABORATORY: You **must** be enrolled in a BSc1406 laboratory section in order to receive credit for the course. The laboratory will account for **25%** of your final grade. ***The laboratory sessions will begin the SECOND week of classes.*** You will receive a complete schedule, syllabus, and further instructions

from your Lab Instructor at the first meeting. All labs meet in STC 217, and the lab manual will be available for download at MyLeo Online (D2L). You are responsible for printing the required pages and maintaining a binder which may be checked (for a grade) at any time. If you are unable to attend your scheduled lab, you MIGHT be able to attend a different section that week, with instructor permission. Correspond directly with the lab instructors- all contact information will be available on the Lab syllabus and at D2L. See the Schedule of Classes for this semester for available lab meeting times:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/schedule/>

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE: Fall 2026

Week	Start Date (M)	Topic	Other Notes
1	A 17	Introduction to the Course	<i>Semester starts THURSDAY, 8/20</i>
2	24	Ch. 1: Introduction to the Study of Life	
3	31	Ch. 2: Chemistry & Water	
4	S 07	Ch. 2 Continued	<i>Exam 1 Monday Holiday</i>
5	14	Ch. 3: Organic Molecules	
6	21	Ch. 4: Cells (include Ch. 10.1-10.2)	
7	29	Ch. 5: Membranes	
8	O 05	Ch. 6: Metabolism	<i>Exam 2</i>
9	12	Ch. 7: Cellular Respiration	
10	19	Ch. 7 Cont.	
11	26	Ch. 8: Photosynthesis	
12	N 02	Ch. 8 Cont.	<i>Exam 3</i>
13	09	Ch. 16: Cell Cycles	
14	16	Ch. 17: Inheritance	
15	23	Ch. 12: From Genes to Proteins	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday Nov. 27-28</i>
16	30	Wrap up	<i>Exam 4</i>
	D 07	<i>Comprehensive Final Exams (s2: M7@ 10:30; s1: W9@8)</i>	

This schedule is a general outline for your reference and is subject to change. Actual exam dates will be announced a minimum of one week in advance. **Final Exams** are assigned to dates by the University (see <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/final-exam-schedule.aspx>)

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is generally mandatory for this level course, and a seating chart may be used for ease of recording attendance. Repeated unexcused absences or disruptive behavior such as talking during lecture or repeated tardiness will negatively affect grades (especially if borderline); similarly good attendance and behavior will be rewarded via attendance/participation credit. Missing 20% or more of lecture (unexcused absences) is grounds to receive a grade of F for the course. Note that Labs have similar policies, and failing lab will virtually assure failing the course. Of course, these policies may be adjusted as needed for health and safety.

NOTE THAT This is a Majors-level course, and you are expected to allot adequate time to *regularly* studying the material on your own- this material forms the foundation for your advanced classes in the coming terms. You are expected to read all textbook chapters corresponding to topics covered in lecture. It is also strongly recommended that you read the preface of the textbook, with hints on how to best use it. We will not use every chapter of the textbook in lecture, and we may discuss some aspects in more detail than your text goes into- so be sure to keep up with lecture notes too! If you miss a lecture, you are still responsible for that day's material- read the chapter, get notes from someone in class, review the powerpoints (posted at D2L), and see me for any clarification. If you have difficulty with the material, feel free to see me *as soon as you can* for advice on how best to improve.

EXAMS AND GRADING: Grades will be computed based on a "10-point scale" such that a total of 90% or higher of possible points will result in a grade of A, between 80% and 89.9% a B, and so on. If your total is lower than 60% of the class points you will fail the class (yes, that's an F). The points are planned to be as follows:

Exams (4, 100 pts each)	400
Comprehensive Final Exam	100
Connect Assignments	100
Lab grade *	<u>200</u>
	800

This means that you must earn at least 720 total points ($800 \times .9$) for an A, 640 ($800 \times .8$) for a B, 560 ($800 \times .7$) for a C, and 480 ($800 \times .6$) for a D in the class. Below 480 points is a Failing grade.

***Note** that lecture counts for 75% of the total course points, while lab counts for the other 25%. *I* am not directly in control of your laboratory grade, only the lecture portion of the class.

Exams will be announced in class and posted at D2L at least one week in advance. Regular exams will include questions drawn from lecture notes, handouts, or Mastering Biology assignments. The final exam will be comprehensive. **No exam grades will be dropped.** Any student caught cheating on an exam will receive a zero for that exam. Students are responsible for supplying their own Scantron cards (F 882-E, narrow green, 50 questions per side), and should bring pencils (#2/HB lead) and a *good* eraser. All other items must be left in the front of the classroom. Cell phones **MUST BE SILENT AND STOWED** during exams – failure to comply with this may result in 10 points being deducted from exam grades.

MAKE- UP WORK:

In the case of a missed exam, with presentation of a valid and documented excuse you may arrange for a make-up exam. Such make-ups **MUST** be scheduled with **me** within 2-3 days of the missed test (if you are not in town, pick up the telephone or have a friend do it), and may be mainly short answer or essay in nature. Lack of such arrangements will result in a score of **0** for that test, and only **ONE** exam may be made up in this fashion. Such make-up exams will be given during finals week **ONLY**. Extreme circumstances will always be taken into consideration- **SEE ME** before you assume anything.

TEXTBOOK OPTIONS:

The simplest way to get your textbook is to use the instructions in the next section to register for Connect, along with your eText! Please note that you will need the **textbook with Connect** for both Introductory Biology I and II. You can save money by using the ebook with Connect- if you want a hard copy of the book (hardback, paperback, or loose-leaf) it is considered "extra" but you can find that too. You can use the bookstore, online bookstores (ala Amazon.com), or direct from the publisher (which usually saves some money)- <https://www.mheducation.com/> Information for the EBook with Connect: BROOKER CNCT Access Card BIOLOGY 6 2023-**9781266683633**; for the loose-leaf book with Connect: BROOKER GEN CMB Loose Leaf BIOLOGY and CNCT Access Card 6 2023-**9781266687204**

CONNECT ACCESS:

You are *required* to purchase the **Connect** online course component and complete all of the homework assignments listed- these exercises will have the same weight in your grade as an exam! The bulk of your support material for studying each chapter will be located at this site, which is **NOT** the same as your D2L site.

Registration on the Website

Step One

1. Enter your course URL provided or use QRL code:



COURSE SECTION

REGISTRATION URL

BSC1406 Intro Biology I
Section: Fall 2026

<https://connect.mheducation.com/class/lyman-henley-bsc-1406---fall-2026>

2. Enter your email address and click Begin.
3. If you receive the message “you have a Connect Account” but have forgotten your password, click Forgot Password.

Step Two

1. Create your account: Enter email, First and Last Name, create a password and select security questions.
2. We recommend using your school email address when creating an account.
3. To receive text alerts, enter your mobile number. Agree to the Terms and Conditions and then click Continue.

Step Three

You have three registration options.

1. Connect Code: Enter a Connect access code and click Redeem.
2. Purchase Online: Click Buy It to use a credit card or PayPal.
3. Temporary Access: Click Access Now for two-week temporary access.
4. Confirm Access once registered.

Step Four

1. You have successfully joined the class. Click **GO TO CONNECT**.

TECH SUPPORT & FAQ:

CALL: (800) 331-5094

EMAIL & CHAT: mhhe.com/support

Once enrolled, you will see a window that shows Recent and Upcoming Assignments (you may need to scroll down). Please note that assignments have due dates – they do not receive credit if turned in late. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates - failure to complete assignments by the due dates will result in a zero for the assignment. You will have an assignment for each chapter covered in lecture, plus a tutorial to get started. Each assignment consists of several activities, multiple-choice questions, and quizzes; your grade will be based upon the total of all of those scores combined (that is, you will have one grade for each assignment). Assignments will remain available for students to use to study for tests, although points cannot be earned after the due date; there are also many excellent resources for studying for exams in the Study Area. There are tutorials for how to use this system- be sure to complete them first to avoid blowing points on navigation errors or misunderstandings. Or ask for help.

TUTORING:

There are ample free tutors available for many courses on campus, including this one. In fact, extra credit will be awarded to students that have attended approved tutoring sessions. This course has assigned peer

tutors who will work with us and provide tutoring and other guidance throughout the semester. More information about these folks coming soon! These tutors (generally students who did very well in this class in recent semesters) will be available for help with homework, lab work, studying for tests, or any questions you may have, and frequently visit lectures. Tutors will also have review sessions prior to each test. Additionally, this course usually has dedicated tutor(s) through SI: <http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/AcademicSuccessCenter/tutorInfo/default.aspx>. In addition you may visit *JAMP Room Biology tutoring* – STC #110; schedule will be posted outside the door. For questions regarding JAMP, please contact Dr. Slovak 903-886-5368 or john.slovak@etamu.edu.

RESOURCES:

There are a variety of resources at your disposal to aid with your studies. This lecture is “Web Enhanced”- it has a D2L (MyLeo Online) site that you will be expected to use regularly; you can enter via your MyLeo account.

The **Academic Success Center** services include tutoring and workshops (including such topics as “Managing Test Anxiety”); here’s the link to the main page with links to everything:

<https://www.etamu.edu/academic-services/>

And of course the Academic Calendar, which does include information regarding University holidays, deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, and other such activities. This page also includes the link to each semester’s Final Exam schedule (which may also be useful for your other courses):

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/>

OTHER NOTES (INCLUDING OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS/AKA: THE FINE PRINT)

It is the responsibility of the student to inform me of any problems you may have affecting your performance in class, be it due to professionally diagnosed disability, personal or work-related problems, or anything else that comes up, so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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.

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](#).

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce 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

[Zoom Account Instructions](#)

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.

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>

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The [Code of Student Conduct](#) is described in detail 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.

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

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Copying material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your assignment and can result in further disciplinary action. If you are caught cheating you will receive a score of zero for the class – not just the assignment.

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](#)

Counseling Services Statement

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, 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 or go to https://studentsupport.telushealth.com/us/about#download_app to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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 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.

FINAL NOTE:

I make efforts to conserve resources (and cost) 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. Clearly 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 all around campus- Waters Library most notably, and more locally Science building room 210. 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 OfficeDepot will print materials for a reasonable fee if you bring your flash-drive. Last bit of advice: **Get a Calendar.**
Learn how to use it. ☺