



BSC 1406.01W – Introductory Biology I

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Elizabeth McElrath

Office Location: Online

Office Hours: By Appointment

University Email Address: elizabeth.mcelrath@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 – 48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

MATERIALS – TEXTBOOKS, READINGS, SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Inclusive Access:

This is an Inclusive Access (IA) course with D2L being integrated with McGraw Hill Connect. Students should not need to purchase the course text or Connect access, as it is included with student fees during course registration. This decision was made to provide students with Connect access to assignments from the first day of class and to offer students access to materials at a cheaper rate. For those that choose to purchase Connect access and the textbook separately, the textbook details are included below.

Textbook Required:

Biology, 2025 Release. Brooker, Widmaier, Graham, & Stilling (McGraw-Hill) **with Connect access**. 2025.

Software Required:

McGraw Hill Connect Access

A dependable online server and computer hardware

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

BSC 1406 - Introductory Biology I

Hours: 4

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

**Students must register for both lecture and lab section (Please note that this is for BSC 1406.01W and 1406.1LW which are online only courses. All face-to-face sections of BSC 1406 lecture are under the guidance of Dr. Lyman-Henley)*

LABORATORY:

You **must** be enrolled in the BSC 1406.1LW laboratory section in order to receive credit for the course. The laboratory will account for **25%** of your final grade. ***The laboratory will be taught by Dr. Archana Srinivas. Please check the lab D2L course for information about course requirements and the start date.*** You will receive a complete schedule, syllabus, and further instructions on the first day of lab.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. 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.
2. Students will be able to interpret, test and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
3. 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.
4. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

MINIMAL TECHNICAL SKILLS NEEDED

You will be utilizing various forms of learning tools available on-line, using your textbook, on-line lectures, and class discussions.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course will be completely online, with no face-to-face meetings. There is no set “lecture” meeting time. There will be blocks/units of material posted to correspond with each assigned chapter which will include PowerPoints and assorted guidance for what to study. Testing will be conducted online, through D2L. **There will be due dates for each chapter**, so you will need to keep up with work through the semester.

Note that you are expected to allot adequate time to regularly study the material on your own. You are expected to read all textbook chapters corresponding to topics covered. 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 so be sure to keep up with the posted guidance for each section! If you have difficulty with the material, feel free to contact me *as soon as you can* for advice on how best to improve.

MCGRAW HILL CONNECT ACCESS

This is an Inclusive Access (IA) course with McGraw Hill Connect. Connect will be used to complete all of the homework assignments listed. The cost of Connect access is included in the fees for this course, unless the student chooses to opt out. *For students that opt out of Inclusive Access, McGraw Hill Connect MUST be purchased to complete the course.* This Connect course has been LMS integrated into the D2L course. You will be able to click on links to complete registration for the course (an instruction video is included under the McGraw Hill Connect module in D2L). Please follow instructions given in the video to complete McGraw Hill Connect course registration.

Connect Assignments for the course can be found in the Unit modules under each individual chapter in D2L.

LATE WORK POLICY

Please note that assignments have due dates (the Calendar can help you keep track of these), It is the student's responsibility to keep track of due dates. Late work is only accepted for three (3) days past the due date. Failure to complete assignments by the due dates will result in a zero for the assignment. You will have assignments for each chapter covered. Each assignment consists of a Smartbook assignment and a quiz. 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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES OR TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THE COURSE

You will be required to regularly login to your D2L courses and the online class resources (details to come). You **MUST** take email communication seriously- it's the only way I can ensure you are able to access all your materials. There will be no "attendance" recorded in the traditional sense, but I will check for your activity at the website and email communication- but I will rely on YOU to communicate in a timely fashion *especially* if you are having any problems.

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

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

Connect	25%
Exams (4)	25%
Comprehensive Final Exam	25%
Lab grade *	<u>25%</u>
	100%

***Note** that lecture counts for 75% of the total course points, while lab counts for the other 25%.

Exams dates will be posted at D2L with all exam dates included in the calendar at the beginning of the semester, as well as an announcement being posted at least 3 days prior to an exam opening. Exams will include questions drawn from readings, PowerPoint / lecture notes, or Connect assignments over the stated chapter content. All exams will be conducted online. The format will allow a set amount of time to complete the exam once started, but a few days period in which to take said exam- you will not need to take exams at a single specified time. **No exam grades will be dropped.**

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

TENATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE: FALL 2026*

<u>Week</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Other Notes</u>
1	8/17	Syllabus; Introduction to Course	<i>Semester begins THURSDAY, 8/20</i>
2	8/24	Ch. 1: Introduction to the Study of Life	
3	8/31	Ch. 2: Chemistry & Water	
4	9/07	Ch. 2: Chemistry & Water (continued)	<i>Monday Holiday</i>
5	9/14	Ch. 3: Organic Molecules	
6	9/21	Ch. 4: Cells & Ch. 10.1-10.2	<i>Exam 1 (Ch 1-3)</i>
7	9/28	Ch. 4: Cells & Ch. 10.1-10.2 (continued)	
8	10/05	Ch. 5: Membranes	<i>Fall Break Oct 8-9</i>
9	10/12	Ch. 6: Metabolism	<i>Exam 2 (Ch 4-5, 10)</i>
10	10/19	Ch. 7: Cellular Respiration	
11	10/26	Ch. 8: Photosynthesis	
12	11/02	Ch. 8: Photosynthesis	
13	11/09	Ch 16: Cell Cycles	<i>Exam 3 (Ch 6-8)</i>
14	11/16	Ch. 17: Inheritance	
15	11/23	Ch. 12: From Genes to Proteins	<i>Thanksgiving Break Nov 25-26</i>
16	11/30	Buffer/Study Week	<i>Exam 4 (Ch 16-17, 12)</i>
	12/05	Comprehensive Final Exam	Dec. 6-8

* This schedule is a general outline for your reference and is subject to change.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

MAKEUP WORK

In this online format, all assignments, with the exception of exams, are posted at the beginning of the semester. Unit exams will open the Sunday that the last chapter in a unit is due. You will NOT be able to do all assignments in a chapter if you wait until the day it is due - plan your time. It's ok to finish early, even. So really, just get stuff done **before** the due date. If for some reason you are unable to do so, contact me ASAP.

For those without a valid excuse or did not make arrangements ahead of time, makeup work will only be accepted for three days after the initial assignment due date. In the case of a missed exam, with presentation of a valid and documented (i.e. medical, legal, school) excuse, you may arrange for a make-up exam. Such makeups MUST be scheduled with **me** within 3 days of the missed test.

Extreme circumstances will always be taken into consideration – Communicate with me before you assume anything.

McGRAW HILL CONNECT ACCESS

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Connect Assignments for the course can be found in the **individual chapter modules** in D2L.

Please note that assignments have due dates (the Calendar can help you keep track of these) – 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 assignments for each chapter covered in lecture. 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.

TUTORING

There are ample free tutors available for many courses on campus, including this one. You may visit *JAMP Room Biology tutoring* – STC #110; the schedule will be posted outside the door. For questions regarding JAMP, please contact Dr. Slovak 903-886-5368 or john.slovak@etamu.edu.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

RESOURCES

There are a variety of resources at your disposal to aid your studies. This lecture is “Web Enhanced”- it has MyLeo Online (D2L) site that you will be expected to use regularly. There are also a wide variety of study aids available at most text’s websites- check your textbook’s introductory pages for links and other such information.

You may also find useful the **Academic Success Center** services, which include tutoring and workshops.

And of course the Academic Calendar, which does include information regarding University holidays, deadlines to add, drop, withdraw, and other such activities.

FINAL NOTE:

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.

Last bit of advice: **Get a Calendar. Learn how to use it.** 😊

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.

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>

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.

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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.

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

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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)
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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](#)

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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

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 – 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 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.

