



BSC1406, SECTION 9SE, Biology I
COURSE SYLLABUS FOR FALL 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. John F. Evers

Office Location: Same as lecture and lab classrooms during class; outside of class in the faculty lounge area

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:35 pm- 4:35 pm

Office Phone: (903) 886-5525

Office Fax: N/A

University Email Address: John.Evers@etamu.edu

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

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Materials

Textbook Required: Biology on OpenStax by Mary Ann Clark, Matthew Douglas, and Jung Choi. ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-51-7. You may obtain a copy at <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e>. You will need to download a copy.

Lab Manual Required: General Biology for Majors Laboratory Manual and Workbook. (2021, Aims Community College). Emma Murray. You can obtain a copy at <https://oercommons.org/courses/biology-for-majors-lab-manual-and-workbook-plus-instructor-guide>. You will need to download a copy.

Note on Lab Manual: For some labs, alternative exercises may be used that differ from the lab manual. These will be provided as files or links in D2L by your instructor and announcements will be made in class if the lab is using a different exercise for the day or week.

Lab Safety Items: A lab coat, chemical-resistant goggles, and nitrile gloves will be required as personal protective equipment (PPE) for some labs.

Course Description

BSC 1406 - Biology for Science Majors I (lecture + lab) - Four semester hours (3 lec/1 lab). This course is the first half of the Introductory Biology series. It is designed for the

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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.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes (Core)

1. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the 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.

Additional Student Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the characteristics of life.
2. Explain the methods of inquiry used by scientists.
3. Identify the basic requirements of life and the properties of the major molecules needed for life.
4. Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of viruses, prokaryotic cells, and eukaryotic cells.
5. Describe the structure of cell membranes and the movement of molecules across a membrane.
6. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in metabolism.
7. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
8. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins.
9. Describe the unity and diversity of life and the evidence for evolution through natural selection.
10. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
11. Use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
12. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Note: This is a Majors-level course, and you are expected to allot adequate time to regularly study 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. 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, 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.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

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

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

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

Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and PDF Files: You will need to be familiar with making Microsoft Word and PowerPoint documents. You will need to know how to perform simple calculations and make graphs in Microsoft Excel. You should also be familiar with using Adobe applications and viewing PDF files.

Microscopes: You will need to become familiar with microscope use, both stereomicroscopes and compound light microscopes.

Instructional Methods

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

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

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

Turning Assignments in on Time: Assignments must be turned in on time. Late work will receive a 10% penalty for each day late for up to 3 days after the due date, after which any late assignments will receive a zero grade.

Note on AI Use: Unless otherwise noted by the instructor, AI is prohibited from being used in this course.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Studying: Do not wait until the last minute to study. Make sure you get sufficient rest before exams and quizzes. Study at least a week in advance for exams. Make flashcards for key terms. Practice drawing examples of plant anatomy and physiology. Take handwritten notes each day in class. Take good lab notes. Study all the lecture and lab notes from the slides and the textbook. Use the textbook practice questions and any practice questions in D2L that are provided.

Materials for Exams: Students will need to bring their own pencils, erasers, and calculators. Phones and tablets are not calculators and are not permitted for use on exams and quizzes. Scantrons will also be needed for exams. The instructor will clarify in class the exact type of scantron needed.

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

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

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

Communication: If problems arise or you have questions, contact your instructor. If you missed an exam, project presentation, or other major assignment, be sure to contact your instructor for important information of how to make up the assessment.

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.

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

Make-Up Work: If you miss any exams, lab activities, or other in-class assignments, valid proof of absence must be provided and the absence excused by the university before the assessment can be made up. Valid proof of absence includes doctor's notes or other official paperwork. Note that for any online assessments, technical difficulties may not be accepted as a valid reason for make-up of the assessment if you had sufficient time to complete the assessment. If you miss an assessment, you must let me know within 7 days for the assessment to be made up. Note that only one exam will be made up

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during the semester and will be done at the end of the semester. The make-up exam will be either a short answer or an oral exam.

Other Notes: I make efforts to conserve resources in providing materials for class. All materials provided in class are to be found on the D2L website. I will not provide hard-copy handouts of all materials that you can access outside of the lab manual and other key materials, such as if there is any hard-copy exam. You may print what you need, when you need it; or just download a copy to have handy. Computer access is assumed of all students. If you do not have one of your own (or your online access is limited), there are computer labs available (ask the front desk if you are unsure where the computer labs are). There are even kiosks for checking out a laptop. You may need to provide your own paper for printing or pay a charge. Also, places like Staples and Office Depot will print materials for a reasonable fee if you bring your flash drive. Practice time management and use a calendar to schedule when materials are due, exams are, etc.

GRADING

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

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points

B = 401- 450 Points

C = 351- 400 Points

D = 301- 350 Points

F = 300 & > Points

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

Quizzes 10%

Discussions 10%

Group Project 15%

Lab Reports 15%

Exams (4) 30%

Comprehensive Final 20%

TOTAL 100%

Assessments

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Exams (including Final): Exams will be multiple choice and true/false questions. All exams are in-person. Textbooks, notes, etc. are not allowed. Cell phones or other electronics out during an exam will result in a zero for the exam. Exams will cover chapters discussed in class, and questions may come from the textbook, lectures, activities, lab, as well as other outside of class assignments, such as any videos. Reviews will be provided for exams online. Do not expect review time in lecture or lab. An in-class review may be provided for the final exam if time permits. You are responsible for studying all of the exam materials and knowing the exam dates. Note that no exam grades will be dropped. Do not expect extra credit on the exams.

Quizzes: There will be 7 quizzes this fall semester. Quizzes will be a mix of multiple choice and true/false questions. This may include drawing plant anatomy. Quizzes will be online in D2L. The lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the semester. There will be no extra credit on any of the quizzes.

Discussions: Online discussions (7) will be periodically assigned throughout the semester. Participation will be for a grade. Topics of the discussions will vary. Be sure to listen to your instructor's announcements and instructions in class or posted in D2L and to complete the discussion post by the set due date.

Presentation: Groups will give at least one presentation on an biology topic selected by the instructor during the semester and present their findings to the class. Details will be provided in D2L and in class by your instructor.

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

Course Outline/Calendar

Week	Week Start Date (Start Date is August 20)	Chapter	Content	Assignments
1	August 20	Introduction and Chapter 1	Syllabus, Empirical Science, Measurement Intro to Biology, Organelle Review	Discussion 1 Due August 23, Lab 1 Report Due August 30
2	August 24	Chapters 2 and 3	Chemistry, Water, and Organic Molecules	Quiz 1 Due August 30, Lab Report 2 Due August 30
3	August 31	Chapter 4, Exam 1 (Ch. 1-3)	Cell Structure and Function	Exam 1 (Ch. 1-3), Discussion 2 Due September 6, Lab Report 3 Due September 6

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4	September 7	Chapter 5	Membrane Structure and Function	Quiz 2 Due September 13, Lab Report 4 Due September 13
5	September 14	Chapter 6	Metabolism	Discussion 3 Due September 20, Lab Report 5 Due September 20
6	September 21	Chapter 7	Cellular Respiration	Quiz 3 Due September 27, Lab Report 6 Due September 27
7	September 28	Chapter 8 and Exam 2 (Ch. 4-8)	Photosynthesis	Exam 2 (Ch. 4-8) , Discussion 4 Due October 4, Lab Report 7 Due October 4
8	October 5	Chapter 10	Cell Cycle and Mitosis	Quiz 4 Due October 11, Lab Report 8 Due October 11
9	October 12	Chapter 11	Meiosis	Discussion 5 Due October 18, Lab Report 9 Due October 18
10	October 19	Chapter 12	Mendelian Genetics	Quiz 5 Due October 25, Lab Report 10 Due October 25
11	October 26	Chapter 13	Modern Inheritance	Discussion 6 Due November 1, Lab Report 11 Due November 1
12	November 2	Chapter 14 and Exam 3 (Ch. 10-14)	DNA and RNA	Exam 3 (Ch. 10-14) , Quiz 6 Due November 12, Lab Report 12 Due November 8
13	November 9	Chapter 15	Protein Synthesis	Discussion 7 Due November 15, Lab Report 13 Due November 15
14	November 16	Chapters 16 and 17, Exam 4 (Ch. 15-17)	Gene Expression and Biotechnology	Exam 4 (Ch. 15-17) , Quiz 7 Due November 22, Lab Report 14 Due November 22

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15	November 23	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break	Thanksgiving Break
16	November 30	Group Presentations	Group Presentations	Group Presentations Due in Class
17	December 7	Comprehensive Final Exam	Comprehensive Final Exam	Comprehensive Final Exam (Ch. 1-17)

Meeting Days: Class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:55 pm-3:55 pm. **Lecture is a face-to-face class, and attendance is mandatory.**

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

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

[ETAMU Zoom Video Conferencing Tool](#)

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.

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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.

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

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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.

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](#)([This link takes you to a Britannica definition of what netiquette is](#)).for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

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For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)(This link takes you to a detailed description of ETAMY Academic 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

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

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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 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 \(This link takes you to a detail description of concealed carry of handguns on campus\)](#) 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

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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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