Biology 1308 Science for life
Biology 1308.001/002
Department of Life Sciences
Spring 2020

COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course number/section</th>
<th>Class meeting time:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1308.001/101</td>
<td>MW 12:00-1:50pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1308.002/102</td>
<td>TR 8:00am-9:50am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class location: ECMS 107
Course Website: (Blackboard Portal): https://bb9.tamucc.edu/
McGraw-Hill Connect Website: https://www.mhhe.com/

A. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Emad Tahtamouni
Office location: TH 132
Office hours: MWF 10:00-11:45, or by appointment
Telephone: 361-825-5819
e-mail: m-emad.tahtamouni@tamucc.edu
Appointments: A student may make an appointment to see me at times other than the scheduled office hours. I am available for consultation and extra help, but it is the student’s responsibility to request such help. If I am unavailable during office hours, I will post a note on my office door. All communication with me via email must be through your school email address (yourname@islander.tamucc.edu). I will communicate with you through this email, so you must set up your account and check it regularly. It is your responsibility to check email frequently for important course announcements and updates. Confidential information will not be shared to any non-TAMU-CC email addresses.

B. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
This is a non-majors course in which students will learn basic biological principles, identify the relevance of science in everyday life. This course is designed to increase scientific literacy by teaching the student to understand the scientific method. Hands-on lab activities will reinforce course concepts. **This course does not substitute for biology (BIOL) 1406/1407 for science majors.**
General Description of the Lab:
Lecture and Lab combine to form your overall grade (Lecture=75%; Lab=25%)
Labs are:
- **Complementary to the lecture** – meaning the material will relate to lecture but will not duplicate lecture material.
- **Hands on training** – labs provide an opportunity for you to gain experience in the use of scientific methods and principles which are an important component that cannot be taught only through lecture.

PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites - None
Corequisites - Each student must be registered for both lecture and laboratory sections and must attend the laboratory section for which he or she registered. Students must complete a no-cost, online course, Biological Laboratory Safety Seminar (SMTE 0091) as part of the safety instructions for the laboratory. Students who do not complete this instruction will not be allowed to remain in the laboratory, and will irrecoverably lose all points associated with the laboratory until they complete the safety instruction.

C. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)

Supplies: A laboratory coat is required for laboratory. Students may wish to buy a binder (in which to keep notes and assignments), and a set of colored pencils and/or pens. (Many students find it helpful to add color to their laboratory drawings and lecture notes.)

This course requires the use of the internet (including use of student islander TAMU-CC email account, course Blackboard pages, and worldwide web) to foster the technological abilities of the student. All students are expected to subscribe to and utilize the course Blackboard and McGraw-Hill Connect account regularly.

D. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

This course seeks to give students an understanding of the subject of biology by examining the subject as a component of our daily lives. The lectures will cover topics that range from the use of the scientific method, cells, DNA, reproduction, nutrition, evolution, ecology, etc. to assist in building the scientific literacy, communication, and critical thinking skills of the student. To do well in the course, students must attend and participate in lectures and laboratories, read the assigned material and mentally
organize information from their instructors, their readings and their laboratory work. Students in this course will learn to:

1. Understand and correctly use the scientific method.
2. Be able to define the word theory as it applies to biological science.
3. Name at least three factors that influence the statistical significance of research results.
4. Be able to correctly identify peer reviewed research from journal articles.
5. Be able to effectively communicate scientific findings to other non-science majors.
6. Learn to effectively and respectfully communicate fact-based opinions through open discussion with peers.

E. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Learning is more than just reading, taking notes, and memorizing. Reading and taking notes puts information in short-term memory where it is forgotten quickly unless you do something with it. Memorizing is important. However, memorization is only one step (often the first step) in the learning process. As university students, you should be able to link, combine, and synthesize the bits of data that you memorize into useful concepts. The instructor of this course will provide the students with: (1) information in the form of PowerPoint lecture notes posted on Blackboard, in-class lectures, films, handouts, in-class exercises, assigned readings, hands-on exercises, quizzes and supplemental readings; (2) group activities, student projects, research, presentations; and (3) advice, supervision and guidance. The laboratories are designed to augment and promote the overall learning process. However, topics currently being covered in lecture may not always coincide with the topics currently being covered in laboratory.

F. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Your final letter grade is based on the following grade distribution.

* Lecture grade is worth 50% of your final BIOL 1308 grade; Lab grade is worth 20% of your final BIOL 1308 grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% OF FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Examinations</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect/BB9 assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Grade</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Lecture Examinations:** I will give four examinations, taking questions for these tests primarily from material covered in the lectures, from handouts and other assignments. Examinations may consist of essay, short-answer, compare-contrast, fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, matching, making and/or labeling drawings, and/or various types of “flex” questions (i.e., anything is fair game). The first three examinations are sequential (i.e., each examination covers material from one specific section of the course). The final
examination is comprehensive (i.e., covers material from the entire course)

Quizzes:
Quizzes may be given at any time, announced or unannounced, at the beginning of class, middle of class, end of class, online, or take-home. These may be fill in the blank, multiple choice, short answer or essay questions. If you miss a quiz, it will count as a 0 and cannot be made up. Quizzes, homework, projects, and class assignment grades are combined together for the “assignment” portion grade.

There will be assignments, homework, and quizzes given in class. These may include pop quizzes, data interpretation, experimental design, seminar attendance, etc. They may be due at the start of the next lecture class, but some assignments may be in-class only and makeups are not possible. You are encouraged to get together and work on them as a group. However, unless specified otherwise, the assignments must be turned in individually and be written in your own words, NOT COPIED. An assignment grade of ZERO will be given if the work is not in your own words.

All assignments, all quiz, and all examination answers must be legible to the Instructor. If I cannot read it, I cannot grade it, so illegible answers and illegible papers will receive a zero (0) grade.

Lecture: Assignments and Quizzes will be assigned through blackboard, connect, in class. All lecture assignments and quizzes are combined to calculate a Quiz and Assignment grade that will account for 20% of your overall grade.

All assignments in blackboard must be submitted as word documents (.doc/.docx), PDF files, or jpeg files if appropriate. Failure to submit your assignment using one of these file types will result in a zero for that assignment.

Multiple attempts are granted for submitting files for assignments in blackboard. Once those attempts are exhausted, no other attempts will be opened, and assignments will NOT be accepted by email under any circumstances. Make sure that you save your completed files in such a way that you do not upload the incorrect file to the assignment link. I recommend that you double check that you have uploaded the correct file before signing out of the program.

Letter Grades: Your final letter grade will be based on your average in lecture and laboratory. Statistical manipulations (e.g., curving) may be performed once—at the end of the semester—not for each examination. The final grading scale will also be determined at the end of the semester, but the cut-off for each grade will be no higher than the following:

\[ A \geq 90\% > B \geq 80\% > C \geq 70\% > D \geq 60\% > F \]

• I will rectify any clerical, mathematical, and/or other errors. However, you have one (1) week to notify me of such errors after an assignment, quiz or examination is returned.
• I will not change a legitimate course grade just because you “need” it (for financial aid, to get into professional school, etc.). The grading section of this syllabus describes how I assign grades. Please be
sure you earn enough points to get the grade you want. There will always be someone who just missed a D, or a C, or a B, or an A. Although I reserve the right to curve, doing so is usually not necessary. (Curves are based on statistical analysis of the entire class’s performance, not on the needs of individual students.) I have to draw lines between grades, and no matter where I draw them, someone is on the wrong side. Don’t let that someone be you. You have plenty of help in my class. Take advantage of the resources I offer. The reasons for receiving a grade of “I” (incomplete) are clearly defined in the University Catalog; this “grade” cannot be used simply to prevent a student from receiving an unwanted grade in a class.

- I only discuss grades in person (i.e., I do not discuss grades or matters relating to grades over the telephone or by e-mail). I will not under any circumstances discuss grades, or grading issues during class time. If you have an issue with the way something was graded or want to know why a question was not correct, you will need to see me in my office. If you wish to know your final grade before the official grade report is available on Sail, please see me in person.
- We are required by the university to provide you with midterm grades at the midterm. An announcement will be made by your professor when grades have been posted. You are encouraged to discuss that grade with your professor either during office hours or by scheduling an appointment.

G. COURSE POLICIES

- Attendance/Tardiness
  
  Attendance is mandatory. All students are expected to attend all classes and labs. Should you miss a lecture or lab session, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to find out what you missed, get notes, learn about changes in the syllabus, etc. There are no excused absences. Additionally, routinely being tardy to class is inconsiderate to me and to your classmates. Repeated lateness can result in dismissal from class. On time means being in your seat and being prepared to take notes, quizzes, or exams promptly at the starting time. Missing class, for any reason, means that you are not eligible for points that are earned on in-class assignments.

  Once enrolled in a class, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange his or her schedule (work and personal) so that no regularly scheduled class or examination time is missed. Only unavoidable absences are excused, so routine personal events (e.g., vacations, weddings, birthday celebrations, reunions, non-emergency medical or dental visits, parent-teacher conferences, household or auto repairs) should be scheduled to avoid conflicts with classes. Oversleeping is never an acceptable excuse. Employment conflicts and school (including professional school) or work interviews should be arranged to avoid conflicts with your classes and are not acceptable excuses for absences, tardiness, or leaving class early. Texas waives jury duty for students, so jury duty is not an acceptable excuse.

- Late Work and Make-up Exams
  
  You may always turn in assignments early. A missed grade due to absence or lateness will result in a score of ‘0’ for that assignment. Late work will not be accepted. There will be no make-ups for missed exams. If you know in advance that you will have an absence when an assignment is due, you must turn in that assignment before its due date.

  For some university approved, scheduled events (athletics, military duty, etc.), you may arrange to take a lecture examination before (but not after) its scheduled date. (You should take a test as close to its originally scheduled time as possible, but you may not take a test more than one week before its originally scheduled time. You must obtain your instructor’s approval at least one week before
you wish to take the pre-test.) If you arrange to take any test at an alternate time and do not show for that appointment, then you forfeit the opportunity to take the test except at its originally scheduled time. Students who do not arrange to take examinations in advance will not be eligible for this special consideration. A written excuse from the university department involved or from the Office of Student Engagement and Success is required.

- **Extra Credit**
  No individual extra credit assignments will be available in this class. The grading scale is NOT subject to discussion. In other words, begging for points or last minute extra credit will get you nowhere. There are ample opportunities for improving your grade throughout the course.

If you find yourself struggling with class, please come talk to me during office hours and we will review concepts that may be challenging. The sooner you see me, the better.

- **Cell Phone Use**
  - Cellular phones (including text messaging), pagers, and other “beepers” must be silenced in the classroom and turned off in the laboratory.
  - You may NOT attend my class with headphones in your ears during lecture.
  - You will lose points if these rules are not respected.

- **Laptop Use**
  - You may use your laptop to take notes. Any disruptive behavior on your computer (facebook, games, etc) will result in loss of points.

- **Food in Class**
  Please respect other students and limit your eating food in the class. I reserve the right to restrict food in the classroom if items are left behind or the room is left unclean.

- **Missed Exam**
  See section H.
Classroom/Professional Behavior

You are responsible adult university students. I will treat you as such, and I will expect you to act as such.

Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It will be prosecuted to the full extent of university regulations. In addition, the following procedures will be enforced:

- You must be prepared to present a photo ID at all examinations.
- Different test forms may be prepared for a single examination. To ensure that the appropriate key will be used to grade your answer sheet, always follow instructions on the test or answer sheet, or given orally by the instructor.
- If you leave an examination room—for any reason—you must hand in your answer sheet and you will not be allowed to resume the examination. Attend to personal matters (e.g., rest room visits) before the examination.
- Be on time! Anyone arriving after the first test-taker has completed an examination and left the room will not be allowed to take that examination.
- Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable behaviors.
- Students are not to give or receive help during testing
- Students are not to submit any work that is not their own product
- You will act with courtesy and common sense. I will not tolerate disruptive, disrespectful, or abusive behavior/language (including comments made on class assignments) directed toward anyone in this class (i.e., student or instructor). Violations range from talking during class to outright insubordination and will result in penalties that range from the student being asked to stop to the student being “escorted” from the class—permanently. Use of tobacco products (of any kind) is forbidden in lecture.
- You are responsible for your own education. You should not expect an instructor to take you by the hand, show you everything you need to know, and then have you regurgitate this information on an examination. This is not an effective way for self-motivated adults to learn. Students are responsible for all class and lecture notes; required assignments in the textbook and any additional handouts or assignments given by an instructor. This includes (but is not limited to)…
  - Knowing and meeting university-imposed deadlines (e.g., withdrawal dates of various types). This information is found in the online University Catalog, Course Schedule or elsewhere on the University website.
  - Knowing and meeting assignment dates and times—including any changes that may occur during the semester.
  - Checking your answers against a key as soon as possible. By all means check for any clerical errors, but a test score is not the end of the learning process. Always review your tests to determine why you missed questions. Making—and correcting—mistakes is an effective, natural way to learn material. Educators have a fancy term, reflective learning, for this simple process.
  - Keeping track of your progress (i.e., your grades, points you earn, and averages).
  - Asking for help. Instructors are available for consultation and extra help, but it is the student’s responsibility to request help.
H. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.**
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of 0 for all involved on the first instance, subsequent issues could result in an automatic failing grade and reporting to appropriate university officials.

- **Dropping a Class**
  I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **April 10, 2020** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

- **Classroom/professional behavior**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

- **Statement of Civility**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high-quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
• **Grade Appeals***
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

• **Disabilities Accommodations***
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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

[http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/)

• **Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

I. **OTHER INFORMATION**

• Supplemental instruction (SI), Tutoring, and Other Services: To be successful in this course, and most others, you must cultivate good note-taking skills, organization skills, study habits, and test-taking strategies from the very beginning. Your lecture and laboratory instructors are always available for help, but don’t wait until it is too late! Students who have done well in this class in the past may have been hired to lead Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions outside of class meeting times. If SI is available, you will receive a schedule of SI sessions separately from this syllabus. Please take advantage of your SI leader’s expertise. Attend SI sessions on a regular basis; don’t wait until the session before an examination to start attending SI sessions. A great way to prepare for the comprehensive final is to attend the SI session just after an examination. At these sessions, your SI leader can review any questions you had difficulty answering correctly. Asking questions
about the questions you did not answer correctly will help you answer other questions about that concept correctly if they appear on the comprehensive final. The Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) (825-5933) provides free tutoring, test-taking strategies, and extra help. Take advantage of this service! The center is an invaluable source for help. Should you have test anxiety, stress problems or need help with study skills, the University Counseling Center (University Center, 825-2703) also provides a free service.

- **Academic Advising:** The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

- **Follow instructions!** The most common mistakes that cost students points result from failure to follow instructions.

- **Bring two #2 pencils to each lecture examination (including the final examination); I neither provide nor sell pencils. (I will provide Scantron sheets for you.)**

## GENERAL DISCLAIMER

I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.
J. Tentative Lecture Schedule

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Syllabus Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Scientific method/Characteristics of life</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Cancer Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cancer Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Exam 1 + Energy drink</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sickle cell disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sickle cell disease</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sickle cell disease + Energy drink</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Energy drink</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Energy drink + Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Climate Change +</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Influenza A + Exam 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Final Exam (Comprehensive)</td>
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K. Lab Topics

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<th>Lab Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab 1 The Scientific Process</td>
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<td>Lab 2 Metric measurements</td>
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<td>Lab 3 the Cell</td>
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<td>Lab 4 - DNA Model Activity</td>
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<td>Lab 5 Patterns of Inheritance - Mendelian Genetics</td>
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<td>Lab 6 Macromolecules</td>
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<td>Lab 7 FOOD CALORIES</td>
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<td>Lab 8 Photosynthesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab 9 Evolution-Natural Selection</td>
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