Biology 1308
Biology 1308.W03/103 and 1308.W04/104
Department of Life Sciences
Fall 2020 (August 19 - December 7)

COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course number/section</th>
<th>Class meeting time: asynchronously</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1308.W03 (MASTER)</td>
<td>Fully Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1308.103</td>
<td>Fully Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1308.$04</td>
<td>Fully Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 1308.104</td>
<td>Fully Online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Emad Tahtamouni
Office location: TH 132
Office hours: NA. I am available to answer your questions via email at anytime

Telephone: 361-825-5819
e-mail: m-emad.tahtamouni@tamucc.edu
Appointments: Office Hours – I am always available to answer any question and at anytime by email. Furthermore, If you need to arrange for a conference meeting to clarify certain points then Please email me and I will arrange a telephone call, or a WebEx meeting for a time that works for both of us.

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.

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 is 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)
  • Section web address: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/d-tahtamouni-fall-2020---biol-1308

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.

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.

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 participate in lectures and laboratories, read the assigned materials, 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 effectively communicate scientific findings to other non-science majors.
5. Learn to effectively and respectfully communicate fact-based opinions through open discussion with peers.
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, videos, quizzes and supplemental readings; and (2) 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.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Examinations</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes and Connect Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lecture Examinations:** I will give Three examinations, taking questions for these tests primarily from material covered in the powerpoints. Examinations may consist of essay, short-answer, compare-contrast, fill-in-the-blank, multiple-choice, matching, making and/or labeling drawings.

There will be Lab assignments, homework, and quizzes given in this online class. They will be due at the specific date and time. They will be assigned through blackboard and connect. 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 ≥ 90% > B ≥ 80% > C ≥ 70% > D ≥ 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.

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.

COURSE POLICIES

COVID-19
Face Coverings – (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Extra masks will be made available if needed.

Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)
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. Please consult the Academic Calendar (http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/) for the last day to drop a course.

There will be no make-ups for missed exams. You should take a test on the scheduled dates. Each exam will be available for 24 ours on a particular date. The key for each exam will be available after the due date.

Extra Credit
No individual extra credit assignments will be available in this class. The grading scale is NOT subject to discussion.

If you find yourself struggling with class, please let me know and we will review concepts that may be challenging. The sooner you email me, the better.

Supplemental Instruction
SI is an academic support model developed by Dr. Deanna Martin at UMKC in 1973. It uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success within targeted, historically difficult courses. SI sessions are regularly scheduled, informal review sessions that are held at least three times
per week. In these sessions, students compare notes, discuss readings, develop organizational tools, and predict test items. Students learn how to integrate course content and study skills while working together. The sessions are facilitated by “SI Leaders”, students who have previously done well in the course (received an A) and who attend all class lectures, take notes, complete assignments, and act as model students.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  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 failing grade.

- **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.

A. **Civil Rights Complaints**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to fostering a culture of caring and respect that is free from discrimination, relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and ensuring that all affected students have access to services. For information on reporting Civil Rights complaints, options and support resources (including pregnancy support accommodations) or university policies and procedures, please contact the University Title IX Coordinator, Sam Ramirez (Samuel.ramirez@tamucc.edu) or Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Rosie Ruiz (Rosie.Ruiz@tamucc.edu) x5826, or visit website at Title IX/Sexual Assault/Pregnancy.

**Limits to Confidentiality.** Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University’s student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, are not able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report alleged or suspected civil rights discrimination that is observed by or made known to an employee in the course and scope of their
employment. As the instructor, I must report allegations of civil rights discrimination, including sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator if you share it with me. These reports will trigger contact with you from the Civil Rights/Title IX Compliance office who will inform you of your options and resources regarding the incident that you have shared. If you would like to talk about these incidents in a confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with counselors in the University Counseling Center.

- **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
  The grade of W will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course. Please consult with the instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must submitted. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Last day to drop the class is Nov 05/2020.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, 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 required 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf)
  For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**
  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 (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services 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.

B. OTHER INFORMATION

- 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.

C. 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.
D. **TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE**

*Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced by the instructor.*

The Lab assignments, Quizzes, Connect HWKs and exams Due dates shown are directly on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1: Scientific method/Characteristics of life (bb Quiz is due on 9/15/2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Unit: Connect Assignments: due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9/15/2020

**Exam 1  September 18**

Sickle Cell Unit: Connect Assignments all due 10/15/2020

Energy Drinks Unit: Connect Assignments due 10/15/2020

**Exam 2  October 16**

Climate Change Unit: Connect assignments due 11/19/2020

Influenza A unit: (bb Quiz) is due on 11/19/2020

**Exam 3  November 20**

Final (comprehensive) TBA

---

**LAB TOPICS**

Some Lab Topic will be virtual from connects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab 1 The Scientific Process: <a href="#">Connect</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 2 Metric measurements: <a href="#">Connect</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 3 Compound Microscope <a href="#">Connect</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 4 <a href="#">Connect</a> 7 Patterns of Inheritance - Mendelian Genetics <a href="#">Connect</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 5: Macromolecules <a href="#">Connect</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 6 – Osmosis : <a href="#">Connect</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 7 Photosynthesis <a href="#">Connect</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 8: How Enzymes Work <a href="#">Connect</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>