

BIOL 1313 General Zoology Lecture (3 credit hours)

SRSU Syllabus Course Information Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Clifton Albrecht
Email: cfa25gj@sulross.edu
Office: WSB 218
Class time: MWF 8 - 8:50 AM
Office hours: MWF 9 - 9:50 AM
Textbook: OpenStax Biology 2e
Link:
[Free Biology 2e Textbook Available for Download - OpenStax](https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e)
or
<https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e>

Course Description:

General Zoology provides a general survey of the animal kingdom, including cellular processes and diversity, as well as some ecological principles relevant to the study of animals in their environment.

Student Learning Objectives for this Course:

- 1) Students will identify, recall, and label basic cellular structures and processes
- 2) Students will identify and classify organisms within the kingdom Animalia
- 3) Students will be able to summarize and explain the processes of evolution
- 4) Students will be expected to demonstrate understanding of the genetic code and how it relates to protein synthesis
- 5) Students will understand physiological systems, such as aerobic respiration and protein synthesis
- 6) Students will understand basic concepts of ecology as they relate to animals and their environment

Grading:

Assignment:	Points:
Exam 1	60
Exam 2	70
Exam 3	70
Exam 4	60
Exam 5	30
Attendance	60
Final Exam	150
TOTAL	500

Studying and Note-Taking:

- Students are expected to read textbook sections associated with a lecture **prior** to that lecture. Lectures are intended to be a chance for students to solidify knowledge and ask questions covering material about which they have already read.
- Students are expected to refer to the lecture PowerPoint, any notes taken during class, and the textbook when studying. Note that material which is not included in lecture but which is found in the textbook may be included in exams.
- Students should **spend 2-3 hours studying for every 1 hour of lecture material**. Because we will be in class for three hours per week, students should allocate **6-9 hours per week** to studying lecture material in addition to attending class.
- Students will be provided with copies of lecture PowerPoints by 5 PM on the day of lectures.

*The use of computers, phones, or other electronic devices during lectures is **not** permitted. Students are expected to take handwritten notes on physical paper.*

Attendance:

- Attendance at all lectures is required. All students will be permitted two unexcused absences without loss of grade points. Further absences must be communicated to the instructor beforehand and accompanied by documentation such as a doctor's note. Absence due to unforeseen emergency will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Students are responsible for acquiring notes from any lectures for which they are absent. Notes may be acquired from other students or by contacting the instructor.

Tardiness:

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time. Any student who arrives less than five minutes late will receive half points for attendance on that day. Any student who arrives more than five minutes late will be treated as absent. Tardiness due to unforeseen emergencies will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Exams:

- Five non-cumulative exams will be administered, in addition to a single cumulative final exam. Each non-cumulative exam will include material only from lectures given after the prior exam.

*The use of books, notes, cell phones, etc. during exams is **not** permitted. The only item allowed at your desk during an exam is a writing implement.*

Practice Exam: An ungraded practice exam will be administered prior to the first graded exam. This is done to allow students to see the exam format prior to taking the first graded exam.

Makeup Exams:

- Students who arrive for an exam after other students have completed and turned in their exams **will not** be allowed to take the exam.
- An exam may be missed and made up for reasonably cause. The instructor must be notified in advance, and documentation for the absence will be required. Missing any exam without notifying me **in advance** and with sufficient documentation for the absence will result in a zero for that exam grade. Absence due to unforeseen emergency will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Students will have seven calendar days from the test date to make up a missed exam. Students who fail to appear for the makeup exam will receive a zero.

Final Exam:

- The final exam is cumulative.
- Attendance and make-up policies for the final exam are identical to those above.

*The use of books, notes, cell phones, etc. during the final exam is **not** permitted. The only item allowed at your desk during an exam is a writing implement.*

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	PRE-READING
1	W Jan 14	Syllabus	-
	F Jan 16	Cells	4.3
2	M Jan 19	<i>MLK JR. DAY – NO CLASS</i>	-
	W Jan 21	Animal Primary Tissues	33.2
	F Jan 23	DNA Structure + Replication	14.2 + 14.5
3	M Jan 26	Mitosis + Meiosis	10.1 + 10.2
	W Jan 28	Proteins & Protein Synthesis	15.3 + 15.5
	F Jan 30	Cellular Respiration	6.1 + 6.4
4	M Feb 02	Practice Exam (Ungraded)	-
	W Feb 04	Review Day	-
	F Feb 06	EXAM 1	-
5	M Feb 09	Evolution: History & Evidence	18.1
	W Feb 11	Formation of New Species	18.2
	F Feb 13	Population Evolution	19.1
6	M Feb 16	Population Genetics	19.2
	W Feb 18	Adaptive Evolution	19.3
	F Feb 20	Principles of Taxonomy	20.1
7	M Feb 23	Animal Taxonomy	27.1-27.4
	W Feb 25	Review Day	-
	F Feb 27	EXAM 2	-
8	M Mar 02	Animal Form and Function	33.1
	W Mar 04	Poriferans	28.1
	F Mar 06	Cnidarians	28.2
9	M Mar 09	Platyhelminthes + Rotifers	28.3
	W Mar 11	Annelids + Mollusks	28.4
	F Mar 12	Arthropods 1	28.6

10	<i>M Mar 16</i>		-
	<i>W Mar 18</i>	<i>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</i>	-
	<i>F Mar 20</i>		-
11	<i>M Mar 23</i>	Arthropods 2	28.6
	<i>W Mar 25</i>	Review Day	-
	<i>F Mar 27</i>	EXAM 3	-
12	<i>M Mar 30</i>	Fishes	29.2
	<i>W Apr 1</i>	Amphibians	29.3
	<i>F Apr 3</i>	Reptiles	29.4
13	<i>M Apr 6</i>	Birds	29.5
	<i>W Apr 8</i>	Mammals	29.6
	<i>F Apr 10</i>	Evolution of Primates	29.7
14	<i>M Apr 13</i>	Review Day	-
	<i>W Apr 15</i>	EXAM 4	-
	<i>F Apr 17</i>	Biomes	44.3 + 44.4
15	<i>M Ap 20</i>	The Scope of Ecology	44.1
	<i>W Ap 22</i>	Ecology of Ecosystems	46.1
	<i>F Ap 24</i>	Review Day	-
16	<i>M Ap 27</i>	EXAM 5	-
	<i>W Ap 29</i>	Final Exam Review Day	-
	<i>F May 1</i>	Final Exam Review Day	-
17	TBA	FINAL EXAM	-

Note: This outline is subject to change. Any changes made will be clearly communicated to students via email and verbally during lectures.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs)

The graduating biology student graduating with a BS in Biology should be able to:

- 1) The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of basic biological concepts, including but not limited to evolution via natural selection, cell theory, and the role and function of DNA.
- 2) The student will be able to demonstrate utilization of various field techniques toward addressing scientific questions in the specific discipline. These field techniques can include, but are not limited to, plant collection and processing, various animal collection techniques, ecological surveying and sampling, and biodiversity indexing.
- 3) The student will be able to use biological instrumentation to solve biological problems using standard observational strategies.
- 4) The student will develop writing skills by summarizing and critiquing recent relevant biological literature

CORE OBJECTIVES:

Communication Skills – Students will effectively communicate the results of scientific investigations, using oral, written, and visual communication, either in group discussions or on written exams.

Critical Thinking Skills – Students will include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis required to relate new information with previous information in a way that demonstrates the diversity and similarity due to evolutionary ancestry.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills – Students will use basic math skills to solve problems (e.g., related to genetic outcomes, cellular energy production, and probability) resulting in informed conclusions.

Teamwork Skills – Students will work effectively with others to support a shared goal during lab sessions on activities, such as dissections, problem solving, and other experimental procedures.

MARKETABLE SKILLS: A student getting a degree in the biological sciences would be expected to acquire the following marketable skills by graduation.

Students will be able to organize, analyze, and interpret data.

Students will be proficient at using presentation software.

Students will acquire experience in managing time and meeting deadlines.

Students will gain the ability to speak effectively and write concisely about scientific topics.

Students will acquire experience and guidance in the development of professional email correspondence.

ADA Statement

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Student Responsibilities Statement

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

Counseling

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting Timelycare/SRSU. The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

Libraries

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your Lobold and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources ***unless permission is expressly given*** for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

DROP POLICY:

Per SRSU policy, students shall be dropped from the class with an F if they miss 20% (6 lectures) over the course of the semester. If you are unable to attend lecture, please notify me by either e-mail, phone, or in person so that you will not be unnecessarily dropped from the course. Although supplemental material for this course will be provided on-line, previous experience indicates that periodic attendance tends to hurt grades. Some material is only presented during the lecture, with this material typically included on exams to add depth to the tests.

Supportive Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that health concerns or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Family.