

BIOL 1306 – Biology I for Majors Fall 2026 Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs Jena Carey

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Course Meeting Times: MW 9:30-10:45, WSB 201

Office Hours: Monday MW 8-9:30

Online Biology Textbook: OpenStax

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of the semester, students will:

1. Display a basic knowledge of biology from the chemical makeup to how it replicates.
2. Know the basic building blocks of biology.
3. Know what constitutes a cell and the differences between different basic cell types.
4. Understand what a living thing is.
5. Understand the basic levels of photosynthesis and respiration in cells.
6. Demonstrate how function and structure are related in biology

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOs) FOR BIOLOGY:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of evolution by natural selection.
2. Demonstrate an integration of environmental awareness into everyday modern life.
3. Understanding how to incorporate molecular biology into the study of the whole organism.
4. Demonstrate utilization of various field techniques toward addressing scientific questions in the discipline.
5. Conduct basic laboratory experiments utilizing standard observational strategies.
6. Critical Thinking. Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
7. Students will develop communication skills to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

MARKETABLE SKILLS

1. Ability to organize, analyze, and interpret data.
2. Proficiency in using presentation software.
3. Experience in managing time and meeting deadlines.
4. Ability to speak effectively and write concisely about scientific topics.
5. Experience in the development of professional email correspondence.

GRADING:

Category	Total Points
5 Lecture Exams (50 questions, 100 points per exam)	500
10 Concept Maps (20 points each, due 8:59 a.m. day of class)	200
Attendance (10 points daily, 5 points for tardy)	240
Team Based Learning (TBL)	60
TOTAL	1000

A 90 – 100% B 80 – 89% C 70 – 79% D 60 – 69% F <60%

ATTENDANCE AND MAKEUP EXAMS. If you arrive for an exam after our class time as begun, points will be deducted for each minute late. The final exam will not allow for tardiness and doors will be locked, no late entry will be allowed

- Missing any exam without notifying me no later than 24 business hours in advance will result in a zero for that exam grade—no exceptions.
- If you miss an exam, you must attend the final exam to replace one missed exam. If you should miss more than one exam, grading will reflect that.
- If you fail to appear—or appear late—for your scheduled makeup exam, you will receive a zero.

Attendance will be by sign in sheet at front of the class. I am allowed to drop you from my class if you miss more than six times (that accounts for 3 full weeks of lecture).

Absences are excused only if you have a documented, university-approved excuse (hospitalization, funeral, etc.)

DO NOT MISS EXAMS unless you have a documented, university-approved excuse. If you do not inform me of your approved absence before the exam, it will be a ZERO.

There is **NO EXTRA CREDIT** given other than Highway Clean Up at the END of the semester.

NO extra credit assignments, opportunities, or questions will be given. Your grade is the grade **YOU** earned- the amount of work **YOU** put into learning the material. **DO NOT come to me at the end of the semester asking for a higher grade or extra credit- none will be awarded.** *I do not round up grades.* For instance: an 89.5 is still a “B”, a 79.9 is still a “C”.

Exams- Exams are given on ScanTron and will present with 50 questions, totaling 100 points. Exams are mix of matching, multiple guess, and true/false. There will be no rounding of grades, or curves given. Your grade is your grade earned. If you would like to review your exam, please make time available during office hours to review.

Final exam- If you have an “A” (90 or higher) **BEFORE** Dead Day and **BEFORE** any Highway Clean Up extra credit, you will be exempt from the final. Our final will be used to replace lowest exam grade and any missing exam. It will be comprehensive, 100 question ScanTron. Make sure to check the final exam schedule for our date and time. If you miss the final exam, you will not receive any Highway Clean Up extra credit, nor will your lowest exam be replaced. If you are late to the final, entry will not be allowed.

Late Work Policy- Late work is frowned upon for assignments to be turned in. All assignments will be due turned in to the appropriate assignment section (Blackboard or other online program) before class starts that day. That means if class starts at 09:30 AM the assignment is in Blackboard by 08:59.59 AM. After this time, you will lose 10% on the assignment. After 24–48 hours late it will be 20% off, and 48–72 hours late it will be 30% off. Beyond these times it will be a ‘0’ on the assignment. These terms are meant to respect both timeliness and flexibility of deadlines and will be upheld.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

PUNCTUALITY: Class will begin promptly at 09:30 and will continue until 10:45. It is best to be early than to be on time. Remember that I will take up the sign-in sheet promptly at 09:30, any missing students will be highlighted for that day and will lose attendance points (whether they are tardy or absent). Tardy students will be allowed to sign in at the end of lecture and will receive half credit for attendance that day.

ELECTRONIC USE: No electronic use is tolerated in lecture time. This includes mobiles, cell phones, pagers, laptops, notepads, tablets, headphones/earpods/etc. Lecture time is important, not a time to be scrolling on a device. Please show respect in class.

LECTURE STRUCTURE: Lecture time is for reviewing material that you should have already read PRIOR to class. I will expect students to come to lecture time, having already read the material for the day- both the Student PowerPoint Slides, any textbook chapters, and having watched any assigned videos posted on Blackboard. Biology is broad with so much detail, lecture time simply is not enough time to go into the material. Anything from the online textbook, Student Slides, classroom discussion, and videos will be possible test material.

CONCEPT MAPS: Concept maps are additional study aids to help with the course material. We cover a lot of material in lecture, but there is still so much more covered in the online textbook that I will not have time to cover in the span of lecture time. Hence why it is so important to read BEFORE lecture time. Concept Maps are due no later than midnight on the day listed in the tentative schedule. Material covered in the unit for that concept is free to use to create whichever concept map works for you. Here are some examples, plus you are free to come ask me for guidance: [Concept Maps – Learning Center](#). I want to see correct information, in a logical fashion, with CREATIVITY! I want you to have fun with this assignment!

SRSU Library Services

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, <https://library.sulross.edu/>. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID 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.

SRSU Disability Services:

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 SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or email. Their office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and the mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

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.

I will reiterate here, I take academic dishonesty and plagiarism very seriously. Citations are your friend.

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.

TENTATIVE BIOL1 LECTURE SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	M 24 Aug	01_ Intro & Nature of Biology, Chp1
	W 26 Aug	02_ Themes of Biology, Chp 1
2	M 31 Aug	03_ Chem of Life, Atoms, Water, Chp 2
	W 2 Sept	04_ Chem of Life, Carbon, Chp 2 CM1 Due- Chp 1/2
3	M 7 Sept	<i>HOLIDAY!</i>
	W 9 Sept	05_ Macros Structure, CHO, Lipids, Chp 3
4	M 14 Sept	06_ Macros Proteins, DNA, Chp 3 CM2 Due- Chp 3
	W 16 Sept	EXAM 1, Chp 1-3
5	M 21 Sept	07_ The Cell, Chp 4 CM3 Due- Chp 4
	W 23 Sept	08_ Organelles, Chp 5
6	M 28 Sept	09_ Transport, Chp 6 CM4 Due- Chp6
	W 30 Sept	TBL REVIEW
7	M 5 Oct	EXAM 2, Chp 4-6
	W 7 Oct	10_ Cell Respiration, Chp 7
8	M 12 Oct	<i>HOLIDAY!- Online Materials</i> CM5 Due- Chp 7
	W 14 Oct	11_ Photosynthesis, Chp 8
9	M 19 Oct	12_ Cell Resp vs Photosynth, Chp 7/8 CM6 Due- Chp 8
	W 21 Oct	13_ Cell Signaling, Chp 9
10	M 26 Oct	EXAM 3, Chp 7-9
	W 28 Oct	14_ Cell Cycle, Chp 10
11	M 2 Nov	15_ Meiosis, Chp 11 CM7 Due- Chp 10
	W 4 Nov	16_ Mendel, Chp 12
12	M 9 Nov	17_ DNA, Chp 14 CM8 Due- Chp 12
	W 11 Nov	<i>HOLIDAY!- Online Materials</i> CM9 Due- Chp 13
13	M 16 Nov	EXAM 4, Chp 10-2, 14
	W 18 Nov	18_ Genes & Proteins, Chp 15
14	M 23 Nov	<i>THANKSGIVING</i>
	W 25 Nov	<i>HOLIDAY!</i>
15	M 30 Nov	ONLINE REVIEW CM10 Due- Chp 15
	W 1 Dec	ONLINE REVIEW
16		See SRSU Final Exam schedule for date and time of Final
		<i>Possible Exam 5 (FINAL)--Tuesday 8 Dec 8-10 a.m. WSB 201</i>

Note – This outline is subject to change. The exams will be administered on the dates given unless material relevant for a given exam has not been covered.

STUDYING: As a general rule, students should spend 2-3 hours studying for every 1 hour of lecture material.

So, for this class, you need to allocate **6-9 hours per week** to study the lecture material. This equates to one to one and a half hours of study PER DAY (if you study M-F). A breakdown of an hour of study is included on our intro slides.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND READING BEFORE LECTURE.

You have been given the tentative schedule- please review it and read material beforehand.

I recommend reading your notes in conjunction with reading the relevant textbook chapters. Studying is best done before & after the lecture, not all at once the night before the exam.

Look up anything that you do not understand or visit with your instructor during office hours.

Concept Maps: Each set of information will require uploading a concept map. Concept maps are great to quick review before class or during exam prep. It is made to take lots of information and format it where that information is on one page, in a flowing order. I have given some examples below as well as in our introduction slides. Please take time to review this information. Concept maps will be graded on factual information, display, correct orders, and creativity. If you give a simple concept map or one that was copied off the internet, your grade will reflect that. ***All Concept Maps are due on Blackboard by 8:59 a.m. on due date. Any late submissions will occur a five point deduction each day late.***

