

**SYLLABUS**  
BIO 134 The Lecture Based  
CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY  
3 Credit Hours  
2007—2008  
**FALL & SPRING SEMESTERS**

**Class Meeting Room:** Lee Drain Building, Room 214

**Class Time:** Tuesday & Thursday, 1100–1230 Hrs

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Jack C. Turner

**Office Location:** Lee Drain Building, Room 134

Office Hours: Wednesday 0800-1200 Hrs and by appointment

**Instructor Contact Information:**

**Phone:** (936) 294-1537

**E-mail:** [jturner@shsu.edu](mailto:jturner@shsu.edu) **NOTE:** All email associated with this course must place BIO 134 SPRING (or FALL, as appropriate) LECTURE in the Subject line, and the text signed with your full name. Failure to do so will result in the email being filtered as SPAM and never seen.

**Course Description:**

—Presentation for the non-science major of biological concepts and topical subjects related to science methods, embryological development, reproduction, genetics, evolution, human organ systems, disease, and environmental biology. Ethical considerations of reproduction and birth control, genetic engineering, environmental pollution and population control will be included. Credit in BIO 134 as a laboratory science is contingent upon completion of BIO 114. Credit in this course cannot be applied to either a major or minor in the sciences. There are no prerequisites for this course offering.

Visually augmented lectures and open discussion of relevant topical issues in class supported by web- or CD based instructional aids (implied homework) that are provided with the textbook by its author(s) will prepare you for each of the five 100 question multiple choice exams.

**Course Objectives:**

—Students are expected to grasp a basic understanding of:

- How cells are the basic fundamental units in the diversity of life,
- How the similarity of all life comports with evolutionary theory,
- How the biological ubiquity of the gene's form and function relates to the processes of evolution,
- How the process of evolution has resulted in the diversity of extant and extirpated biological forms, and
- How the distribution or existence of life relates to environmental conditions which ultimately have an influence on the processes of evolution

**Required Textbook(s) and/or References:**

—Campbell, N.A., J.B. Reece, and E.J. Simon (2004), *Essential Biology with Physiology*. Benjamin Cummings, San Francisco, CA., and the CD that accompanies the text. A stand-alone Website CD is available in the bookstore for used textbooks that do not have the CD.

**Required Supplies:**

—Scantron 882ES or its equal, several sharpened #2 pencils, and a gum eraser

**Optional texts, References or Supplies:**

—None are required

**Attendance Policy:**

—Regular punctual attendance is required; roll is taken. A student will not be penalized for three (3) or fewer absences. You are considered absent if you are not in your seat at the time roll is taken. Chronic absenteeism may result in the diminution of academic standing in the course.

**Assignments:**

—The specific textbook learning exercises found on the book publisher's website or the textbook's accompanying website CD should be considered implied homework and completed as part of the reading assignment for each chapter assigned on the accompanying course outline. It is expected that at the very minimum, the chapter for discussion will be read prior to attending class.

**Exams:**

—Four (4) 100-point exams will be given during the semester. All exams are of equal weight. Generally, 50% of the exam questions will be based directly on material taken directly from the website or CD, the remainder from lectures and classroom discussion. There is no make-up for missed exams except as provided below. All exams will be completed with a #2 pencil a #882-ES scantron form (or equal) that you provide. Your exam will not be scored or credited if taken on the wrong form or if written with anything other than a #2 pencil. All scantrons will require your name written **LAST** name first; failure to do so will result in the loss of points from the exam. The exam will start promptly. You may leave after completing the exam and returning your completed scantron and testing instrument. Late (tardy) arrivals will be allowed to take the exam only if no one has completed the exam and withdrawn from the classroom, otherwise a grade of "0" will be recorded. A comprehensive final exam will be taken as a make-up for one (1) missed exam providing it was missed due to an excusable absence with appropriate documentation. If you do not take the comprehensive final to make up the missed exam ... you fail the course or, if you miss 2 or more exams you fail the course. The comprehensive final may not be used to increase the standing of a student having completed the course's four – one-hour exams. **PLEASE DO NOT ASK.**

**Grading Plan:**

—Grades will be determined from the scores on each of the four one-hour exams and any additional work assigned for credit (score). The final grade will be based on the total points accumulated by each student in the course and assessed as a percent of the total points available to students in the course. Grades will be determined as follows: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; 59% and below = F. Any curve applied to exams scores (1-4), final course scores or allocation of extra credit is at the discretion of the instructor. Grades are not posted. Your exam will be returned in class within one week of the exam's administration. If you are absent, you will have one week to obtain your scantron from me, after which they are destroyed. Questions involving scores on individual exams must be discussed within two weeks of the exam. Exam scores will not be altered on exams where a disputed question involves an incomplete erasure of an answer or extraneous markings on a scantron.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

—All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on examinations or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:**

—Students are expected assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating or drinking in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Students in the classroom will observe the following guidelines:

- 1) There is no reason to be late to class on a frequent basis. Habitual tardiness is unacceptable.
- 2) Remain in class until it finished. Leaving early will count as an absence unless you have previously cleared it with me or there is an emergency.
- 3) You cannot leave the class during an exam unless there is a medical emergency. If you think you will need a Kleenex during the test, then bring it with you to class. Attend to any personal needs prior to class.
- 4) Gentlemen will remove their hats and/or caps, no sunglasses, headphones, and/or spurs are not to be worn in the classroom at any time. No form of tobacco may be used in the classroom.
- 5) During an exam, cell phones and/or any other equipment capable of receiving, recording and/or transmitting information, must be placed in an inaccessible book bag or purse and not in your pocket. Failure to do so will be interpreted as academic dishonesty.
- 6) During exams, all materials must be placed at the front of the room except for the testing instrument, scantron, pencil, and eraser on your desktop. All purses should be kept closed beneath your seat.

**Visitors in the Classroom:**

—Unannounced visitors to the classroom must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

—It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. "Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired" (Academic Policy Statement 811006 ¶4.05 Revised 18 July 1994). SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 294-1720. No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

**Religious Holidays:**

—Students that are absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day are allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within reasonable time after the absence. The period of time during which assignments and exams will be excused includes travel time associated with the observance of the religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must inform the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she will be absent from class for religious reasons with a written statement concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved. In such cases, the student will be required to take the test or submit the assignment early—unless there are good reasons for not being able to do so and the instructor has agreed to those reasons.