

**Syllabus for Contemporary Biology**  
**BIO 134 Sec. 09, Spring 2008**

**Instructor:** Dr. Patrick J. Lewis

**Office:** LDB 103B

**Phone:** 4-3397

**Office Hours:** M/W 1-3pm; T/TH 11am-1pm

**Class:** LDB 213

M/W 3:00-4:20pm

**Email:** [pjlewis@shsu.edu](mailto:pjlewis@shsu.edu)

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**Course Description:**

Biology 134 is a course in general biology for the non-biology major. The course is designed to let the non-biologist understand general biological concepts that are encountered in every day life. This knowledge should allow you to have a better understanding of the world around you and acquire the ability to make informed decisions in matters dealing with your health and the environment. Lecture deals with a wide variety of topics including cell biology, the diversity of life, human anatomy and physiology, environmental issues, and ecology.

**Course Objectives:**

- Gain knowledge of, and an appreciation for, the diversity of life.
- Gain the knowledge to make informed decisions about contemporary topics in Biology.
- To understand how science is conducted and how science can be used to understand natural biological phenomena.

**Required Textbook:**

Campbell, N. A., J. B. Reece, and E. J. Simon. 2004. *Essential Biology*. Pearson/ Benjamin Cummings.

Note: The book you buy should also come with *Scientific American* supplementary articles

**Required Supplies:** Scantron form no. 882-E and Quizstrip form no. 815-E

**Attendance Policy:** In accordance with University policy, I expect regular and punctual attendance. Attendance will be taken, although no points will be awarded or subtracted based on your attendance. However, lecture information is crucial for complete test preparation.

**Exams:** There will be five regular exams during the semester and a mandatory comprehensive exam during the scheduled final exam period. All regular exams will consist of 75 multiple choice, true false, or matching questions and will be given during the designated lecture time-slot (see accompanying schedule). I will drop your lowest regular exam score and only your four best regular exam scores will be used to calculate your final course grade. If you miss any exam during the semester for any reason, however, this will be the exam you drop – you will not be allowed to take an exam late. The final exam will be a comprehensive exam of material from the entire semester and will be 100 questions. **The final cannot be dropped and is not optional.** Exams will take no longer than the allotted class period, and no extra time will be given except in the case of documented disabilities.

**Quizzes:** There will be 12 unannounced quizzes (i.e. pop quizzes) each worth 5 points. Quizzes will consist of five multiple-choice questions. I will drop your two lowest quiz scores, so quizzes will make up 50 points of your final grade. Because the quizzes are unannounced, it will be to your advantage to keep up with your studies and reading. Quizzes may be given either at the beginning or the end of class and will last exactly three minutes. If you are late to class, if you leave class prior to the quiz being given, or if you miss class for any reason you get a zero for that quiz no exceptions.

**Make-Up Policy:** There will be absolutely no make-up examinations during the semester. If you know in advance that you will miss an exam because of a religious event or because you are conducting official Sam Houston State University business, you may make arrangements to pre-take the exam provided that you supply written verification for the reason you will miss the exam. This early exam will be an essay exam rather than the standard format. Quizzes cannot be made up, but two are dropped to compensate for illness or necessary absences.

**Grading:** Course grades will be assigned on a standard 10-percentage point scale (90% and above = A, 80%-89% = B, etc.). See breakdown below for the number of points required for particular grades. Should an error be made in scoring exams, I must be informed within a week of the time graded exams are returned. Corrections will not be considered after that period.

4 lecture exams worth 75 points	=	300 pts
1 Comprehensive final worth 100 points	=	100 pts
<u>10 quizzes worth 5 points</u>	=	<u>50 pts</u>
TOTAL		450 pts

Points needed:

A = 405 - 450

B = 360 - 404

C = 315 - 359

D = 270 - 314

**There will be no extra credit under any circumstances!**

**Ways To Get Help:**

Students may meet with the instructor during office hours or by special appointment. Questions or comments can also be emailed, or you may call me at the number provided above. Other help may be found at the learning center.

**Keys to Excelling in Contemporary Biology:**

Attendance is a critical element to success in any course. This course will utilize many images and specimens that are only accessible during class. Due to the volume of material and the new vocabulary presented in each lecture, keeping up with reading assignments and reviewing frequently are necessary. Study groups may also help many students. Beginning your studying for exams several days in advance is a must. Showing up to class and being prepared and engaged, keeping up with readings and assignments, and not putting off studying to the last minute will help in getting a good grade in this class.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the 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 any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resources.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process, including talking during lecture. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave the classroom and may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. 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.

**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 subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program of activity. Disabled students may request assistance with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting the Director of Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Annex or by calling (936) 264-1720. Students who have disabilities that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure the students educational opportunity. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

**Religious Holidays:** Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

**Key Dates:**

Jan. 24	Last day to process schedule changes
Feb. 1	Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund
March 7	Last day to drop Fall Semester courses without grade of F
March 8-16	Spring break
March 21	Good Friday
May 8	Last class day

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>TEXT</i>	<i>Current Issues</i>	<i>Vol</i>
16-Jan	Intro			
21-Jan	<b>OFF</b>			
23-Jan	The Cell	1, 4	Viruses p12	3
28-Jan	Cell Reproduction	5, 8		
30-Jan	Inheritance/DNA	9, 10	Stem cells p20	1
4-Feb	<b>EXAM 1</b>			
6-Feb	Evolution	13		
11-Feb	Evolution 2	13	Equids p32	3
13-Feb	Evolutionary Biology/Evidence	14		
18-Feb	Microbial Life	15	Tumor viruses p12	2
20-Feb	<b>EXAM 2</b>			
25-Feb	Animal Evolution	17	Race p22	2
27-Feb	Animal Evolution	17	Fossil Human p22	3
3-Mar	Ecology	18		
5-Mar	Ecosystems	19		
10-12 Mar	<b>Spring Break</b>			
17-Mar	Humans & the Environment	20	Extinction p30	1
19-Mar	<b>EXAM 3</b>			
24-Mar	<b>Film</b>			
26-Mar	Structure & Function	21	Life out of step p44	2
31-Mar	Nutrition and Digestion	22	Food pyramid p2	1
2-Apr	Circulation/Hormones	23, 25		
7-Apr	Defenses	24		
9-Apr	Reproduction & Development	26		
14-Apr	<b>EXAM 4</b>			
16-Apr	Nervous System	27	Aging bones p54	2
21-Apr	Fungi	16		
28-Apr	Evolution of Plants	16	Ginko p54	1
30-Apr	Plants	28-29	Cereals p64	3
5-May	Biology and the Citizen			
7-May	<b>EXAM 5</b>			
	<b>FINAL at Scheduled Time</b>			