

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**COURSE NUMBER/DESIGNATION/SECTION:** Biology 134  
**COURSE TITLE:** Environmental Science  
**CREDIT HOURS:** Three  
**SEMESTER, YEAR:** Fall, 2007

**Location of Class Meeting**

Lee Drain Building, Room 214

**Class Meeting Times:** TuTh 02:00 - 03:20

**Instructor:** Dr. James R. DeShaw, Professor

**Office Location:** Lee Drain Building, Room 122

**Instructor Contact Information**

Office Phone: 936-294-1020

Fax Number: 936-294-3940

Email Address: [bio\\_jrd@shsu.edu](mailto:bio_jrd@shsu.edu)

**Office Hours**

Monday 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Tuesday 12:50 - 02:00 p.m.

Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00 noon

Thursday 03:30 - 04:00 p.m.

Friday 11:00 - 12:00 noon

Or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Biology 134 is a course in general biology for the non-science major. The class is designed to expose non-scientists, like you, to the importance, applicability, and process of "doing" science, in this case the science of biology. Given that biology is defined as the study of life, and all of you should appreciate (at least your own) life, I am unsympathetic to complaints about how this course is "irrelevant" to you. I hope to demonstrate its relevance by helping you understand general biological concepts encountered in everyday life. This knowledge should allow you to have a better understanding of the world around you, and to make more informed decisions in matters dealing with your health and with the environment. Lectures will deal with a wide variety of topics that examine "life" at all its levels; from biomolecules to cells to individuals to the biosphere.

**Important note:** 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 a minor in the sciences.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- √ Understand what science is, and what it is not
- √ Acquire a factual knowledge base of biological terms and concepts
- √ Learn fundamental principles and theories of biology
- √ Learn to apply your knowledge of science in general, and biology specifically, to critically evaluate information when solving problems and making decisions

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- TEXTBOOK:** Campbell, N. A., J.B. Reece, & E.J. Simon. 2007. *Essential Biology with Physiology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Benjamin Cummings.
- SUPPLEMENTS:** *Current Issues in Biology*; reprints from *Scientific American*. Packaged with your textbook.
- "CLICKER"** Interwrite PRS RF remote clicker, model R1. Note: if you purchase your clicker from the campus bookstore, there is a rebate!
- ISBN: 0-536-34355-1** (for the whole thing; i.e., text, supplements, access code for CourseCompass, etc.)
- ISBN: 0-805-36841-4** (for just the book)

## **OPTIONAL (but extremely useful!) MATERIALS:**

- WEBSITE:** [WWW.ESSENTIALBIOLOGY.COM](http://WWW.ESSENTIALBIOLOGY.COM) (Access code included with the purchase of a new second edition of your textbook).

## **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lectures will consist of material from the text *Essential Biology with Physiology* as well as from related materials, including but not limited to the *Scientific American* supplements packaged with your text. Figures and tables from the textbook and other sources will be presented during the lecture; some concepts will be emphasized through the use of short videos, animations, and small group discussions.

**Required Supplies:** Scantron 882-E; No. 2 lead pencil for exams.

**Optional Texts, References or Supplies:** None.

**Attendance Policy:** Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student. To do well, you must be an equal and active participant in your education, therefore, it is your responsibility to attend class. Testing material will be based on class lecture and from the textbook. To do well on tests, you must attend lecture. A seating chart will be made out and attendance will be taken regularly (see the University Catalogue for details).

If you are unable to come to class due to illness or unexpected circumstances, it is your responsibility to obtain the class notes and any assignments. You may contact me in my office if you have specific questions about a lecture; however, I will not re-lecture to students who have missed class.

Excessive absences (3) may influence the student's final grade for the course. This may amount to one letter grade for students on the border line.

**Assignments:** A general reading assignment from the textbook prior to lecture discussions. No attempt will be made to provide specific page reading assignments during the semester. It is the student's responsibility to stay abreast of course progress using the course outline as a guide.

**Exams:** Four lecture exams (three during the semester, plus the final exam) will cover each section of the lecture material presented and will not be comprehensive. Each exam will be announced IN CLASS 7 days in advance and will consist of up to 100 multiple choice questions taken from the reading and lecture materials. A few short answer questions might be part of some exams.

No make up exams will be given without notification prior to the exam by the student and approval from the instructor. The final exam will be similar to the first three exams. Final exam will be as scheduled by the University.

**Grading Plan:** Four lecture exams will be averaged to determine your final grade. Your final letter grade will be determined using the following scheme:

A	90 - 100.00%
B	80 - 89.00%
C	70 - 79.90%
D	60 - 69.90%
F	below 60.00%

**Student Syllabus Guidelines:** You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*.

**Student with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines*.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

**Laboratories, Studios, and Individual Instruction:** A parallel laboratory, BIO 134, 1140, accompanies BIO 134. It is strongly recommended that each student enroll in a laboratory section.

**Laboratory and Studio Sections:** Not applicable.

**Individual Instruction:** Tutors may be used by students. In the event a tutor is needed, the instructor will assist in finding a suitable advanced student or graduate student. Any cost of the tutor will be the responsibility of the student requesting the tutor.

### TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

WEEK OF:

CHAPTER:

Aug. 20	Administrative details. Intro to science & biology	1
Aug. 27	Biological building blocks – the chemistry of bio	2
Sept. 3	Small stuff continued – biomolecules	3
Sept. 10	We're getting bigger – important organelles	4
Sept. 17	How cells work	5-7
Sept. 24	How cells reproduce	8
Oct. 1	Basic genetics	9
Oct. 8	DNA	10-12
Oct. 15	Biological diversity – why so many species?	13
Oct. 22	Biodiversity continued	14
Oct. 29	The history of life	15-17
Nov. 5	The history of life, part II	15-17
Nov. 12	Population ecology	18
Nov. 19	Community ecology	19
Nov. 26	Ecosystem ecology	19
Dec. 3	Humans and the biosphere	23

The lecture schedule is subject to change, depending on how fast or how slow material is covered/uncovered. I will always keep you posted of where we are in the schedule and where we are headed.

**Instructor Evaluations:** Students may be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.