

Contemporary Biology (BIO 134) Spring 2008

Course Explanation and Syllabus*



GENERAL INFORMATION:

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Sibyl Bucheli (bucheli@shsu.edu)

Room: Lee Drain Building, room 142

Office Hours: WEDNESDAY 2-5 pm, or by appointment

SECTIONS:

134.10 Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 – 8:50; LDB 216

134.02 Mon, Wed, Fri 11:00 - 11:50; LDB 215

I take violations against the Sam Houston State University Code of Student Conduct very seriously and, if necessary, will pursue all available options in the event of a violation. 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 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 resource materials.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: BIO 134 Contemporary Biology. [BIOL 1308] 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. Fall, Spring, Summer. Credit 3.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

1. **Lecture** will cover the basics of contemporary biology with a focus on organismal diversity and ecology.
2. **Attendance** is not mandatory, but you will benefit greatly by attending. I will cover information that is not in your book that you will be responsible for knowing on the exams. See below for missed assignments policy.
3. **Lecture Exams** will provide you with a gauge of your progress.
4. **Reading** the assigned chapters and all handouts is necessary for the class.
5. **TAKE NOTES!** I am not obligated to post my lecture slides on blackboard and for some lectures I will not post any of the lecture slides. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO COME TO CLASS AND TO TAKE NOTES!

COURSE RESOURCES:

Required Texts:

TITLE	Essential Biology with Physiology, Second Edition
AUTHOR	Campbell, Reece and Simon

Additional Media

BLACKBOARD The syllabus and all announcements including changes to the lecture syllabus will be posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to regularly check BlackBoard for any changes and other announcements. **You are not required to register for "CourseCompass" through Campbell Biology (this packet comes standard with your printed text book).**

EVALUATION METHODS: Your grade will be derived from four lecture exams and a final examination.

Because all students have the opportunity to drop their lowest exam grade, **I do not give any make-up exams for any reason.**

During an examination period, any student arriving after the first student has turned in the answer sheet **will not** be allowed to take the exam.

I will make no exceptions to these two above policies.

1. **Exams:** There are a total of 4 lecture exams. All exams are comprehensive in that you must understand and be able to build on concepts presented in previous lectures. Your lowest exam score of the 4 lecture exams will be dropped. Each exam will be 50 multiple choice questions worth 2 points each. Your exam score is derived by multiplying that raw score (out of 50) by 2.
2. **Final Exam:** There is one cumulative final exam which will cover all material presented in previous exams. It will be 100 multiple choice question worth 1 points each. This exam is required by all – it CANNOT count as a possible drop score.

POINT SOURCE:

	Number	Points	
Lecture Exams	4	400	(100 points each; YOUR LOWEST EXAM SCORE IS DROPPED)
Cumulative Final Exam	1	100	(REQUIRED = not a drop possibility)
Total		400	

I use the following grading scale: I do not curve and I do not round up. I will calculate your grade to the nearest tenth of a point (00.0%). That means that if you get 79.5%, you earned a C, not B. You can track your score throughout the semester by checking your scores on BlackBoard. Adding up your total score and diving it by the total possible (at that point) will give you're your percentage grade.

Percent:	Letter Grade:
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 AND BELOW	F

CLASS POLICIES:

1. **Lecture notes on Blackboard:** I will post SOME, not all the lectures, on blackboard, and these may be an abbreviated version. I will not make special adjustments to the lecture slides for printing conveniences. I will not announce changes to the Blackboard slides. It is your responsibility to come to lecture and take notes.
2. **Attendance, Reading the book and taking notes:** You are expected to read you book, attend class and sign the roster, and take notes in lecture.
3. **Studying for exams:** It is your responsibility to study for examinations. I will not entertain students expressing difficulty unless you make it your responsibility to study. Studying includes both understanding concepts and memorizing facts. I emphasize the study skills outlined on the Sam Website <http://www.shsu.edu/~counsel/hs/studyskills.html>
4. **Entering class late:** Entering a lecture late can qualify as disruptive behavior when the student disturbs me during my lecture or disturbs the students around them while becoming situated. See #6 for more details regarding disruptive behaviors.
5. **Missed Exams:** Excusing a student is at the discretion of the faculty (see below, "SAM POLICY, Class Attendance; below"). I do not give make-up exams and any students arriving to an exam after the first person turns in their answer sheet will be counted as absent and will not be allowed to take the exam.
6. **Disruptive Behaviors:** You are expected to adhere to the Sam Houston University Code of Student Conduct. I take violations against this code very seriously and will pursuit all available options if students violate this code.

See below, or your handbook or the website www.shsu.edu/syllabus/ for full details. Violations include but are not limited to:

- a. talking out of turn in lecture,
 - b. obscene language,
 - c. reading the newspaper,
 - d. completing assignments other than Biology 134,
 - e. cell phones ringing,
 - f. answering cell phones,
 - g. text messaging,
 - h. cheating,
 - i. and plagiarism.
7. I reserve the right to assign attendance bonus points at any time.
 8. I reserve the right to assign in lecture pop-quizzes that count as points towards the final score at any time.
 9. **There will be NO ADDITIONAL extra credit under any circumstance or for any reason.**

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND EXAM SCHEDULE (Subject to change based on lecture and class progression)

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1		Introduction	Chapter 1, 2
Week 2	NO CLASS (MLK day)	The Scientific Method	Chapter 15
Week 3	Chapter 15	Chapter 16	Chapter 16
Week 4	Review	EXAM 1; Feb 6	Chapter 17
Week 5	Chapter 17	Chapter 17	Chapter 17
Week 6	Chapter 18	Chapter 18	Chapter 18
Week 7	Chapter 19, 20	Chapter 19, 20	Chapter 19, 20
Week 8	Review	EXAM 2; Mar 5	Chapter 2
Week 9	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Week 10	Chapter 3	Chapter 3	Chapter 3
Week 11	Chapter 4	Chapter 4	NO CLASS
Week 12	Chapter 5, 6, 7	Chapter 5, 6, 7	Chapter 5, 6, 7
Week 13	Review	EXAM 3; Apr 9	Chapter 14
Week 14	Chapter 14	Chapter 15	Chapter 15
Week 15	Chapter 16	Chapter 16	Chapter 16
Week 16	Chapter 17	Chapter 17	Chapter 17
Week 17	Review	EXAM 4; May 7	NO CLASS
Finals Week	SEE BELOW for official Final Exam Schedule		

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE:

If your BIO 134 class regularly meets on:	Then your final is on:	At:	In Room:
Section 134.10 08:00 a.m. - 09:00 a.m. MWF	MONDAY MAY 12	08:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	216
Section 134.02 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. MWF	WEDNESDAY MAY 14	11:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.	215

READ THE FINE PRINT

SPRING SEMESTER 2008

January 16	WEDNESDAY. Daytime on-campus classes begin. Late Registration . Process class schedule changes. Refer to the Schedule of Classes for details and deadlines. Wednesday Night (WN) classes begin (on-campus and off-campus).
January 21	MONDAY. University Holiday - Martin Luther King Day.
January 24	THURSDAY. Last day to register and to process schedule changes. Thursday Night (ThN) classes begin (on-campus and off-campus).
February 1	FRIDAY. Twelfth Class Day. Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund. Degree Applications to be filed in Registrar's Office by students graduating May 2008.
March 7	FRIDAY. Half-semester courses end. Last day to drop a half-semester course for the Spring Semester without grade of F. Degree applications to be filed in Registrar's Office by students graduating in August 2008.
March 7	FRIDAY. Residence halls close at 6 p.m. for spring recess.
March 10,11, 12, 13, 14	MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. Spring recess for students and faculty.
March 16	SUNDAY. Residence halls open at 2:00 p.m.
March 17	MONDAY. Classes resume at 8:00 a.m.
March 21	FRIDAY. Good Friday. Holiday for Students and Faculty.
April 14	MONDAY. Deadline for submission of theses and dissertations.
May 8	THURSDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign. Last day to drop a course without the grade of F.
May 9	FRIDAY. Final Exam Study Day.
May 10, 11, 12,13, 14, 15	SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY. Final examinations [includes Monday Night (MN), Tuesday Night (TuN), Wednesday Night (WN) and Thursday Night (THN) final examinations].
May 17	SATURDAY. TENTATIVE. Commencement, Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum.
May 19	MONDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar's Office. Spring Semester ends.

SAM POLICY www.shsu.edu/syllabus/ for additional documentation.

Academic Honesty: 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 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 resource materials.

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.

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of the university that no otherwise qualified disabled student shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities by contacting their instructor, school/department chair, or by contacting the university Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students/ Director of Counseling Center (located in Lee Drain Annex, phone 936-294-1720). A student with a disability is encouraged to register with the university Counseling Center, as well as contacting their instructor about assistance needs. Accommodation cannot be made until the student has initiated the request with the Counseling Center. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the Counseling Center and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center. All requests are handled with confidentiality according to university procedures.

Religious Holy Days Policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that the university 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 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 15 days of the semester or the first 7 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.

Class Attendance

<http://www.shsu.edu/catalog/scholasticrequirements.html>

1. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University.
2. Each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance.
3. Each faculty member will announce the policies for accepting late work or providing makeup examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations.
4. A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work has not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences.
5. Each instructor is obligated to clarify in writing to each student enrolled in class at the beginning of the semester or summer session the instructor's classroom policy regarding absences.
6. Class absences will be recorded and counted only from the actual day of enrollment for the individual student in that specific class.