

**COURSE: Contemporary Biology, BIO 134, Spring 2008**

**Instructor: Dr. Joan Hudson,**

**bio\_jxn@shsu.edu**

**Office: Rm 129 - Lee Drain Building,**

**Office: (936) - 294-1541, lab: 294 3753**

**Office Hours: M: 1:00-2:30, TTh 8:00-10:00 or by appointment**

**TEXT:** *Essential Biology with Physiology* by N. A. Campbell, J. B. Reece and E. J. Simon, published by Pearson, Benjamin Cummings, 2007. Bring the text to class each day. It will be to your advantage to have the text with you in order to refer to figures from the text used in lecture.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The objective of this course is to provide a broad overview of the field of biology to non-science majors. The student will: 1) better understand how biological organisms function, 2) learn characteristics that are present in most life forms (animals, plants, bacteria, fungi), 3) learn how organisms interact with each other in the living world, 4) learn the diversity of life forms and 5) be better able to evaluate science in the news and in everyday life. After taking this course, the student should have a better understanding of the living world and be able to share this knowledge with others.

**GRADING:** Four HOURLY exams (100 points each). Total points in the class = 400

Final grade determination:

A = 90% - 100% (360-400 points)

B = 80% - 89% (320-359 points)

C = 70% - 79% (280-319 points)

D = 60% - 69% (240-279 points)

F = 0% - 59% (0-239 points)

**EXAMS:** Exams will be multiple choice with Scantron 882. The questions on the exam will come from the lecture notes. The vast majority of lecture notes will come from the text. (Conclusion: Come to class. Read your book before and after lecture)

**ATTENDANCE:** Regular and punctual attendance is expected as stated in the catalogue. Perpetual tardiness will be recorded as absences. Good attendance is no more than 2 classes missed. If you will be absent for a university event (ex. music, sport, rodeo etc.), please let me know ahead of time.

**Repeat:** One hundred percent of the exam material comes from the lectures and approx. 90% of the lecture information comes from the text. (Conclusion: Come to class and bring your book. Read your book before and after lecture.)

**MAKE-UP POLICY:** Lecture exams can be taken at a different time, only with an excused absence. If scantrons have already been returned (usually the next class meeting), your lowest exam grade at the end of the semester will be counted twice to replace the 0 grade. There are no exceptions. There are no extra credit points. (Conclusion: Take the exam during the regularly scheduled time or make arrangements before the exam day to take it early.)

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** The Student Code and Faculty Handbook will be followed in the event of academic dishonesty. (Conclusion: Any form of cheating will not be tolerated.)

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students with any type of disability that may prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities in this class should contact me as soon as possible. We can work together to come up with a plan to assist you with this course. (Conclusion: Please let me know if you have special needs.)

**COURSE: Contemporary Biology, BIO 134, Spring 2008**

**Instructor: Dr. Joan Hudson bio\_jxn@shsu.edu**

**Office: Rm 129 - Lee Drain Building,**

**Office: (936) - 294-1541, lab: 294 3753**

**Office Hours: MWF: 9:00-9:50, 12-1:30, TTh 8:00-9:20. or by appointment.**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>Week of:</b>	<b>LECTURE</b>	<b>READING</b>
<b>1</b>	16 January	Introduction	Chapter 1
<b>2</b>	23 January	Essential Chemistry for Biology	Chapter 2
<b>3</b>	28 January	The Molecules of Life	Chapter 3
<b>4</b>	4 February	A Tour of the Cell	Chapter 4
<b>5</b>	11 February	The Working Cell	Chapter 5
<b>EXAM I - Wednesday, 13 February 2008 - covering weeks 1-4</b>			
<b>6</b>	18 February	Cellular Respiration	Chapter 6
<b>7</b>	25 February	Photosynthesis	Chapter 7
<b>8</b>	3 March	Cellular Basis of Reproduction and Inheritance	Chapter 8
<b>EXAM II - Friday, 7 March 2008 - covering weeks 5-7</b>			
<b>Spring Break: 10-14 March 2008</b>			
<b>9</b>	17 March	Patterns of Inheritance	Chapter 9
<b>10</b>	24 March	Molecular Biology of the Gene	Chapter 10
<b>11</b>	31 March	Viruses, Bacteria and Fungi	Chapters 15, 16
<b>12</b>	7 April	Plants and the Move onto the Land	Chapter 16
<b>EXAM III - Wednesday, 9 April 2008 - covering weeks 9-11</b>			
<b>13</b>	14 April	The Life of a Flowering Plant	Chapter 28
<b>14</b>	21 April	The Working Plant	Chapter 29
<b>15</b>	28 April	Unifying Concepts of Animal Structure and Function	Chapter 21
<b>16</b>	5 May	Human Impact on the Environment	Chapter 20
<b>FINAL EXAM - University Schedule, covering weeks 12-16</b>			

How to make the grade you want in Biology 134.

**1. Come to class. Pay attention. Be prompt and do not leave early.**

**2. Take good notes.** Do not underline from the text during lecture, although the majority of the lecture information comes directly from the text.

Take your own notes. The notes from your neighbor are never complete.  
Ask questions if unsure, unclear or confused.

**3. Read the book. Concentrate while you are reading. Think about the material.**

**4. You** rewrite/revise your notes in your own time. Use the book to help fill in gaps and provide further examples. This is revision work and is not considered true "study time". This must be done in order to have notes which are in an appropriate form for study.

Here is an example. When you go into the kitchen to cook dinner, if the kitchen is a mess, the dishes must be washed and the kitchen put in proper order before you can begin to cook. Washing the dishes and cleaning up are not "cooking" but both are necessary in order to "cook" properly and most efficiently. The same concept applies with lecture notes and studying. In the vast majority of cases, the notes must be rewritten/revise in order for them to be in an appropriate form for "study".

Another example: Preparing for an athletic event.

Photocopy (or redraw) figures from the text which are studied in class and insert these into your revised notes. The old saying "a picture is worth a thousand words" often (but not always) applies in this class. This allows you to study the figure each time you study your notes without having to keep finding the figures in the text.

**IMPORTANT - Start early**, this is time consuming but well worth the effort. If you wait until the last week to rewrite your notes, you will not have enough time to study. Start rewriting your notes and reading your book after each lecture or at least at the end of the week.

5. After reading the book and rewriting/revise your notes, now you can **STUDY** your notes. This means you must focus on the material and avoid outside distractions. After you have studied a set of material, ask yourself if you can write down key words/concepts concerning the material. If you can write down 50% of the words/concepts, you know approximately 50% of the material, not enough for a passing grade of 60%. More studying is required.

How many hours of study will a student need in order to understand the material? This varies from student to student. Also studying for biology may require more time than other classes you may have taken, or it may require less. Use the suggestion above in No. 5 to test yourself.

6. Tutors may also help but they cost \$.