

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Biological Sciences
Spring 2008 Semester

COURSE SYLLABUS
BIO 345 Introductory Genetics

Instructor: Christopher Randle
Office: Lee Drain Building 141
Office Hours: M,W,F. 8:00 am-10:00 am or by appointment
Phone: 294-1554
Email: randle@shsu.edu
Time & Location: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:50 LDB 214
Lab sections. 01: Tuesday 12:00-1:50
02: Tuesday 3:00-4:50
03: Tuesday 6:00-7:50
04: Thursday 12:00-1:50

Course Objectives: All organisms pass traits to offspring, resulting in the pattern of heredity that connects all life through time. The study of heredity is called genetics. Since the rediscovery of Mendelian inheritance at the turn of the twentieth century, our understanding of the mechanisms by which organisms pass traits to offspring has grown more quickly than nearly any other scientific pursuit. In this course, we will examine developments in genetics including tenets of Mendelian inheritance, the transmission of traits from parent to offspring, techniques of identifying genes specifying traits of interest and of mapping these genes to chromosomes, the structure and function of genetic material, and molecular processes governing heredity. We will also explore the ways in which these developments impact medicine, agrosience, forensics, and basic research in biology.

Book: *iGenetics: A Mendelian Approach*. Peter J. Russell. ISBN: 0-8053-4666-X

Reading assignments will be posted to Blackboard as well as presented in class. Anything in the assigned reading is fair game on exams. This textbook comes with access to additional online exercises and tutorials that will be useful for understanding basic concepts (www.geneticsplace.com).

Grading: Grades will be determined from three exams and a final exam (all non-cumulative).

Lecture Exam 1: February 14*	100 pts
Lecture Exam 2: March 20*	100 pts
Lecture Exam 3: April 17*	100 pts
Lab	250 pts
<u>Lecture Final: May 13, 8:00-10:00am</u>	<u>100 pts</u>
Total	650 pts

*Estimated dates; these are subject to change.

Make-up exams will only be offered in *extreme* circumstances. Make every effort not to miss an exam. Exam format will include both multiple choice and problem-solving. Bring a Scantron 882-E form and number –two pencils to each exam.

I reserve the right to assign homework as needed. Not all homework will be turned in for credit, and no homework assignment will be worth more than 10 points. Homework assignments will consist of problems that you are likely to see on exams, and therefore it behooves you to do them and have them ready to discuss or turn in. Only hard-copies of homework assignments will be accepted.

Grades will be assigned as follows: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, < 60% = F. A curve will only be applied if the class average is well below a C. No grade will be decreased due to any curve.

Attendance: The University requires that roll be taken. However, there will be no penalty for missing lecture other than the missed opportunity to get your money's worth from the University. I will allow homework to be made up if provided with an appropriate documentation of the excuse, or if given advanced warning that the class will be missed.

Laboratory: Labs will meet in LDB 130. Lab will begin on January 29, at which point you will receive a syllabus for the laboratory. The last lab will meet on April 24. Laboratory attendance is absolutely mandatory.

Holidays/Important Dates:

February 1: Twelfth Class Day. Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund.

May 8: Last day to drop Spring Semester courses without grade of F. Students will be allowed to drop (Q-drop) no more than five classes during their academic career at Sam Houston State University. Classes that are dropped prior to the 12 th class day will not be included in this calculation.

March 11, 13: Spring Break: No Class

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.