

BIO 1408 (4:3:3)

General Biology for Non-Science Majors I

Department of Biology

Division of Arts and Sciences

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE

Levelland Campus

Dr. Eric Niederhauser
Fall 2025 Hybrid

Biology I for Non - Science Majors (BIOL 1408)

FALL 2025 Hybrid

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eric Niederhauser

OFFICE PHONE: 806 716-2321

OFFICE: S81

EMAIL: eniederhauser@southplainscollege.edu. Please include “**1408 Hybrid**” in the subject (I teach a four courses).

I generally try to respond promptly to emails. Evening or Saturday response times may be delayed. I don't look at work emails on Sunday.

I do not check Course Messages in Blackboard.

OFFICE HOURS: Mon: 11:00 – Noon, Tue: 11:00 – Noon and 3:30 - 4:30, Wed and Thu: 1:30 – 2:00, Fri: 9:00 – 12:00. A visit can be in person or online using Blackboard Collaborate (a little like Zoom). If you would like to schedule a time for me to enter the Collaborate course room at any time, send me an email. If I am in my office I can easily log in.

Other COMMUNICATION: I may post general communications in the Announcements section of Blackboard. You are responsible for any information posted in the Announcements section.

I may send emails to your SPC email address. You are responsible for any information that is sent to your SPC email by me or the college. The best way to contact me is by email. I DO NOT check the Messages section in Blackboard.

Course Description

This general biology course is devoted to exploring the properties, structures and functions shared by all organisms with an emphasis on humans. These properties involve: cells, chemistry, energy, genetics, evolution, and interactions. We will also learn about science and the process of scientific discovery. PREREQUISITE: None. CREDIT: Four semester hours

Required Materials

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

- Computer or laptop WITH microphone and camera.
- Reliable internet access. You will be required to meet all deadlines – no matter what happens to your internet connection. Have a backup plan.
- Printer to print assignments.
- Chrome with the Honorlock browser extension installed – for the first exam.

NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Recommended text: Campbell, *Essential Biology with Physiology*, 6th Ed. by Simon, et al. Others ARE acceptable.

I will NOT assign readings, and no exam material will come exclusively from this text. To be successful, you must have access to a textbook in some form to read. I usually provide links to an OpenStax text with the weekly lectures.

Many people find a printed textbook very helpful. Any biology text for college will do. So long as they were published in the last 15 years or so they will be fine for our purposes. You can find some older additions of most textbooks online or in used bookstores.

Course Implementation and Grading

BLACKBOARD: In addition to all graded items (lectures, labs, quizzes and exams); current grades, other course resources, due dates etc. are posted.

LECTURES: About 75 minutes of prerecorded lectures will be posted to Blackboard at 9:00 am on both Mondays and Wednesdays – About 2.5 hour total each week. Each lecture video has embedded questions which are automatically scored. All lectures will be available to watch after being posted for the duration of the semester. To receive credit, they must be watched by the due-date – Mondays at the end of the day.

LAB GRADES: This is a lab-integrated course - lab attendance and completion of the lab exercises is required to receive credit for the course. Failure to attend 3 or more labs will result in withdrawal from the course. There are no lab makeups. Understanding of the lab material is also assessed in the exams.

EXAMS: There will be five exams given during the course which will cover both lecture and lab. Expect multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the blank, and short answer questions. The 5th and final exam will be comprehensive. The first exam will be online, others will be during the scheduled lab time. See the schedule below.

Do not miss exams. Their dates are set. Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time will result in a grade of a zero for the exam. Exceptions will be made for documented emergencies only. A doctor's appointment is NOT an emergency - do not schedule them for exam times. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, you must contact me within 24 hours for a makeup exam to be considered.

QUIZZES: Each lab meeting (except exam weeks) will begin with a ~ 10 question quiz addressing the previous week's lecture topics. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There are no makeup quizzes.

GRADING WEIGHTS

Grade Type	Percentage of Grade
Exams	60 %
Lab Grades/Assignments	15 %
In-Lecture Questions	15 %
Quizzes	10 %

Grading scale: Final semester average 90-100 = A; 80-89 =B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; <60 = F.

Last Day to Drop the Course: Dec 04, 2025

Exam Procedure with Honorlock

NOTE: You may use your notes for the online exam, exam 1 (only). BUT ...
It will be timed with approximately 45 seconds allotted per question.

Exam Conduct Requirement	Notes
Official photo identification must be presented before each assessment.	Your photo and name must be clearly visible - 30% penalty if not. ONLY name and photo need to show. Other information may be covered.
Microphone turned on and recording for the entire exam.	A 30% penalty will be assessed for no audio.
Sufficient lighting of the testing area.	A 30% penalty may be given for a quiz or exam taken without enough lighting for the instructor to assess the testing environment.
Student remains in webcam view during exam. Full face should always be in view.	A student who leaves the webcam view during an exam for any reason may receive a zero for that exam. Take all bathroom breaks, etc. before beginning the exam.
No talking with others during the exam or playing of music or other audio recordings.	A student who has any music or audio recordings playing during exams, or who talks with any adult during the exam, may receive a zero for that exam.
No headphones or earbuds or similar device may be used while taking the exam.	I need to see your ears. Hair should be pulled back if necessary. A zero may be given for the quiz or exam taken.
No cell phone use during the exam.	Web browsing, talking, texting, chatting or communicating in any way with another person during a quiz or exam is considered cheating and will result in a zero. You may communicate with Honorlock support.
<u>Other:</u> Answers to short-answer or essay questions that contain any resemblance to answers found online will not be given credit. Use your own words.	

Questions will be presented one at a time. You cannot go back to questions once answered.

If you are not VERY familiar with the material, you will run out of time.

Before the first exam, a practice online "quiz" will be posted.

This course will be conducted according to the policies and procedures of the South Plains College Student Handbook and General Catalog.

Attendance: Because this is a lab-integrated course, failure to attend three or more labs will result in being dropped from the course. Extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Tardy Policy: Arriving to lab late is disruptive. If you are late, please come in quickly and quietly take your seat. A student who is consistently tardy will be withdrawn from the class. Let me know if there is a problem or if you know you will be late.

Disruptive behavior (Failure to follow general instructions. Talking out of turn, cursing, inappropriate gestures etc.) at a minimum will result in a zero for the days' activities and but probable withdrawal from the course.

Lab Safety: Each student will be informed/trained on the "Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) for Laboratories at South Plains College" during the first week of the semester. Each student will be required to acknowledge receipt of this information and be required to follow all procedures outlined by the instructor and/or staff of South Plains College.

Academic Integrity: The attempt of any student to cheat or present as her/his own any work, which she/he has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

Examples of cheating and dishonesty include (but are not limited to): plagiarism, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes or texts during an examination or quiz, obtaining information during an exam from the exam paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry, or unauthorized presence in an office.

ANY evidence of live communication with another person (either in-person or online) during a quiz or exam is considered cheating and will result in a zero. For the online exam, you can communicate with Honorlock support.

Your own words must be used to answer any assessment questions.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about

- **Intellectual exchange**
- **Disabilities**
- **Non-discrimination**
- **Title V Pregnancy Accommodations**
- **CARE Team**
- **Campus Concealed Carry**

please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Grievance procedure: If a student is having a problem with the course policies or the instructor, they should first try and resolve any such problems with the instructor. If the problem is not resolved, the student may proceed to the Dean of Arts & Sciences who can advise the student on how to resolve the problem or direct them to the appropriate office.

Copyright Notice: All material presented by the instructor in the course is copyright protected. The material presented by the instructor may not be modified or altered in any way. You have permission to print out one copy of any material presented by the instructor in this course for your personal educational use during this session. The material may not be altered or modified in any way. The material may not be distributed in any way. You have permission to download the same material to your computer hard drive or other medium in order to print out the material needed. Any material downloaded may not be altered or modified in any way. The downloaded material may not be distributed in any way. If

any course material is found on other websites, this becomes an act of academic misconduct and will be dealt with appropriately following the guidelines of the college concerning academic integrity.

Class Weekly Schedule

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8 am	Lecture Posted Online		Lecture Posted Online		
9					
10					
11					
12 pm					
1		Lab Science Room			
2		189 Quiz/Lab			
3	Previous Week's Lecture Questions Due 11:30 PM	or Exam			
4					
5					

- I STRONGLY suggest **taking notes** as you listen to the lectures and then **rewriting them** as you **read a text etc.**
- My goal is your success. If you have any questions or concerns, ASK ME! Please! Anything that affects your performance as a student is important to me.

Niederhauser Biology General Weekly Schedule

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8 am					
9					Office Hours
	1408 001	1406 003	1408 001	1406 003	
10	Lecture S83	Lecture S83	Lecture S83	Lecture S83	
11	Office Hours	Office Hours	1408 001 Lab	1406 003 Lab	
12 pm			S189	S191	
1		1408 002 Lab			
		189	Office Hours	Office Hours	
2					
3					
		Office Hours			
4					
5					

Biology 1408 002 Hybrid Tentative Schedule of Events

Lecture Schedule				Lab Schedule	
Unit	Week	Date	Topic	Date	Topic
Intro and Building Blocks of Life	1	Mon, Aug 25 Wed, Aug 27	Welcome/Intro - What is Life? Life Organized/Chemistry for Biology	Tue, Aug 26	Microscope Intro/ Experimental Design
	2	Mon, Sep 1 Wed, Sep 3	Labor Day Chemistry Continued/Molecules of Life: Carbs	Tue, Sep 2	Safety/ Metric System/ Data Analysis
	3	Mon, Sep 8 Wed, Sep 10	Molecules of Life: Lipids Molecules of Life: Protein, DNA	Tue, Sep 9	Organic Molecules
	4	Mon, Sep 15 Wed, Sep 17	Cell Structure Lecture Exam 1 (Online) Opens	Tue, Sep 16	Diffusion and Osmosis
The Working Cell	5	Mon, Sep 22 Wed, Sep 24	Cell Division (Mitosis) Cell at Work - Energy and Enzymes	Tue, Sep 23	Cells/Mitosis
	6	Mon, Sep 29 Wed, Oct 1	Cellular Respiration Photosynthesis/ Biogeochemical Cycles	Tue, Sep 30	Respiration/ Photosynthesis
	7	Mon, Oct 6 Wed, Oct 8	Meiosis	Tue, Oct 7	Lecture Exam 2
Genetics and DNA Structure and Function	8	Mon, Oct 13 Wed, Oct 15	Patterns of Inheritance Mendel Inheritance - Beyond Mendel	Tue, Oct 14	Mitosis vs Meiosis/ Karyotypes/ Genetic Problems
	9	Mon, Oct 20 Wed, Oct 22	Structure of DNA Function of DNA/Viruses/Mutation	Tue, Oct 21	Drosophila Star/Genetic Problems/Protein Synthesis
	10	Mon, Oct 27 Wed, Oct 29		Tue, Oct 28	Lecture Exam 3
DNA Cont. and Evolution	11	Mon, Nov 3 Wed, Nov 5	Cloning/3 Gene Cancer DNA Technology	Tue, Nov 4	Drosophila Count
	12	Mon, Nov 10 Wed, Nov 12	DNA Technology Applications Evolution by Natural Selection	Tue, Nov 11	DNA Extraction/ Micropipette Use
	13	Mon, Nov 17 Wed, Nov 19	Evolution Evidence Ecology Intro, Ecosystems (On final)	Tue, Nov 18	DNA Fingerprinting/ Natural Selection
Ecology	14	Mon, Nov 24 Wed, Nov 26	Thanksgiving Ecology Case study 1	Tue, Nov 25	Lecture Exam 4
	15	Mon, Dec 1 Wed, Dec 3		Tue, Dec 2	Semester Review
	16	Dec 8-12	Finals - Date TBD		