

Life Science 101 Syllabus

Spring 2006

Instructor: Sharon Delchamps

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Textbook: Biology: *The Unity and Diversity of Life* by Starr and Taggart, 11th ed.

Response Card Required

Course Objectives: Students will examine the basic principles of biological phenomena. Cell structure, cell function and cell division will be examined. Students will be introduced to processes such as photosynthesis and respiration. Additional topics covered will include heredity, taxonomy and evolution. Morphology of protists, bacteria, viruses and plants will be discussed as well.

Communication: I am a part-time instructor and therefore am not here during the day and do not have office hours. You can, however, get in touch with me via email. I will respond to your email within 24 hours. You can also address questions to me before or after class.

Attendance: The Biology Department subscribes to the official “attendance and Absences” policy of the University. Attendance is mandatory and it will be a determining factor in borderline grades. Attendance will be recorded on random dates. Missed classes can result in missed pop quizzes or bonus points, which cannot be made up at a later date. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes, handouts and assignments from your classmates.

Students are expected to arrive on time to class. If you are late, you must enter the lecture hall from the back doors and take a seat in the back of the class. Habitual tardiness will be considered disruptive behavior.

Grades: You will have three 100-point exams and one 200-point final exam. The 100-point exams will be 50 multiple choice questions from the lecture material. The final exam will consist of 75 questions: 50 questions from chapters 2 – 20; 25 questions from chapters 21 – 25. There will also be five unannounced 20-point quizzes during the course. Total points for the course will be 600 points. At the end of the course, I will make the final decision regarding whether scaling of the final grade is appropriate.

Response Cards: Students are required to bring their response cards or “clickers” with them to every class. “Clickers” will be used for attendance purposes, as well as pop quizzes and exams. Students that fail to bring their clickers to class will receive a zero

for the class period. If you lose your clicker, it is your responsibility to immediately replace it.

Posting of Grades: Grades cannot be posted by university student number or name. You choose a random letter code on the day of the first examination and this will be the code by which your grades are posted. If you do not choose a code on the day of the first exam, your grades will not be posted. You will have to see me after class for your exam grade. If there is a discrepancy in the posted score, you must speak to me no later than one week after the scores have been posted. Beyond that time period all grades will be considered accurate as posted.

Examinations: With the exception of pop quizzes, all examinations will be taken on scantron, as well as through the “clickers”. You must bring two #2 pencils with erasers for examinations. You must arrive on time for the exams, and bring your student ID with you. When you turn in your exam you must show your student ID card. Exam grades will be posted the following class period, during which questions regarding exams will be answered.

Make-up tests: There will be no make-up tests unless you have an official university excuse. If you miss an exam, you must notify me within 24 hours to explain your absence. University excuses include serious illness, death in the immediate family or an official university function approved by the professor. Excuses must be accompanied by appropriate documentation. Make-up exams are presented in a different format including essay, short answer and fill in the blank. If you are scheduled to take three or four final exams on the same day, you must follow the guidelines listed in your “Spring Schedule of Classes” in order to take an early exam. *Airline tickets are not an acceptable reason to take an early final.*

Behavior: Disruptive behavior which includes talking, sleeping, or general rudeness will not be tolerated. **Cell phones must be turned off during lectures and exams.** Be considerate to me and to other students in this class. If you are feeling disruptive, do not attend class.

Cheating: Students who are caught cheating on lecture exams or quizzes will receive an “F” in this course, and will be reported to the Department Chair for further action. Cheating includes providing a student with help on exams, or using another student’s response card.

Grades: 90 – 100 = A; 80 – 89 = B; 70 – 79 = C; 60 – 69 = D; 59 and below = F. Grades are based on the class average. I reserve the right to determine whether or not a scale is necessary based on that average. The scale will not be determined until the final exam

grades have been submitted at the end of the semester and the final averages have been determined.

Disabilities: If you have a disability, please follow the instructions outlined in the Student Handbook and notify me if you will need special accommodations. Please notify me within the first week of classes so that I can make the necessary arrangements. If you are assigned a note-taker, you are still responsible for attending the lecture. If you do not attend lecture, you will be subject to penalty as dictated in the attendance and participation section. Exams that are sent to Special Student Services may be returned up to one week after the actual exam date.

Website: Students are required to print the notes prior to attending lecture. The notes are available to you through the USA website: www.usouthal.edu/biology/notes.

I will follow the outline very closely in class, however, simply copying the outline is not a substitute for attending lecture. I will add my own notes, add special reading assignments and rearrange the outline content frequently. Therefore, you must attend class.

In addition to the website listed above, a website is available to you through your textbook. To visit the website, go to www.brookscole.com/biology and select “courses”. Then select Biology: The Unity and Diversity of Life, 11th edition. Select book Specific Resources for students.

Student Instructor: Life Sciences 101 has an additional resource available to students called a “Student Instructor” or “SI Leader”. Your Student instructor is available to answer questions each week regarding the material presented in this course. I encourage all students to take advantage of the opportunity to formulate questions for their SI leader and then listen to an alternative presentation of the material.

Miscellaneous Information: Three sources provide definitive campus information during bad weather: USA Weather Hotline at 460-6999, USA Web site at www.southalabama.edu and campus-wide blanket e-mail.

Problems: If you are having any sort of difficulty with the class, please see me immediately. I encourage you to ask questions during class, but if you are uncomfortable asking questions, during lecture you may see me by scheduling an appointment. You may schedule an appointment with me immediately following class lectures, or by calling 460-6331 and leaving a message, or by leaving a message in my box in Room 124.

Lecture Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Jan. 8	Introduction, Chapter 2
Jan 15	MLK Holiday – no classes
Jan 22	Chapters 3 and 4
Jan 29	Chapters 5 and 6
Feb. 5	Exam 1 (chapters 2 – 6)
Feb. 12	Chapters 7 and 8
Feb. 19	Chapters 9 and 10
Feb. 26	Chapters 11 and 12
Mar. 5	Exam 2 (chapters 7 – 12)
Mar. 12	Spring Break – no classes
Mar. 19	Chapters 13 and 14
Mar. 26	Chapters 17 and 18
Apr. 2	Chapters 19 and 20
Apr. 9	Exam 3 (chapters 13, 14, 17 – 20)

Apr. 16

Chapters 21, 22 and 23

Apr. 23

Chapters 24, 25 and review

Apr. 30

Final Exam - Comprehensive