

Syllabus

GENERAL BIOLOGY I

Biology 1306

Instructor: Jared Dickson

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, or by appointment

Class Hours: TuTh 5:30PM – 6:50PM

Course Objectives: Biology 1306 is the first of two courses designed to provide a thorough introduction to biological science. The goal of the course is that students learn important facts about the natural world and understand the significance of these facts within the context of major biological concepts.

Student Learning Outcomes: After this class you should be able to...

- Define biology and evolution
- Comprehend and apply the scientific process
- Describe a cell, its' parts, how it uses energy (respiration and photosynthesis), its' processes of replication (mitosis and meiosis), and the relevance of those things to patterns of inheritance (genetics)
- Understand the significance of biology to you and your life
- Apply the knowledge you have acquired to make educated decisions as a member of society

Required Textbook and Other Materials:

Biology 2e – Open Stax (Free Textbook)

<https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e/?Book%20details>

[Links to an external site.](#)

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated based on the following work:

1. Participation is worth 10% of your grade. This will include keeping up with readings, attendance, and actively participating in class discussions.
2. Quizzes worth 15% of final grade
3. Examinations. Three regular exams (50%) and a final exam (25%) will be given. **In the event you wish to dispute an exam question, an essay outlining your argument must be submitted within one week of the exam being handed back.** Your written appeal should be based on course materials and should stress the scientific validity of your original response.

4. We will follow a 10-point scale for grading:

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79 = C 60-69% = D 0-59% = F

All your course grades will be in Canvas, so you will be able to view your current course grade at any time. Please be aware that I cannot give you EXTRA CREDIT or WORK at the end of the semester. Your average shown in Canvas will determine your final grade in the course.

Exam policy: There will be four exams during the semester. The first three are regular exams consisting of approximately 50 questions (2pt each), while the fourth exam will be a comprehensive final that will consist of approximately 100 questions (1pt each). All exams will be multiple-choice questions. The comprehensive exam will contain new and old content (terminology seen in all old exams). The **majority of questions** will be taken from **lecture content**. **Be warned that I typically DO NOT curve exams, so don't bother to ask! Exams will be scored using the 882-E Green Scantrons. You will need to purchase your scantrons prior to taking the exams!**

Make-up Exams: If you are unable to take an exam when scheduled due to unforeseen illnesses, deaths in the family or other traumatic events, contact me within 24 hrs of the event to schedule a make-up exam. Please provide **documentation** (letters from family are NOT acceptable) of the events that may conflict with exam dates. I will work with you to schedule a makeup exam.

If you are unable to take an exam as scheduled for some sort of Non-emergency issues, then you must let me know well in **ADVANCE**. Students who fail to make timely arrangements will most likely receive a grade of "0" for the exam missed.

Quizzes: There will be **at least** 7 quizzes during the semester (potentially as many as 14). There will be individual and group quizzes this semester. There will be both in class and online (posted on CANVAS) quizzes for you to complete during the semester. For those quizzes taken during class time, if you arrive in class after a quiz has started, you will only have the time remaining on the quiz clock to complete your quiz. For quizzes you take online, you will have point deducted for going over the time allotted for each quiz. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Only your **top 7 highest quiz scores** will count toward your grade. If you miss a quiz for **ANY** reason (including illness and excused travel absences), that quiz will be counted as one of the dropped scores. **There will be NO make-up quizzes.**

For online quizzes please make sure you are using a computer that is on **RELIABLE** internet connection. If you are knocked offline while taking a quiz, I may have to clear the quiz before another attempt can be made. If this happens, simply email as soon as it happens, and I will clear your attempt. Keep in mind that if you start the quiz with only a few minutes left before it closes, I will not be able to clear your response, and you will get a "0" for the attempt.

CANVAS: Students should log onto **Canvas** ASAP and carefully read all announcements. Canvas and student email should be checked **DAILY** for new announcements or messages. On Canvas you will find lecture outlines, reviews for exams, videos, discussion board posts, and much more that will be very helpful for you as you take this course. You will also have quizzes posted throughout the

semester under the module sections (labeled Quizzes). Announcements will be posted when these quizzes are active for you to take. Another really helpful tool is that **all course grades will be in Canvas, so students will be able to view and calculate their current course grade at any time.**

Attendance/Participation: Attendance and participation are essential to success in this class. If you miss class it is your responsibility to contact another student (not the instructor) to get notes and other announcements made during class.

Academic Integrity: Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student in all undertakings at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. **Be forewarned that possession of anything containing course content will be considered cheating, whether or not you actually refer to it during the exam.** Also be aware that **TALKING during an EXAM to anyone other than the instructor or proctor will automatically be considered cheating.** It does not matter what you were talking about. This includes the use of **cell phones** (even if they call YOU) or any other electronic device that could be used to record test material. Violation of this policy will be **considered cheating and treated accordingly.** Penalties for cheating include anything from a **zero on the exam or quiz** during which the cheating occurred, up to an **F for the course in question**, at the discretion of the instructor.

Supplemental Instruction (SI): Group study sessions are offered several times per week, led by specially trained students. Students that participate in these sessions regularly **score significantly higher on exams**, so attend whenever possible. Session schedules are posted on Canvas and will be announced regularly in the class by your SI Leader.

Students Rights and Responsibilities: To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link:

<http://www2.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php> (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies: Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar> (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

[Links to an external site.](#) Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise

grade replacement for only three-course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy: Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible diagnoses such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

[Links to an external site.](#) and fill out the [New Student](#) application. The **Student Accessibility and Resources** (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

[Links to an external site.](#), the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance: Students who anticipate being absent from class

due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second-class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities: If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement: It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation: Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by the University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Concealed Handgun Policy: We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php> (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

UT Tyler Tobacco-Free Policy: All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

- Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.
- There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)
- [Links to an external site.](#)

Schedule of Topics - BIOL 1306:

Topic	Chapter
Introduction	1
Chemical Context of Life	2
Carbon and Molecular Diversity of Life	3
Tour of the Cell	4
Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling	5,9
EXAM I – ** Feb. 6th	
Introduction to Metabolism	6
Cellular Respiration and Fermentation	7
Photosynthesis	8
The Cell Cycle	9
Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles	10
EXAM II – ** March 13th	
Mendel and the Gene Idea	11
Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance	12
Molecular Basis of Inheritance	13
Gene expression (Gene to Protein)	14
Regulation of Gene Expression	15
EXAM III – ** April 10th	
Development, Stem Cells, and Cancer	16
Viruses	17

****Tentative Exam Dates – subject to change**

No classes: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - Jan. 20, 2025

Spring Break - March 17-21, 2025

Last Day to Drop with a “W”: March 31, 2025

Final Exam: Tuesday April 29: 4:15pm - 6:15pm