

BIO 1409 (4:3:3)

General Biology for Non-Science Majors II

Department of Biology
Division of Arts and Sciences
SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE
Levelland Campus

Dr. Eric Niederhauser
Spring 2025 ONLINE

Biology II for Non-Science Majors (BIOL 1409) Spring 2025 Online

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Eric Niederhauser

OFFICE PHONE: 806 716-2321

EMAIL: eniederhauser@southplainscollege.edu. Please include “**1409 Online**” in the subject. I teach a few courses and the answer to your question will likely depend on what course you are in. 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 in S81: Mon: 11:00 – 12:00; Tue: 9:30 – 10:30; Wed: 2:00 – 3:00; Thu: 1:00 – 2:00; Fri: 9:00 – 11:00. 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 will post any 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 a survey (overview) of life. We will look at all major life forms - from bacteria to animals. We will look at the physical and chemical properties of life, organization, structure, function, evolutionary adaptation, and classification. This is a part of a two-semester set of classes – though the other semester is not required. This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Life and Physical Sciences Foundational Component Area (030). Core Curriculum Objectives addressed: Communication skills, Critical thinking skills, Empirical and quantitative competency skills, Teamwork, Personal responsibility, Social responsibility.

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.
- Camera or scanner to take pictures of completed written assignments.
- Chrome with the Honorlock browser extension installed.
- Access to McGraw Hill Connect virtual labs.

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 and purchase 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 8:00 am on both Tuesdays and Thursdays - 2.5 hour weekly total.

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.

LABORATORY: You are required to complete graded weekly lab activities. Paper lab assignments will be posted and most weeks will have online lab-simulation sets accessed through McGraw-Hill Connect in Blackboard. It is anticipated that lab activities will take about 2 hours (some may take a bit more, some much less).

Understanding of lab concepts will be assessed in lab exams. These will be posted on Mondays of exam weeks.

Lab activities are posted Monday morning and due the next Monday at the end of the day.

QUIZZES: Each Friday at 8:00 am, except exam weeks, one 5-10 question quiz addressing the week's lecture topics will be posted. You will not be able to take the quizzes until the lectures have been completed. Your identity will be verified by Honorlock. Quizzes will be available to take until Monday at the end of the day. After that, any blank quiz grades will be changed to zero. There are no makeup quizzes.

EXAMS: There will be four mid-term exams and one final exam. Expect multiple choice, true or false, fill-in-the blank and short answer questions. Exams will not open if the lectures have not been completed.

Exams will be available to take beginning at 8:00 am on the scheduled Friday and will close Mondays at the end of the day.

Your identity will be verified, and the exams will be proctored by Honorlock.

Do not neglect to take exams. Because of the nature of online courses, and the length of time in which you can choose to take the exam, there are no makeup exams. You will receive a zero for missed exams.

GRADING SUMMARY

Grade Type	Percentage of Grade
Exams	60 %
Lab Assignments and Exams	20 %
In-Lecture Questions	10 %
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: April 24, 2025

Exam Procedures with Honorlock

Quiz/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 may be given.
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.

Policies, Procedures and Rules

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

Attendance is based on your weekly quizzes and lab completion. If you fail to take the weekly quizzes for two weeks, you will be counted absent for both weeks and may be dropped from the class. Because this is a lab-integrated course, failure to complete three or more lab activity sets will result in being dropped from the course. Extenuating circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Students who fail to complete assignments will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php.

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.

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, Mr. Alan Worley, 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.

ONLINE Bio 1409 Spring 2025 Tentative Schedule

Unit	Week	Date	Lecture Topic	Laboratory Topic	
Introduction to Diversity	1	Tue, Jan 14	Intro, Life Defined and	Taxonomy	
		Thur, Jan 16	History of Life		
		Fri Jan 17	Quiz 1		
	2	Tue, Jan 21	No Lecture	Microscope Review, Microbes, Protista	
		Thur, Jan 23	Prokaryotes		
		Fri Jan 24	Quiz 2		
	3	Tue, Jan 28	Protista	Fungi and Plant Diversity	
		Thur, Jan 30	Fungi		
		Fri Jan 31	Quiz 3		
	4	Tue, Feb 4	Plant Diversity	Lab Test	
		Thur, Feb 6			
		Fri Feb 7	TEST 1		
Plants	5	Tue, Feb 11	Plant Structure	Plant Morphology and Anatomy	
		Thur, Feb 13	Plant Function		
		Fri Feb 14	Quiz 4		
	6	Tue, Feb 18	Flowering Plant Reproduction	Plant Reproduction	
		Thur, Feb 20	Plant hormones and behavior		
		Fri Feb 21	Quiz 5		
	7	Tue, Feb 25	Plants and people, Ecology Link	Lab Test	
		Thur, Feb 27			
		Fri Feb 28	TEST 2		
	Animals: Invertebrates	8	Tue, Mar 4	Animal Classification	Dissection: Roundworm/Earthworm; ID: Sponges, Cnidarians,
Thur, Mar 6			Porifera/Cnidarians/Flatworms		
Fri Mar 7			Quiz 6		
9		Tue, Mar 11	Roundworms	Dissection Crayfish; ID: Molluscs, Annelids, Echinoderms	
		Thur, Mar 13	Annelids/Mollusks/Echinoderms		
		Fri Mar 14	Quiz 7		
Spring Break March 17-21					
10		Tue, Mar 25	Arthropods 1	Dissection: Fish; ID: Arthropods	
		Thur, Mar 27	Arthropods 2		
		Fri Mar 28	TEST 3		
Animals: Vertebrates	11	Tue, Apr 1	Vertebrate Diversity /Fish	Dissection: Frog; ID: Vertebrates	
		Thur, Apr 3	Amphibians, Reptiles		
		Fri Apr 4	Quiz 8		
	12	Tue, Apr 8	Reptiles 2 (Birds)	Lab Test	
		Thur, Apr 10	Mammals		
		Fri Apr 11	TEST 4		
Anatomy and Physiology	13	Tue, Apr 15	Organization	Dissection: Pig; Torso and Heart Model	
		Thur, Apr 17	Exchanges and Regulation		
		Fri Apr 18	Quiz 9		
	14	Tue, Apr 22	Nutrition and Digestion	Dissection: Pig; Torso and Heart Model	
		Thur, Apr 24	Reproductive system		
		Fri Apr 25	Quiz 10		
	15	Tue, Apr 29	Circulation and Respiration	Lab Test	
		Thur, May 1	Immune System		
		Fri May 2	Final Exam Opens 8 a.m.		