

**MICROBIOLOGY
(BIOLOGY 2420)**

Hybrid course

Syllabus 2025 Spring

PROFESSOR: Philip D. Ricker, Professor of Microbiology

OFFICE: My office is in the Science building, S140. My office hours can be found in the Instructor Information folder on the Blackboard course page. I do highly encourage you to make appointments ahead of time for office visits. Office visits can be in person or virtual.

TELEPHONE: My office telephone is 806-716-2314. If you leave a voice mail, I will receive it, however it may be a day or two before I listen to it. Email is the better way to reach me (see below). For **emergencies only**, you may text me at 806-891-4159. If you e-mail me from Blackboard, then your reply will go to your school e-mail. Any announcements I might make will also go to your school e-mail. NO, I cannot set it up to go to your personal email. However, if you email me from your personal email, I will reply to that email. My E-MAIL: pricker@southplainscollege.edu

OFFICE HOURS: I will have office hours several days during the week. However, we can also “talk” via FaceTime or Zoom or just a good old traditional voicecall. I do have particular hours I am in the office, however, since we will not be meeting face to face, we can really “meet” or talk almost any time. Just send me an email and we can arrange a time. Again, if it is an emergency, then send me a text.

PURPOSE: Microbiology. (4:3:4) A general microbiology course that covers the morphology and physiology of microorganisms with particular emphasis on the microbial relationship to disease, pathogenicity, and the immune response. Microorganisms include bacteria, viruses, and well as several other microbes.

Coronavirus is a microbe. Look how one little virus that is too small to be seen under the best of light microscopes has changed the course of the world!

This course satisfies the requirements for an Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degree as well as requirements for certification in some allied health fields.

TEXTBOOK: Microbiology, online edition from openstax.org, is the text and is optional for this class. The electronic format of the text can be downloaded for free. To download the text, go to openstax.org, search for microbiology. There is only one text for microbiology. For the lab portion, all necessary material and supplies are provided. Some via handouts, some via Blackboard.

A word about internet classes: The lecture portion of this class is via video lectures on Blackboard. Internet classes are very appealing because they allow students to complete a course within their own schedule. However, the downside is that the failure rate for internet classes is high. The only reason for a high failure rate is that students do not watch the lectures and study weekly.. It is too easy to wait until the last minute to watch the lectures .

COURSE STRUCTURE:

LECTURE: . The Lecture material for the course is divided into 5 units. Each unit, you will have lecture material you will need to read, review, research and study. Within the content folder of blackboard is a folder for each unit which contains the lecture material. You will need to watch/read the lecture material and study just like a regular class. The lecture material will contain a mixture of PowerPoints (some enhanced with audio or video) and study materials.

EXAMINATION POLICY: Four major exams plus the final exam will be administered during the semester. The actual exam dates may vary slightly from the course outline and any changes will be announced in advance. Each exam will cover both lecture and laboratory assignments. During exams, all books, backpacks, papers, etc., must be left at the front of the classroom. Purses may be taken to your seat, but must remain closed. Any student caught cheating will receive a “0” on that exam and will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Exams will be taken in person during regularly scheduled lab time.

If an exam is missed, the exam must be made up within seven days of the exam date. If a student misses an exam without prior permission and must make up the exam, a penalty of 10 points will be assessed on the first make up exam. A penalty of 30 points will be assessed on the second make up exam. Under no circumstances will a student be allowed to take more than two make up exams.

GRADING POLICY AND COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION:

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam I	100 pts
Exam II	100 pts
Exam III	100 pts
Exam IV	100 pts
Unknown work in lab	50 pts
Final exam	50 pts
Total possible points	500 pts

A student with total points of:

450 or above will receive an "A"
400 to 449 will receive a "B"
350 to 399 will receive a "C"
300 to 349 will receive a "D"
below 300 will receive an "F"

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, examinations, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Missing in-text citations.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet, apps) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

CELL PHONE/ELECTRONICS/CAP POLICY:

It is requested that cell phones be turned off during lecture. In addition, I require all cell phones to be turned off during exams. If a cell phone rings during an exam, the student will be asked to leave the exam and will not be allowed to complete the exam!

In addition, during exams, no electronic devices are allowed. This includes calculators, cameras, PDA's etc. If I see it, I will take your exam and you will receive a grade of zero for the exam. Caps and hats are also not allowed during exams. These must be removed and placed under your seat during the exam.

During exams, if you need a new pencil, pen, or something else during the exam, you are NOT allowed to get it out of your purse or backpack. If you need something, the instructor will have pens and pencils to borrow.

Once an exam starts, students are not allowed to leave the room during the exam until he/she is ready to turn in the exam. So please remember to get a drink and use the restroom before the exam starts.

LAB CLEAN-UP:

All students are required to participate in lab clean-up on designated days. Students who do not actively participate in lab clean up will NOT be allowed to take the final exam and will receive a grade of zero for the final. Let me repeat, you must participate in the lab clean up day or you will receive a zero on the final exam. The lab clean-ups will NOT be announced in advance.

ATTENDANCE POLICY Any student who initiates their own withdrawal from the course before the last day to drop will NOT be penalized and will receive a "W" on their transcript. Any student who does not log into Blackboard for 7 days in a row, or does not complete two or more virtual labs might be administratively withdrawn from the course.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY: The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is April 27th. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Blackboard keeps the number of points you have accumulated, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help you decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

COVID-19: For information and resources about COVID-19, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php>.

SPC Tutors

Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, get to know the tutors, and view tutoring locations.

