

BRAZOSPORT COLLEGE

SYLLABUS for Spring 2016

M/W General Biology 2 Lecture: BIOL 1307

Instructor: Isaiah G. Schauer, Ph.D.

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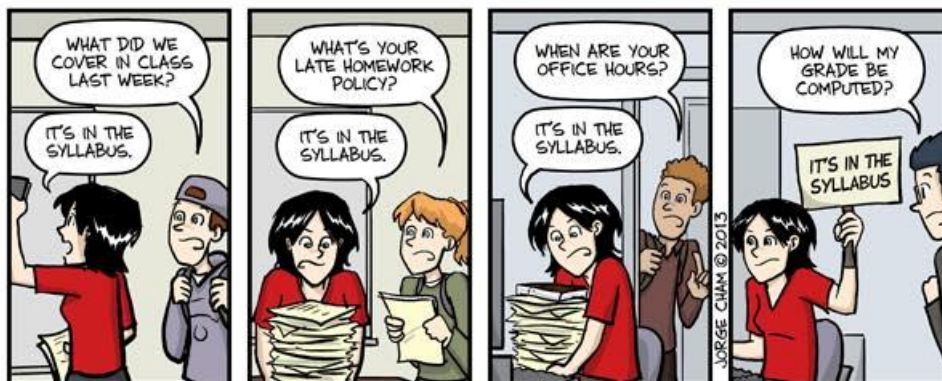
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Alt. phone: 230-3225 (Mrs. Debbie Duncan – Admin Office Specialist – Sadler 225K)

Virtual Campus: <https://online.brazosport.edu> login with BC username & password and click on the course link for “**BIOL1307-ISCHAUER-Supplemental**”

Course Description: General Biology 1307 is a survey of the fundamental principles of living organisms including structural adaptations and how they relate to function. Evolutionary adaptation will be addressed with an emphasis on genetics, population dynamics, and ecology. *Prerequisite:* General Biology 1306

Please carefully read the entire document as it answers nearly all frequently asked questions about my course; see comic below which reinforces this point.



IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor that ever lived.

Course Textbook: *Biology*, 10th edition; Campbell *et al.*, Pearson Publishing
ISBN 13: 9780321775658

- 9th edition is acceptable; some discrepancies in lecture slide figures and page numbers
- If you're interested in a free Biology textbook (different authors, different publishing company) that covers nearly all of the topics we discuss, in PDF format, **email me**
- Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is **not under any obligation** to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The

same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Course Goals:

- I. Students will become familiar with basic biological principles, theories, and terminology and become aware of the vibrant living world in which they live through lectures, discussions and coordinated laboratory exercises.
- II. Students will be capable of distinguishing differences between qualitative and quantitative approaches in the Scientific Method, how these approaches differ from other means of inquiry, and will learn how Biologists communicate their findings.
- III. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the chemical basis of life, basic cellular organization, and the critical nature of biological membranes, intracellular and intercellular communication, cellular energetics, chromosomal maintenance, and gene expression and regulation mechanisms through exams and assignments.
- IV. Students will exhibit understanding of the genetic mechanisms underlying patterns of inheritance and phenotypic adaptation within the context of Darwinian evolution and speciation through exams and assignments.
- V. Students will understand the major successes and yet unsolved questions facing modern Biology, including issues that touch upon ethics and public health policy.
- VI. Students will develop an awareness of the interdependence of biology and biomedical technology, as well as their influence on and contribution to modern culture.
- VII. The course design also provides students majoring in a science with information that serves as a basis for further study in biology.

Keys to Success:

- i. Join or start a **study group**.
- ii. Plan a specific study time each day/week & **stick to it: 9-12 hr/week**.
- iii. Read the chapter material (all or partial) **before** class.
- iv. Ask lots of **questions in class**.
- v. Review lecture slides and notes after each class.
- vi. **Don't wait** until the day before to study for a test. Doesn't work in College.
- vii. Don't let a low score discourage you. Patience & hard work pays off.

Grading: Course grade will be determined by adding the points you've earned in lecture from the following activities:

800 course points maximum:

500 points from Exams: **4 Semester Exams & a Comprehensive Final**

100 points each

Final is **mandatory** (replaces lowest **taken** Exam score)

300 points from Assignments

2 Literature Reviews worth **200 points**

1 Presentation in class worth **100 points**

Semester-At-A-Glance Schedule for Dr. Schauer's General Biology 2
Mon/Wed Lecture SPRING 2016

Class Day	Lecture Topic(s)	Campbell 10th Ed Chap
January 11	Course Introduction & Syllabus	
January 13	Descent with Modification: A Darwinian View	Chap 22
Monday January 18th: BC closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day		
January 20	Descent with Modification: A Darwinian View	Chap 22
January 25	The Origin of Species	Chap 24
January 27	The History of Life on Earth	Chap 25
February 1	The History of Life on Earth	Chap 25
Wednesday February 3rd: Exam 1 (Chap 22, 24, 25) in class		
February 8	Phylogeny & the Tree of Life	Chap 26
February 10	Introduction to Invertebrates	Chap 33
February 15	Introduction to Invertebrates	Chap 33
February 17	Origin & Evolution of Vertebrates	Chap 34
February 22	Origin & Evolution of Vertebrates	Chap 34
Wednesday February 24th: Exam 2 (Chap 26, 33, 34) in class		
February 29	Basic Principles of Animal Form and Function	Chap 40
March 2	Basic Principles of Animal Form and Function	Chap 40
Sunday March 6th: Lit Review 1 Due on D2L in Dropbox by 11:30pm		
March 7-11: BC closed for Spring Break		
March 14	The Immune System	Chap 43
March 16	The Immune System	Chap 43
March 21	The Immune System	Chap 43
Wednesday March 23rd: Exam 3 (Chap 40 & 43) in class		
Last day to withdraw from any BC course is Thursday March 24th		
March 28	Sensory & Motor Mechanisms	Chap 50
March 30	Sensory & Motor Mechanisms	Chap 50
April 4	Sensory & Motor Mechanisms	Chap 50
April 6	Sensory & Motor Mechanisms	Chap 50
April 11	Review / Study Day	
Wednesday April 13th: Exam 4 (Chap 50) in class		
Friday April 15th: Lit Review 2 Due on D2L in Dropbox by 11:30pm		
Sunday April 17th: PowerPoint Due on D2L in Dropbox by 11:30pm		
April 18	In-Class Presentations & Reviewing Old Exams for Final	
April 20	In-Class Presentations & Reviewing Old Exams for Final	
April 25	In-Class Presentations & Reviewing Old Exams for Final	
April 27	In-Class Presentations & Reviewing Old Exams for Final	
Final Exam in class from 5 – 7pm on Monday May 2nd		

Grading Scale: Points from lecture and lab will be totaled and your grade determined as follows:

Percentage of points earned	Letter grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or less	F

EXTRA CREDIT *may be offered* during the semester. The last page of my Exams, GATOR activities and extra SI sessions are the typical routes for EC points. However, the decisions of when to offer EC, and how many points are offered, are entirely at my discretion.

Lecture Mechanics: Please read assigned chapters *before* or *as close as possible after* class. This will *greatly enhance* your understanding of lectures. Participation in lecture in partner discussion and by asking questions is *highly encouraged*.

EXAM INFO: Semester exams will consist of scantron multiple-choice & true/false, as well as a visual matching section, fill-in-the-blank diagrams, short answer, and 1 or 2 essays at my discretion. Your instructor keeps all graded Exams in his office; these **may not** be taken home, copied, photographed or re-typed by students at any time. They will be available for intense studying during presentation class days (see schedule near end of doc) and during certain S.I. sessions. The **Final** exam is a *mandatory, comprehensive* test covering a random selection of all scantron questions from all semester exams. **The Final exam score will replace the lowest-scoring semester exam score, thus it can count twice and be worth up to 200 points. But this will happen only if the final score is higher, and all Exams have been taken.** Any student that is *late by 15 minutes or more* for an exam will not be able to take that exam. Makeup exams *are allowed at my discretion*, and **only** if 1) permission is requested before the exam and 2) the reason for missing the exam is a family/childcare/medical/job-related emergency that cannot be altered or re-scheduled (i.e. examples of situations that would not qualify for a makeup include a routine, scheduled doctor's visit or a shopping trip with family or friends to Houston). Exam study guides will be handed out at my discretion. All information needed for the exams can be found in your lecture notes and in the textbook. **Do not ask your instructor what will be on the Exams or for information about how the material will appear in question form, because academic honesty dictates that I cannot and will not tell you in advance.**

LITERATURE REVIEW INFO: Writing assignments, worth 200 points, will occur during the semester. *Instructions and documents needed for this assignment are posted on the D2L course website.* Your writing assignments will be based on reading, summarizing and analyzing, in a clear and concise manner current, up-to-date scientific review articles about research trends in Biology. *You'll turn in the following via a D2L Drop Box: writing center-reviewed and signed rough draft, writing tutor reflection, and the final, revised, edited, & polished version,. See Literature Review instructions posted*

on D2L, as well as the schedule below for the due date. The writing assignments must be turned in on time, without exception, for full credit. There is a *10% reduction in your total score* for every 1 hour the assignment is late. Writing assignments will not be accepted **after 2 school days** past the due date, and a grade of zero will then be assigned.

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION INFO: Each student will deliver an 8-10 minute PowerPoint presentation during the last week(s) of the semester, based on a selected topic picked by me from selected chapters in our textbook. ***The topic assigned to you will be shown on a topic list and schedule that I'll post on the D2L course website mid-semester. I'll announce this in class too.*** I will evaluate you based on content, clarity, audience interaction, and style of information presentation on screen and verbally. ***Instructions and documents needed for these assignments are posted on the D2L course website. You'll turn in your Presentation in advance, using a D2L DropBox, according to the schedule that will be posted mid-semester.***

Electronic devices policy: You may NOT use items of these types during class: Phones, pagers, personal MP3 players, portable DVD players, portable gaming devices, or any other type of portable entertainment device. **In the classroom or lab please turn off all devices, or at the very least set them to vibrate.** *If your job/work/family situation requires you to keep a cell phone/pager with you on at all times,* be sure to 1) talk with me during the 1st week of class, 2) send me an email stating why for record-keeping purposes, and 3) take any calls out in the hallway. **You may use a laptop/tablet to take notes**, however this privilege will be revoked if you are found using your device for **any** other purpose during my lecture **even once**. Feel free to utilize digital recording for lecture. I'm entirely comfortable stationing devices on my lecture podium for a higher quality recording. Re-listening to your lectures is a very effective study aid that will assist you in **all** of your coursework at the College level. *If a phone or e-device goes off during lecture or lab:* The device owner will **lose 30 points** from their total grade (*except during the Week 1 grace period*). *If a device goes off during an Exam or Final:* The device owner will **lose 60 points** from that Exam/Final score. **(To be blunt, you will have just failed the test, regardless of your studying & preparation.)**

Participation policy: This is College. You, your family member, or the government are paying \$\$\$ so that you can learn this material. Thus, all students are expected to **fully participate** in this course every day we meet. If you have an immediate family or personal emergency which may result in not being present, **contact me in advance or as soon as possible** so that options may be discussed. Those who attend **90% or more of the time on course days** will receive **participation points** added to their final point total for the course, which may result in an improved final grade (Ex: *you've missed only 2 lectures during the entire course,* I calculate your final grade & you end at an 89.2, *because you've attended regularly I'll give you the points needed to make a 90.*) **Plan to be in your seat five (5) minutes prior to class.** Depending on **class dynamics**, I reserve judgment on deciding the seating arrangement in lecture or lab.

Withdrawal policy: The Brazosport College Biology Department and I believe attendance is **critical** for the **comprehension** of material. However, my policy is not to

decide whether to withdraw you from my course for lack of attendance. Each student must make the decision to withdraw themselves before the withdraw deadline.

Authority clause and Behavior policy: You are all now considered **adults**, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities therein. The College and your instructor will assume that all of you know how to conduct yourself in a respectful, polite, and college-level appropriate behavioral manner. However, **the lecture classroom is not a democracy - - it is instead an autocracy**. By rank and position, your instructor **retains all control** over maintaining the classroom learning environment. Thus, **disruptive behavior won't** be tolerated in the slightest during lecture or lab. This includes, but is not limited to: excessive or loud conversations, inappropriate gestures, inappropriate or insulting conversational topics, bullying or demeaning other students or your instructor, challenging the authority of your instructor on grades, behavior, decisions, classroom and lab activities, or anything else that your instructor deems disruptive and distracting to the learning environment. Habitual or repeated disruptive behavior of any type **WILL** result in the **loss of Course points** at my discretion and **may lead to withdrawal** from the course at my discretion. In addition, habitual or repeated **tardiness** to class or lab will result in the **loss of Course points** at my discretion, and **may lead to withdrawal** from the course at my discretion.

Academic honesty policy: The College and your instructor will assume that students eligible to perform at the college level are familiar with, and will abide by, the standard rules governing legal and appropriate conduct, especially with regard to academic honesty. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>. Briefly, **the central principle of academic honesty is that all work presented for a grade by you is yours only and yours alone**. Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. Each student must do their **own work** (*meaning not written by someone else or copied from another individual*) on lecture exams and writing assignments. Academic dishonesty therefore includes, but is not limited to: cheating in any way, plagiarism of published or online material of any kind, and collusion (allowing or enabling a fellow student to cheat). **Let me be crystal clear: Cheating is NOT TOLERATED, under any context, in lecture or in lab. If you are caught cheating, plagiarizing, colluding to cheat you will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for review and assignment of punishment, which can include an F on the assignment/Exam in question, an F in the course, or (in rare cases or repetitive academic dishonesty) suspension.** If you are having trouble understanding any concepts or assignments please **come to talk to me before your resort to cheating or colluding.**

Student services provided by Brazosport College: To contact the Math/Science Division call (979) 230-3225. Information about the College Library is available on the website or by calling (979) 230-3310. The Student Services area provides the following services: Counseling and Advising at (979) 230-3040; Financial Aid at (979) 230-3294; and Student Activities at (979) 230-3355. Tutoring for Math, Reading, Writing, Environmental Science, Chemistry, and other subjects is available in the Student Success Center; please call (979) 230-3527 for more information. Located within the Student

Success Center (second floor of the main building above the counseling and registration office) is the BC Writing Center. The Writing Center provides drop-in tutoring Monday – Thursday 9 am – 8 pm and Friday 9 am – noon. However, **there are only 2-3 tutors available on any given day, thus you need to plan on going there 4-5 days prior to the assignment due date.** Online writing tutor sessions are also offered; an instructional video on this process will be posted on the course website. The Writing Center can assist with brainstorming, organizing and developing paragraphs, understanding professors' directions, learning about APA or other writing styles, learning how to avoid plagiarism, improving mechanics, using Microsoft Word, becoming a stronger writer, and much more. **To schedule an Exam**, please contact the Testing Services department (formerly the LAC) at (979) 230-3253. Testing schedules are limited so please sign up early. Learning Services is open 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday & 7:30 a.m. – Noon on Fridays, and is located on the 1st floor of the Main building next to Library.

Students with disabilities: Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor, at (979) 230-3236 for further information.

Availability of your Instructor on Fridays, Weekends, or Holidays: Unless indicated otherwise by your instructor during class, your instructor is not available by phone or email on Fridays – Weekends – or Holidays. Expect a **return phone call** or **email reply** from your instructor ***ONLY*** during standard business hours, Office hours, or hours listed on his Semester schedule posted for each class he teaches on the next business day. (<http://www.brazosport.edu/sites/CurrentStudents/Faculty/IsaiahSchauer/Pages/default.aspx>) With regard to phone calls, your instructor ***only returns calls made by students who leave voicemail messages.***

Tracking My Grades throughout the Semester

GRADED LECTURE ACTIVITIES (in **chronological** order)

ACTIVITY	POINTS	% OF COURSE GRADE	YOUR SCORE
Exam 1	100	12.5%	
Exam 2	100	12.5%	
Lit Review 1	100	12.5%	
Exam 3	100	12.5%	
Exam 4	100	12.5%	
Lit Review 2	100	12.5%	
Presentation	100	12.5%	
*Final	*100 or 200	*12.5% or 25%	
TOTAL	800	100%	

* The Final replaces the lowest scoring semester Exam, and can therefore provide up to 200 course points. If your Final score is less than your lowest scoring semester Exam, it simply provides up to 100 course points.

FIGURING MY GRADE AT ANY TIME IN THE SEMESTER:

1. Add the *points you've received* thus far.
2. Divide by the *total points available* thus far.
3. Multiple by 100 to get your current percentage

FIGURING MY COURSE GRADE:

1. Divide your total course points by 8 to determine your % of points earned.
3. Determine your grade by comparing to this grading scale:

Percentage of points earned	Letter grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or less	F