

CONTEMPORARY BIOLOGY I

Bio. 1233 Section 003

MW 4:00-5:15 p.m.

Instructor: Pattie Thompson, M.S.

Office: SB 3.01.39T

Phone: (210) 458-5921

E-mail: pattie.thompson@utsa.edu

Office hours: Wed 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. and by appointment

Spring 2009

SB 1.02.08

Required Text: What is Life? Jay Phelan, 2010, W.H. Freeman and Co.; iclicker.

Prerequisites: none

EXAM DATES

Wednesday, Sep. 18

Exam 1

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Exam 2

Wednesday, Nov. 6

Exam 3

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Exam 4

Friday, Dec 11

Final Exam

1:30 – 4:00

MATERIAL COVERED

Chapters 1-4 and

Outside readings

Chapters 5-7 and

Outside readings

Chapters 8-10 and

Outside readings

Chapters 11-13 and

Outside readings

Materials from all

previous exams

Other important dates:

Oct. 29, 8:00 a.m. – Last day to withdraw (sophomores and above)

Nov. 25 – no class

Dec. 2, 8:00 a.m. – Last day to withdraw (freshmen only)

POLICY

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance in class is critical to the learning process. To encourage you, questions will be interspersed during the lecture throughout the semester. You must have an **iclicker** to answer these questions. No answers written on paper will be accepted. You will be graded on participation as well as mastery of information.

GRADING: There will be 4 mid term exams of equal weight, and one comprehensive final. The four exams will have 30, 3 pt. questions each. The final will have 60, 2-pt. questions. All exams except the final will contain one essay question for extra credit of up to 10 points. **NO EXAMS WILL BE DROPPED!**

Final grades will be based on exams (70%) and class participation (iclickers and other assignments) (30%).

Exams: 4 X 90 = 360

Final exam 120

Class Participation 206

Total points available: 686

Grading scale will be: >617 A, 548-616 B, 460-547 C, 377-459 D, below 377 F.

Hold all graded work in the event a question arises regarding your grade.

SCANTRON FORMS: For exams you will need the **ParSCORE Test Form** (*Red* and it has a space for your ID number).

MAKE-UP EXAM: Make-up exams will be nine essay questions and most probably more difficult than the regular exams. You must schedule a make-up exam within **3 days** of the originally scheduled exam and you must have a **verifiable** excuse for missing the exam.

Course description: Contemporary Biology I - An introduction to the science of biology, emphasizing a study of the basis of life forms. Topics include cell biology, energetics, metabolism, and genetics, evolution and diversity. Presentation of material will include practical applications and current topics in biology.

Course objective: Students provide evidence of understanding the fundamental concepts of the aspects of biology covered in this class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

Policy on cheating: Students are expected to be above reproach in scholastic activities. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an exam for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Regents Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

STUDENTS WHO DISRUPT CLASS EITHER BY EXCESSIVE TALKING (NOT RELATED TO CLASS DISCUSSION) OR BY COMING IN LATE, LEAVING EARLY OR LEAVING AND RETURNING DURING CLASS MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

STUDY TIPS

1. **Read ahead of time.** Read for general understanding. Don't get bogged down on details the first time through.
2. **Let the textbook guide you.** Key in on the "take-home" messages.
3. **Get to class on time.** I begin each lecture with a brief review of the previous day's lecture which requires your participation.
4. **Take good lecture notes.** Listen for key ideas. Don't copy every word I say. You may want to record the lectures.
5. **Work in a study group.** If you can explain it to someone, then you probably really understand it. Flash cards are a good idea for those things that you have to memorize.
6. **Ask questions.** There will be a chance at the beginning and, hopefully, end of every class for questions. Feel free to interrupt with clarification type questions but save the "Can you start over from the beginning?" questions for office hours!
7. **Enjoy the material!**

The web site for registration of the iclicker is <http://www.iclicker.com/registration>.