

**Organismal Biology – BIOL 1306 (Summer II 2023) CRN # 34439**

Business Center (BUSN) 313 (11:40 am to 1:50 pm MTWRF)

Dr. Colin A. Bill (Dr. Bill or Prof. Bill)

Office: Biology B103

([cabill@utep.edu](mailto:cabill@utep.edu)) – preferred contact

Office Hours: TR 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Tel: 915-747-5589

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course will provide an understanding of the following:

- Introduction to evolutionary processes.
- Introduction to the origins and diversity of life forms from the three domains of life including some basic anatomy and physiology.

Textbook: *Principles of Life* 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Hillis, Price, Hill, Hall and Laskowski. Macmillan Press 2022 – DIGITAL UPDATE

**Course Requirements**

The course will be via in person lectures. PowerPoints will be provided in Blackboard, which you can review to complement the lectures or as a substitute, if you miss a class.

**It is very important that you check your UTEP email and Blackboard on a frequent basis.** I will not accept excuses that you did not know something because you had not checked your emails/Blackboard/Syllabus and you missed an exam/class work. **If I need to deviate from the syllabus for some reason, I will let you know by email and update the syllabus.**

**Contact Me:** I will attempt to respond to your e-mails within a few hours of receipt. I will likely not respond to emails sent after 6 pm until the following day. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. **Please email me directly, DO NOT use Blackboard message system.**

The course has **three main components**, which will be graded and add up to your final score that will be converted into a letter grade (see below).

**1) Multiple Choice Exams (70% of total score)**

The main component of your overall grade are multiple choice exams. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and **MUST BE COMPLETED** on the day/time specified **IN THE CLASSROOM** using a laptop or iPad. **If you attempt to take any exams outside of the classroom, your score WILL NOT count and will be changed to zero.** If you do not have a suitable laptop, then you will either need to borrow somebody else's or borrow one from the library.

There will be **four regular exams throughout the semester followed by a comprehensive final exam** (total five exams). I will drop your lowest exam score from the four regular exams. **The final exam is compulsory and cannot be dropped.**

All multiple-choice exams will require use of Respondus Lockdown Browser, which can be downloaded from Blackboard (Open Blackboard and go to TOOLS). Please follow the instructions: [https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/Files/docs/MM\\_Respondus-Student.pdf](https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/Files/docs/MM_Respondus-Student.pdf) Please note that you must use Respondus Lockdown Browser downloaded from UTEP, you CANNOT use another version e.g. from EPCC.

The exams **CANNOT** be taken using any other browser.

**Make-up Policy:** There are NO make-up exams. You are expected to take the exam on the specified date.

### **2) In-Class Questions (18% of total score)**

**Quizzes** will pop up during class presentations on material covered that day. Results will be collected using iClicker. **If you miss in-class questions there are no make-up quizzes.**

### **3) In-class Discussions (12% of total score)**

Randomly, we will have an in-class group discussion. I will pose a question related to the topic we are covering in class and students will be expected to discuss the subject matter using the knowledge gained and from outside reading. Participation is required to achieve maximum points. Lack of participation, including missing classes, or little effort put into answers will result in loss of points.

#### **Grading:**

A grade = 80 to 100%

B grade = 70 to < 80%

C grade = 57 to < 70%

D grade = 50 to < 57%

F grade = < 50%

#### **Grade Calculations:**

Grade percentages that add up to your total score will be calculated as follows:

Multiple Choice Exams = 70% of final score

In-class questions = 18% of final score

In-class discussions = 12% of final score

Your final percentage will be converted into a letter grade as listed under grading. Please note that **I do not** round up or down. This means that if your final cumulative score is 56.95% you will receive a D grade. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT.**

**Census Day** (last day to register for class) is July 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Drop Policy:**

**July 27<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) IS THE LAST DAY STUDENTS MAY DROP THE CLASS WITH AN AUTOMATIC “W”.**

UTEP regulations state: “Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F”. It is my policy that students should decide to drop on or before July 27<sup>th</sup> and if they decide to drop after the deadline, they will be assigned a grade of F.

#### **Incomplete Grade**

All grades of Incomplete must be accompanied by an Incomplete Contract that has been signed by me. A grade of Incomplete is only used in extraordinary circumstances confined to a limited event such as a missed exam. If the student missed a significant amount of work (e.g. multiple exams), a grade of Incomplete is not appropriate or warranted.

### Failure to Keep Up with Course Exams/Assignments

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excused absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

**Academic Integrity:** UTEP policy on academic integrity can be found at:

<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>. **ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ON EXAMS OR**

**ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE REPORTED** to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Once I have reported incidents of alleged “Acts of scholastic dishonesty” they will be investigated independently by OSCCR who will either decide that there is insufficient evidence and dismiss the case or they agree that the evidence highly suggests the student was cheating then they will decide the punishment. Typically, the punishment results in a zero score for each exam that the student is cheating, which often results in the student failing the class (F grade).

**No headphones/ear buds allowed during exams.** This should be obvious, but you are not allowed to use anything that could potentially be used to cheat. Anybody who is seen to be using a device that could be used for cheating will be reported to OSCCR for investigation. There is a **zero tolerance**, which means that I will not warn you about being reported and it would be a pity to fail a class when you were just listening to music. If you use a prescription hearing aid then let me know ASAP, so that I can account for their use (I will request proof they are prescription hearing aids and a justification for their use in an exam).

The bottom line is DO NOT CHEAT. The consequences can be dire and potentially prevent you from reaching your career goals. If you are struggling in the class, let me know and we can talk about strategies to succeed.

**Civility Statement:** Please be respectful of all students’ rights. Profanity or threatening language will result in immediate ejection from the session and possible disciplinary action that could lead to the student being removed from the course or in severe cases removed from the university.

**Disability Statement:** If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

### Course Schedule (Subject to change):

| Date | Day | TOPIC  |
|------|-----|--|
| 7/11 | T   | Syllabus Discussion/Ch13: Processes of Evolution |
| 7/12 | W   | Ch13: Processes of Evolution                     |
| 7/13 | R   | Ch15: Evolution of Genes and Genomes             |
| 7/14 | F   | <b>Exam 1</b>                                    |
| 7/17 | M   | Ch15: Evolution of Genes and Genomes             |
| 7/18 | T   | Ch16: Speciation                                 |

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|------|---|--|
| 7/19 | W | Ch16: Speciation                                       |
| 7/20 | R | Ch18: Bacteria, Archaea and Viruses                    |
| 7/21 | F | <b>Exam 2</b>  |
| 7/24 | M | Ch18: Bacteria, Archaea and Viruses                    |
| 7/25 | T | Ch19: The Origin and Diversification of the Eukaryotes |
| 7/26 | W | Ch19: The Origin and Diversification of the Eukaryotes |
| 7/27 | R | Ch20: The Evolution of Plants                          |
| 7/28 | F | <b>Exam 3</b>  |
| 7/31 | M | Ch20: The Evolution of Plants                          |
| 8/01 | T | Ch21: The Evolution and Diversity of Fungi             |
| 8/02 | W | Ch21: The Evolution and Diversity of Fungi             |
| 8/03 | R | Ch22: Animal Origins and Diversity                     |
| 8/04 | F | <b>Exam 4 - Ch22: Animal Origins and Diversity</b>     |
| 8/07 | M | Ch22: Animal Origins and Diversity                     |

**Final Exam – Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup> - 1:00 pm to 3:45 pm**