Course # and Title: BIOL 1306, Organismal Biology (CRN 11082)
Credit Hours: 3 credit hours, lower division
Term: Fall, 2014

Course Meetings and Location: MWF 09:30-10:20 AM, Classroom Bldg (CRBL) C-205
Prerequisite Courses: BIOL 1305-1107; Co-enrollment in, or previous C-or better completion of BIOL 1108, is usually required.

Instructor: Dr. Carl S. Lieb
Office Location: Biology Building B-204 (“old biology bldg.”)
Contact Information: Office telephone: 747-6987  email: cslieb@utep.edu
Warning: The office telephone is the most reliable means for time-sensitive communication. If you insist on using email, and do not receive a reply within a few days, send it again (… and again).

Office Hours: MW 10:35-11:35AM, W 4:00-5:00 PM, R 11:30-12:20 PM, and by appointment (see contact information, above).

Recommended Textbook: Hillis, Sadava, Heller, Price Principles of Life, 2nd Edition [also used by BIOL 1305 and 1303] OR You may use the first edition of the above, OR any current introductory biology textbook for science majors. See postings on Blackboard for equivalencies of reading assignments for other textbook editions previously used by UTEP for BIOL 1306.

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes): There are three principal course objectives: 1) Students will be brought to a basic understanding of the principles of evolution and biosystematics. 2) Students will be exposed to the general pattern of planetary biodiversity through a survey of major organismal groups. 3) Students will begin to analyze the problems that all organisms must solve by study of selected cases in animal and plant physiology. These three objectives are intended to finish the foundation of basic introductory biology laid down in the prerequisite course (BIOL 1305-1107), and, in concert with the BIOL 1306 laboratory course (BIOL 1108), prepare students for taking all sophomore and upper division courses in the biological sciences.

Course Activities/Assignments: This edition of BIOL 1306 is a lecture course; course content is delivered by lecture presentation by the instructor, class discussion, or by special assignment. Chapter readings assigned in the recommended text supplement the lecture sessions for purposes of clarity and completeness; students using other texts will need to find the subject in that text’s index. See Class Schedule, below, for the order in which these subjects are taken up. Should we fall behind in the calendar schedule of topics, examinations will track where we are in the lecture content, not the schedule.
Assessment of Learning: Evaluation will be through three in-class multiple-guess examinations and a comprehensive Final Examination. The examinations contribute proportionately to the final grade as indicated below (none are “dropped”). There is no extra credit of any kind.

Grading Policy: Examinations I-III will be given on the following dates, and will be contributing to the final grade as indicated:

Exam I (20%) – 19 September
Exam II (30%) – 17 October
Exam III (30%) – 24 November

Failure to take Exam I (and square it in prompt fashion with Dr. Lieb; see “no show” policy below) may result in the student being arbitrarily dropped from the class roll. A comprehensive Final Examination will be given on 10 December starting at 10AM. It will represent the 20% of the total grade and must be taken to pass the course.

Examination “No-show” Policy: A missed lecture examination contributes zero percent toward the student’s final course grade, and thus represents a serious perturbation in his/her class progress and a catastrophe for grade expectations. These problems must be handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of Dr. Lieb, who insists that the following two rules be observed: 1) If a student must miss an examination (other than the Final) because of illness, death in the family, University-sponsored event, or other legitimate reason, he or she must contact Dr. Lieb by telephone (747-6987), either BEFORE the test or WITHIN 48 HOURS following the time of the start of the examination and BEFORE the next class period; and 2) subsequently, the student will have one week to personally discuss the situation with Dr. Lieb and arrange an immediate disposition of the case.

Drop Policy: The student drop date is 31 Oct 2014. The results of the first two lecture examinations will be known by that time, and the students are thus expected to act wisely in their own interest. Neither Dr. Lieb (nor the teaching assistant in BIOL 1108) will drop a student who has taken any examinations, turned in any written work, or has been recorded as coming to class even once; withdrawal action must be taken by the student’s own initiative by this 31 October deadline. After 31 October, a student may drop the course with a “W” only by written petition to the Dean of Science through Dr. Lieb. Students who find themselves in academic trouble during the semester should promptly consult with the instructor so that their options can be explored (that is, don’t wait until the end of the semester to relate a tale of woe).

Attendance Policy: On time attendance at every class meeting by every student is required. In attendance or not, students are held responsible for all materials presented, discussed, or assigned during class time. Failure to attend class is the number one cause of academic failure in introductory science courses.

Academic Integrity Policy: Despite his outward cynicism, Dr. Lieb more-or-less believes in the general goodness and honesty of his fellow human beings. Nevertheless, those who try to shatter his illusions and betray the norms of academic integrity will be turned in to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. You may review UTEP policy in these matters at http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785.
Civility Policy: Civility between the members of the class, and between the instructor and the students, is expected. Please use temperate language when speaking to one another and with Dr. Lieb.

Silence your cell phone before entering the classroom; please do not take calls during class time. Avoid all noisy endeavors not related to the matter at hand (talking, eating, snapping chewing gum, and, of course, snoring).

Your instructor will do his best to be there by the start of the class, please emulate him with timely appearances as well. Nevertheless, he would prefer you to be a few minutes late to being completely absent for the entire period (as a rare event, not something that happens frequently!). The general rule is: if you must enter or leave the room when class is in session, do so as quietly and quickly as possible.

Disability Policy: If a student has or suspects he/she has a disability and needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at <cass@utep.edu> or go to Room 106 Union East Building. The student is responsible for presenting to the instructor any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

Military Call-up: The instructor understands that students engaged in military service may be called up and deployed at any time. Please consult with Dr. Lieb as soon as your orders come through, so what arrangements for completion or suspension of your academic work can be implemented.

Course Calendar & Schedule

The ambitious schedule of lecture topics below will be most likely be subject to modification as the semester deteriorates. Examination dates, however, are fixed. The readings refer to the “recommended”1306 text cited above (Hillis et al. 2nd edition). These reading are intended to facilitate and/or add depth to the students’ understanding of classroom and laboratory material. Reading the text, however, can not and will not substitute for faithful attendance at the lecture sessions, taking satisfactory notes, and thoroughly mastering the biology content of those notes.

25-29 Aug - Course Introduction, nature of Science and Biology [Ch. 1]; begin Mechanisms of Evolution [Ch. 15]

3-5 Sept – finish Mechanisms of Evolution [Ch. 15]

8-12 Sept– Phylogeny [Ch. 16]; Speciation [Ch. 17];

15-17 Sept – finish Speciation [Ch. 17] History of Life on Earth [Ch.18]

19 Sept (Friday) – Exam I

22-26 Sept – Prokaryotes [Ch. 19]

29 Sept-3 Oct – Eukaryotes [Ch. 20]
6-10 Oct – Plants [Ch. 21]; Fungi [Ch. 22]

13-15 Oct – Fungi [Ch. 22]

**17 Oct (Friday) – Exam II**

20-24 Oct – Animals [Ch. 23]

27-31 Oct; Homeostasis; water balance in plants and animals [Ch 36, part, Ch. 28, part]; **Student drop date is 31 October**

3 -7 Nov – Transport in plants [Ch. 25 part]

10-14 Nov – Gas exchange in animals [Ch. 37, part]

17-21 Nov – Nervous control systems in animals [Ch. 34, part]

**24 Nov (Monday) – Exam III**

26 Nov - Control systems in plants [Ch. 26, part]; **NB: 26 November IS NOT a holiday**

**28 Nov (Friday) – University Holiday (no class)**

1-3 December - Excretion in animals [Ch. 40, part]

**10 December @ 10AM – Required Comprehensive Final Examination** (location: in regular classroom, CRBL C-205)

Syllabus edition of 7 Aug 2014