

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Course:	BIOL 3192 (CRN 17913)
Course Title:	Professional Development Seminar (Secondary Education Section)
Credit Hrs:	1 credit-hour, upper division
Term:	Fall, 2015
Course Meetings & Location:	Tuesdays, 12:30-1:20 PM, CRBL 304
Prerequisite Courses:	None. Senior standing in pursuit of a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences, Secondary Education track, is required
Instructor:	Dr. Carl S. Lieb
Office Location:	“Old Biology” Building B-204
	Office Hours: MW: 10:30-11:30 AM, R: 3:30-4:30 PM, and by appointment (see contact information, above).
Contact Info:	747-6987 clieb@utep.edu The telephone is the most reliable means for time-sensitive communication. If you do not receive a reply to an email within a few days, send it again (... and again).
Textbook Materials:	None. However, it would be a good idea to dig out and dust off your old introductory biology textbook from way back when.
Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes):	The objective of this section of BIOL 4192 is to review the teacher competencies appropriate for Grades 7-12 life science standards appropriate to teach the statewide curriculum (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). The learning outcome sought is to fill the gaps in content knowledge that may have been overlooked in previous biology coursework, and to add deeper insight to principles that may not have been addressed since the freshman or sophomore year.
Course Activities/Assignments	ALL STUDENTS WILL ATTEND ALL CLASS SESSIONS, AND COME PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFIC TOPICS ASSIGNED FOR THAT DAY. Additionally, an initial assignment concerning major concepts in biological sciences will be made the first week, and subsequently each student will make three brief oral presentations (Assignments 2, 3, 4), each covering a randomly assigned specific competency item from the state [Life] Science Standards. The instructor will attempt to “cover” the major competencies not addressed by student presentations as time permits with direct class discussions.

Lastly, there are two “assessments, one a mid-semester, and one at the end of the term, that will need to be completed and submitted by every student.

Assessment of Course Objectives:

Student performance will be evaluated by the instructor based upon the completion of assignments and informed participation in class discussions of the competencies. External assessment is also possible through evaluation of pass rates for the students taking the life-science component of the TEXES certification for secondary school teachers.

Grading Policy:

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

- 5% - Completion of Assignment 1 (important concepts in biology)
- 15% - Completion of Assignment 2
- 15% - Completion of Assignment 3
- 15% - Completion of Assignment 4
- 42% - Attendance and participation in at least 13 sessions between 25 August and 25 November**
- 4% - Completion of Assessment 1
- 4% - Completion of Assessment 2

** this means you get **one** allowed absence, see below comment

Attendance Policy:

It is possible to get an “F” in Senior Seminar from Dr. Lieb because of poor attendance. On-time attendance at every class meeting by every student is expected. In attendance or not, students are responsible for all materials presented, discussed, or assigned during class time. Moreover, a student can lose participation “percentage points” for detectably poor preparation for class.

Starting with the session of 1 September and ending the session of 24 November, each student will be allowed one, no-questions-asked absence from class. Students should reserve this “freebie” for professional purposes (attending scientific meetings, participation in university events, going on the Field Biology trip), or as a hedge of being too ill to come to UTEP on a Tuesday. It may, however, be used for any reason. If this absence is going to cause the student to miss a scheduled class presentation, he/she should arrange for someone else to switch presentation dates with them [notify Dr. Lieb about the arrangement]. If this swap is impossible, there will be an opportunity for making up a missed presentation on 13 October and 24 November.

Students should not abuse this *generous* attendance policy. A fixed 10.5 % of the attendance/participation grade will be lost

for **each** unexcused absence after the one freebie down to a loss of 52% of their grade. At this point, an earned “F” in the class will have been attained.

Attendance and participation on the last class day (1 December) is requested and required in lieu of attendance at the final examination (8 December, 1PM).

Drop Policy:

The student drop date is 30 October 2014. Dr. Lieb will not drop any student who appears on his class roll and who can be shown to have attended class after census day or performed any assignments. Withdrawal action must be taken by the student’s initiative by this 31 October deadline as appropriate. However, students who find themselves in academic trouble during the semester should promptly consult with Dr. Lieb so that their options can be explored (that is, don’t wait until the end of the semester to relate a tale of woe.)

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 also expected. Please use temperate language when speaking to one another and with Dr. Lieb. Additionally, although the class presentations are very informal, all are expected to use language and examples appropriate for a professional educator.

Silence your cell phone before entering the classroom; please do not take calls or text messages during class time. Avoid all noisy endeavors not related to the matter at hand (talking, eating, snapping chewing gum, loud sighing/moaning/groaning, banging one’s head against the wall, and, of course, snoring).

Your instructor will do his best to be present by the start of class; please emulate him with timely appearances as well. *Nevertheless, he would prefer you to being 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 classroom when class is in session, do so as quietly and quickly as possible.

Disability Policy:

If a student has or suspects he/she has 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. You instructor is familiar with the operations and procedures of CASS; the student, however, is responsible for presenting to him any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

Military Call-Up: Your 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 in a timely manner.

Course Calendar/Schedule [**Revisions of 28 August 2015 in bold**]

25 August – Course introduction, nature of science and biology, Competency 002

1 September – Assignment 1 due; Assignments 2-4 made, Competency 003

8 September – Competency 004 [Student presentors, class discussion]

15 September – class visit by Ms. Ellen Esposito

22 September – Competencies 005 and 006 [Student presentors, class discussion]

29 September – Competencies 007 and 008 [Student presentors, class discussion]

6 October – Competency 009 [Student presentors, class discussion]

13 October – Competencies 010 and 011 [Student presentors, class discussion]

20 October – Assessment No. 1; catch-up day for competencies 004-011

27 October – Competency 012 [Student presentors, class discussion]

3 November – Competency 013 [Student presentors, class discussion]

10 November -- Competencies 014 and 015 [Student presentors, class discussion]

17 November - Competencies 016 and 017 [Student presentors, class discussion]

24 November – Competency 018 [Student presentors, class discussion] + catch-up

1 December - In-class Assessment No. 2 [ATTENDANCE REQUIRED]

8 December – 1:00 PM, for those who miss the 1 December session only