

ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY

Course Syllabus for BIOL 1306 CRN 11833 Fall 2023

Instructor

Dr. Kelly S Ramirez

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Schedule Class Time and Room

Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:50

Undergrad Learning Center 128

Office Hours

Monday 12:00-13:00 in my office (Biology B405) or Zoom. If you cannot make this time, please send an email to schedule an appointment with 3 suggested times.

Zoom Information (for office hours)

<https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/81009378458?pwd=OThORmFEME5iUVlYajZpb21sTk43UT09>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Understand how evolution drives: (i) diversity of life on Earth (ii) ecological interactions among organisms and their environments, and (iii) physiology of organisms

REQUIRED TEXT:

Instead of a traditional textbook, we will use the CogBooks platform. You can either purchase a code at the UTEP bookstore or pay for CogBooks online when you begin our course on Blackboard. There will be a link to CogBooks through our Blackboard shell. Once logged in for the first time, a Payment Gateway Process screen will appear, and students will be asked to either enter a code (purchased from the bookstore) or purchase the CogBooks courseware. Once students have purchased or entered a code, they will then have access to the CogBooks courseware for the entire semester

CogBooks is not a textbook. It is software that guides students through various readings and activities that cover concepts and materials in our course. There is a tutorial video for navigating in CogBooks here: <https://youtu.be/QGiTUT8ohh8>

CogBooks is found under 'Cogbooks Modules' on the left-hand side of Blackboard.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

1. Evolution
2. Phylogenetics
3. Diversity
4. Plant Form and Function

5. Ecology
6. Animal Form and Function

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain how evolution drives the diversity of life on Earth.
2. Identify major plant, animal, and microbial lineages.
3. Interpret phylogenetic trees showing relationships among lineages.
4. Describe the link between structure & function for the anatomy and physiology of plants and animals.
5. Identify earth's major biomes and ecosystems.
6. Analyze biological systems on a variety of scales, from organismal to global.
7. Master biological concepts using written and lecture materials.
8. Understand and use scientific vocabulary related to organismal biology.

GRADING

CogBooks Modules - 30%

Each week, you will have several CogBook submodules to complete before class. These assessments are posted on Blackboard but are linked through your purchase of "CogBooks" and can be found on the left side of Blackboard "Cogbooks Modules". The modules are designed to increase your familiarity with new material, and thus should be completed before class. The modules will have you conduct activities and will ask questions to determine if you feel comfortable with the topics. The CogBooks software will walk you through this and will make recommendations for where to go for review if you are not comfortable with the material. This is not graded on a performance scale; you either earn credit for doing it or you do not. You will only receive full credit for the assessment if you complete them at the indicated time. Late submissions will NOT be accepted.

Exams

All students will take four exams (50 points each, the lowest of which will be dropped, for a total of 150 points) and a final (75 points). The final exam grade cannot be dropped. Because the lowest exam will be dropped, there are no makeup exams. Exams are multiple choice and scores will be curved up. Typically, the distributions on exams are approximately: 10% A; 25% B; 25% C; 20% D; 20% F.

****E-Exam****

All exams will be given through the Blackboard e-exam program in the classroom during classtime.

The exams can account for 70% of your grade if you wish. However, the weight of the exams will be reduced if you complete one of the following *optional assignments (participation or project)*. If you chose optional participation you can down-weight your exam scores to as low as 40% but not lower. Meaning, you can pick one or none of the following options.

Optional Assignments

In-class Participation - 30%

Polls - 20%

Using the iClicker Reef App. Points will be for participation only.

Quizzes - 10%

Using the iClicker Reef App. Quizzes will be graded.

****You can miss up to 5 classes and still receive full participation credit.****

Optional project - 30%

Together you and I would agree on a project. You can bring ideas, and I may make suggestions. Students wishing to embark upon a project must come to my office hours or schedule a meeting by email sometime before February 19. This will be more work than in class participation.

GRADING SCALE

You will be assigned a letter grade for the course on the following scale: A: 90- 100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: Less than 60. Your grade will be based on the most favorable combination of CogBook Modules, Exams, and optional assignments.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. If you have any questions regarding the university policy on scholastic dishonesty please contact the Dean of Students.

ATTENDANCE

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain any class notes or pertinent information from a fellow student. Regular attendance will be necessary for success in this class. **DO NOT EMAIL ME UNLESS YOU WILL BE MISSING MORE THAN THE 5 EXCUSED CLASSES** (see participation above).

DROP DATE

The UTEP Fall 2023 drop deadline is November 3, 2023. The College of Science will remain aligned with the University and does not approve any drop requests after that date.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to 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.

Need help with academic, career, or personal issues? These people are ready to help!

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative. Communicate openly with respect for others, critiquing ideas rather than individuals. Avoid personal attacks directed toward other students. Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants.

COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 or any other sickness symptoms. If you are afraid that you will miss more than the 5 excused classes, please contact me so we can work something out regarding your participation.

Schedule of Topics

DATE	TOPIC	CogBooks Module
August 22	<i>Introduction & Syllabus</i>	
August 24	Evolution	Evolution
August 29	Evolution	New Species
August 31	Evolution	Behavior
September 5	NO CLASS	
September 7	Evolution	Evolution of Populations
September 12	Review	
September 14	EXAM 1	
September 19	Phylogenetics	Origin of Life, Phylogenetics & History of Life
September 21	Viruses	Viruses
September 26	Bacteria, Archaea	Bacteria & Archaea
September 28	Diversity – Microbial Eukaryotes	Fungi
October 3	Protists	Protists
October 5	Review	
October 10	EXAM 2	
October 12	Above Belowground Interactions	Soil & Plant Nutrition
October 17	Diversity – Plants	Plant Diversity
October 19	Plant form and Function	Plant form and Function
October 24	Diversity – Insects	Invertebrates
October 26	Diversity – Vertebrates	Vertebrates & Animal Diversity
October 31	Review	
November 2	Exam 3	
November 7	Ecology – Populations & Communities	Intro to Ecology
November 9	Ecology – Ecological Interactions	How we know the earth is warming
November 14	Ecology – Ecosystems and Biomes	World Biomes
November 16	Ecology – Global Change	Climate Change
November 21	Exam 4	
November 23	Surprise	
November 28	Animals – Metabolism, Digestion, Nutrition	Homeostasis, Body Tissues
November 30	Review	
December 9	CUMMULATIVE FINAL EXAM – 10:00-12:45	