

**GENERAL BIOLOGY (BIOL 1305, CRN# 30497)**  
**Course syllabus: Summer 2023**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Paul Rafael B. Sabandal, Ph.D.

- Email: pbsabandal@utep.edu
- Office hours: TW 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM or by appointment
- Office location: Biosciences research building (BRB) room 3.146

**COURSE MEETINGS:** MTWRF 10:30 AM – 12:40 PM; Undergraduate learning center (UGLC) 346

**COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES:**

- The general biology course is a molecular approach to the principles of biology with particular emphasis on cell biology and genetics.
- This course will provide an understanding of the following: (1) the scientific language of biology; (2) basic and foundational concepts of organic and inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, and genetics as they apply to biology; and (3) the functional roles of atoms, molecules, organelles, genetics, and environmental factors in regulating metabolism of prokaryotes, animals, and plant cells.

**TEXTBOOK:**

- Principles of Life. Edited by Hillis, Price, Hill, Hall, and Laskowski., 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Macmillan Press, 2019. ISBN:9781319017712.
  - Note: The older edition of the textbook (e.g., 2<sup>nd</sup> edition) is also acceptable.

**EXAMS and GRADING POLICY:**

Exam 1:	22.5 % of final grade
Exam 2:	22.5 %
Exam 3:	22.5 %
Exam 4:	22.5 %
In-class quizzes	10 %

**FINAL GRADES will be assigned as follows:**

- A = 90 – 100; B = 80 – 89; C = 70 – 79; D = 60 – 69; F = 0 – 59

**EXAM CONDITIONS:**

- There will be four exams during the semester, and all will be counted towards the final course grade. No exam grades will be dropped.
- All exams are take-home and will be due 3 days after its posting (for example: if exam is posted on Saturday 12:00AM and the responses are due Monday 11:59 PM).

- All exams are downloadable as a word document from Blackboard. The exams consist of multiple choice-, true/false-, and short answer- type questions. Exam length ranges from 40 – 60 questions.
- Only the material covered in the class lectures will be included in the exams.
- Late submissions within 3 days of the deadline will receive half-credit and beyond that will not receive any credit.
- If any exam is missed, only a serious personal emergency will be considered as an excuse, and you must explain why the exam was missed via email.

#### **IN-CLASS ACTIVITY CONDITIONS:**

- There will be an in-class activity in the form of a short quiz. It must be taken and turned in during the class meeting. It will be on the material covered on that day's lecture.
- It will be a single question of either multiple choice- and/or free response- type.
- There will be 18 in-class quizzes. Only 15 out of the 18 quizzes will count towards the final grade. You can miss 3 quizzes and still receive the full 10% value towards your final course grade. Thus, no make-ups will be allowed for any in-class activity missed.

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- I will not take regular attendance, however, missing lectures generally correlates with poor course performance. Thus, attending class regularly is highly recommended.
- This course will provide a broad overview of several basic biology concepts and principles spanning cell structure and function, and genetics. Students are responsible for attending class regularly. This includes material covered during lectures, announcements, handouts, changes in the syllabus and schedule, etc.
- If you must miss a class, you need to make a special effort to learn what occurred during your absence – please come to office hours.

#### **COURSE DROP and INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY:**

- The last day for you to withdraw from any course for the Summer 2023 semester with an automatic "W" is on June 27. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from a course before the drop deadline. If you have any questions, please meet with me during office hours.
- 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". For this course, it is my policy that if a student decides to drop after the drop deadline, they will not be assigned a "W" grade.
- All grades of Incomplete must be accompanied by an Incomplete Contract that has been signed by the instructor, student, departmental chair, and the dean. A grade of Incomplete is only used in extraordinary circumstances confined to a limited event such as a missed exam. If the student has missed a significant amount of work (e.g., multiple exams), a grade of Incomplete is not appropriate and will not be given.

**GENERAL BIOLOGY (BIOL 1305, CRN# 30497)**  
**Course calendar/schedule: Summer 2023**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Information on lectures and on exams</b>
June 12 (Mon)	Syllabus and Course introduction / Introduction to Biology / Principles of Life
June 13 (Tue)	Life's Chemistry and the Importance of Water
June 14 (Wed)	Life's Chemistry and the Importance of Water
June 15 (Thu)	Macromolecules
June 16 (Fri)	Macromolecules
	<b>Exam 1 (covers June 12 – 16); Exam 1 responses due June 19</b>
<b>June 19 (Mon)</b>	<b>Juneteenth Holiday &gt;&gt;&gt; No class</b>
June 20 (Tue)	Cell Structure and Membranes
June 21 (Wed)	Cell Structure and Membranes / Cell Metabolism
June 22 (Thu)	Cell metabolism / Cell Signals and Responses
June 23 (Fri)	Cell Signals and Responses
	<b>Exam 2 (covers June 19 – 23); Exam 2 responses due June 26</b>
June 26 (Mon)	The Cell Cycle and Cell Division
June 27 (Tue)	The Cell Cycle and Cell Division
June 28 (Wed)	The Cell Cycle and Cell Division / Inheritance, Genes, and Chromosomes
June 29 (Thu)	Inheritance, Genes, and Chromosomes
June 30 (Fri)	Inheritance, Genes, and Chromosomes
	<b>Exam 3 (covers June 26 – 30); Exam 3 responses due July 3</b>
July 3 (Mon)	DNA and Its Role in Heredity
<b>July 4 (Tue)</b>	<b>Independence Day Holiday &gt;&gt;&gt; No class</b>
July 5 (Wed)	DNA and Its Role in Heredity / From DNA to Protein: Gene Expression
July 6 (Thu)	From DNA to Protein: Gene Expression / Regulation of Gene Expression
July 7 (Fri)	Regulation of Gene Expression
	<b>Exam 4 (covers July 3 – 7); Exam 4 responses due July 10</b>

Note: The schedule is subject to change - check blackboard for updates/announcements  
**\*\*\*Course drop/withdrawal deadline: June 27, 2023 (Tue)**

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION and POLICIES**

### **ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT:**

- As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation, then the Office of Center for Accommodation and Support Services (CASS) located at UTEP needs to be contacted. Further info can be found in: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>
- If you have a condition that may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, please meet with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodation and Support Services (CASS). You may contact CASS at 915-747-5148 or [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) .
- Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Center for Accommodation and Support Services (CASS) at The University of Texas at El Paso.

### **ACADEMIC/SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**

- Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University.
- Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community.
- It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work.
- Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts.
- Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

### **TECHNICAL and BLACKBOARD SUPPORT:**

- The University of Texas at El Paso provides free 24/7 Helpdesk support to students and faculty. The Helpdesk can provide answers to questions about using Blackboard, technology services and technical support.