

Class Information:

BIOL 4388 will be held as HyFlex course for the semester. This means that you may personally choose to attend lecture in person or virtually. This also means that you could choose to attend class in person one day, be virtual the next, in person for the next four sessions, virtual for two, etc. You do not need to choose one or the other—you should attend/participate with the lecture portion of the class as you are able. Please note that there are points associated with in-class activities meaning that if you choose to attend virtually, you will likely have assignments to return in response to your viewing of the lecture material. I am providing this style of class with the understanding that COVID continues to change the dynamics of many of our lives. Rather than penalizing you or making a complicated process for you to make up time missed in person, I am opting for flexibility in attendance. More information about how to attend virtually will be provided throughout the semester as you will encounter a variety of weekly activities.

Instructor Information:

Instructor: **Dr. Tom McCabe** (he/him)

Email: tmmccabe@utep.edu

*Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow 48 hours for me to respond, then send a *polite* reminder. Always use your **UTEP email**. I am not legally allowed to discuss grades through non-UTEP accounts so always make sure to send and receive through that email.*

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description:

This course is focused on understanding the homeostatic mechanisms that govern mammalian biology. Students in this course will be introduced to a range of physiological concepts that help biologists understand the ways the diverse group of vertebrates we call mammals function. This course will be a synthesis of many other biological concepts that you have learned throughout your degree program helping you to understand the connected interactions of molecules, cell populations, organisms, and all the way up to the global ecosystem. This course is also an opportunity for you to continue honing your skills as biologist as you will consider current topics and literature in physiological research. Literature discussions will allow you to explore physiological concepts in the context of their complex histories (e.g., technological advances and sociocultural issues).

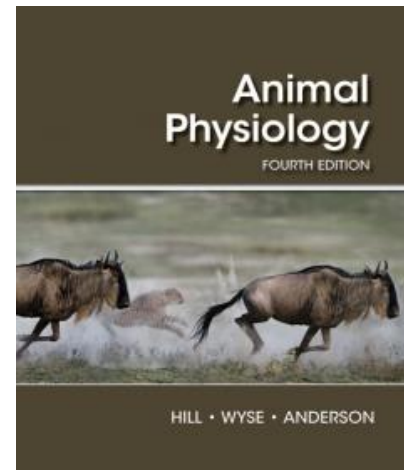
Overall Course Goals:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- a) describe and summarize information about the underlying principles that govern and unify physiological processes, especially homeostasis.
- b) apply their understanding of molecular biology to physiological function and increasing levels of biological scale and order.
- c) assess pathophysiological situations, predict outcomes to changes in physiological systems, and propose adjustments that will help to correct the pathophysiological issue.
- d) evaluate physiological data (both qualitative and quantitative) to assess current literature in physiological research and participate in discussions on major topics in the field.

Required Textbook:

“Animal Physiology 4th Edition” Hill, Wyse, and Anderson
Sinauer Associates, Inc. Publisher
<https://animalphys4e.sinauer.com/>
ISBN-13: 978-1605355948
ISBN-10: 1605355941



Purchase any format of the text (physical or digital).
We will not be using any type online homework or quiz system from the publisher. You only need access to the text.
The cheapest access is \$31-\$60 for a digital rental.

Grading Scale:

90 – 100 = A

80 – 89.9 = B

70 – 79.9 = C **Note:** Students need to obtain a grade of C or better to pass this class.

60 – 69.9 = D

Below 60 = F

The final day to withdraw from this class is **April 1st**. No requests for a withdrawal will be approved after that date. Students can always petition the Registrar for a complete withdrawal from the course pending documentation.

Course Evaluation:

Weekly Reading Quizzes	20%
Lecture Attendance/Participation	20%
Literature Discussions	20%
Tests	40%

Weekly Reading Quizzes: Each week you will have an assigned section of reading. Please note that we will read *most* but not all of the text as non-mammalian physiology is not a focus of the course. A short quiz will appear on Blackboard at the beginning of the week (Monday at the latest) and be due by the following Friday. You will have 3 chances to take the quiz and your highest score will be recorded. I do not mind if you work with your other acquaintances in the course for these. HOWEVER, these quiz questions are designed in the same way that I will write exam questions—do not compromise your own personal preparation for the course by letting someone else do all the work. Please note that these questions will cover the reading material only and there may be instances where a topic is not covered in the lecture. You are responsible for all information found on these quizzes, in the required reading sections, and from the posted lectures. There will not be a reading quiz for a week where there is a test.

Literature Discussions: Throughout the semester, you will work with a group of students that I will select to discuss research papers related to topics in the course. Groups will be an average of 8 people. There will be four paper discussions and all group members will contribute for each discussion. For one of these discussions, you and a partner will be the leader for the discussion and be responsible for creating some summary materials, moderating the discussion board, and supporting the work of your team members during that discussion period. More formal instructions will be provided elsewhere, but the general schedule for the discussions will be completed over a two-week period. During the first week, everyone is responsible for reading the paper, the leaders will need to create summary materials for the group, and the other group

members will need to post questions regarding their reading to the discussion board. During the second week, all group members will participate in an evaluation of the paper using the discussion board system. What this means is that no one is required to meet synchronously to complete this activity and your grade will be based on your effort towards the discussion. Lastly, the group leaders will complete a summary activity to close out the discussion of the paper. To repeat what was mentioned above, more formal instructions for each of these steps will be provided as we approach the first paper assignment.

Tests: This is not a course where you will only have a midterm and a final. The material is broken up in to chunks that correspond to the major sections of the text for the course. Multiple tests help take the pressure off of you to cram information and give me an opportunity as an instructor to keep up with your progress as we move through the semester.

There is too much information to say about tests to keep writing a paragraph, so please consider the following points about how tests will function in BIOL 4388:

-There will be four tests during the semester and an optional final.

-Your points for this point category will be calculated from your 4 highest test scores for the semester. In other words, I will drop your lowest test score.

-All tests will have multiple choice, true or false, definition, and essay questions.

-The final is cumulative and will cover topics from throughout the course.

-All tests will be delivered online. I will not use a lockdown browser and you are welcome to use any study materials you would like on the exams; however, you may not work with anyone else to complete the exam. You are welcome to take the exam on campus, during our scheduled class time, or any other time during the testing window on the day of the exam. I will also allow you to complete the exam by hard copy if you feel more comfortable writing answers out by hand. I will provide a sign up for a physical test to be taken in the classroom during our scheduled class time. Please note, both physical and digital exams will be graded equally. You must complete the exam in its entirety in one form only; in other words, you cannot do the multiple choice on paper and switch to a computer to type out the short answer and essay portions.

Deadlines, Late Work, and Absence Policy:

Reading Quizzes: Reading quiz submissions will be due on Fridays at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

Literature Discussions: No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

Tests: All students will be able to access the tests online from 10:30am-4:30pm on the test dates. Students will have one opportunity to take the exam and a time limit of 80 minutes to submit answers. If you run into issues with internet connection, you must contact Dr. McCabe as soon as possible. The test prompt will have more information on how to contact Dr. McCabe in the case of such an emergency. If you opt for the physical version of the test, you must attend class on that day and complete the exam during our scheduled class time. You may bring your computer and take the exam in the classroom during our scheduled time (giving you direct access to Dr. McCabe during the testing period).

Make-up-work: Make-up work will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be

graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

Class Recordings

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials:

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Technology Requirements:

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop and internet access. As the course is asynchronous, there is no need to have video conferencing ability; however, I recommend some form of instant communication to complete your group project.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the [UTEP Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

Course Communication: How we will stay in contact with each other:

There are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

Office Hours: I will hold office hours in person and virtually simultaneously. You are welcome to appear in person or log onto the virtual classroom link. I will announce when I am holding these when I have a better idea of when folks are available.

Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name.

Discussion Board: If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students' questions if you have a helpful response.

Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages. I will always try to send a copy to your email, but announcements will always be permanently stored on Blackboard.

Student Conduct:

Safe Space: This class will be treated as a safe space, where each student will feel comfortable sharing ideas. To that end we will follow a "golden rule" format. Treat each other as you would like to be treated during class discussions. Disagreement is both accepted and highly encouraged, however we must remember that while respectful discussion is often fruitful, insults and badgering are not and will not be tolerated.

Netiquette: As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- All virtual spaces related to the course are not public internet venues; all postings should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. **Do not copy documents from the course and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.**

Student Conduct

Class Environment

You are always expected to treat your fellow classmates and your instructional team with respect, regardless of the venue. Most of the course will be conducted asynchronously and in virtual spaces. However, I expect all of you to act in ways that would be deemed appropriate if we were together in person. If you feel that you have been treated with disrespect, please inform the person immediately. Sarcasm and humor do not always translate well through text-based interactions, so be responsible for your words. If you have continued issues with a fellow classmate, please contact Dr. McCabe as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty

It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an "F" or zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty in lieu of normally charging the student through the Dean of Students. Similarly, students are prohibited from proposing and/or entering into an arrangement with a faculty member to receive a grade of "F" or any reduced grade in lieu of being charged with scholastic dishonesty. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or

in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. This includes intentionally, knowingly or carelessly, presenting the work of another as one's own; failing to credit sources used in a work product; attempting to receive credit for work performed by another; failing to cite the World Wide Web, databases and other electronic resources. Written work will be checked for plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities Policy

If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation you should contact Center for Accommodations and Support (CASS) at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building. I will be contacting you individually to address your individual accommodations.

Student Responsibilities during COVID-19

-Contact instructor if temporary accommodations due to COVID-19 are needed (i.e., due to positive COVID-19 test, symptoms, or exposure).
-If unable to wear a face covering (e.g., medical reasons), the best course of action is to enroll in courses that are entirely online or to work with academic advisors, if necessary, to identify alternative courses. If this is not possible, request an accommodation from [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) prior to coming to campus for in-person activities. Students who receive an accommodation to not wear a face covering must share this with the professor and work to minimize contact with others in the class.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.