

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COURSE SYLLABUS - **BIOL 1306 ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY** (FALL 2021)

- I. Course Number, Title, and Prerequisites
BIOL 1306 – Section 11240 (3 credits) – Prerequisites (BIOL 1107, 1305)
Course Meetings: TR; 9:00 am – 10:20 am; Room: C305; Aug 24 –Dec 02
- II. Instructor Information

Dr. Vicente Mata-Silva

Office: Bioscience Building 2.138

Phone: 747-5959

E-mail: vmata@utep.edu

Office Hours: (TR 11:00 am – 12: 00 pm, or by appointment by email)

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Vicente-Mata-Silva>

Please, be professional every time you e-mail me. A professional email includes a greeting.

- III. Organismal biology is a survey of general classification, functional systems, and biology of living organisms. The objectives of the course are:
1. Gain a greater appreciation for the diversity and complexity of organisms.
 2. Have the ability to identify organisms in their natural habitats based on morphological, behavioral and life history.
 3. Gain an understanding of how organisms adapt to their environment at the cellular, organismal, and community levels.
 4. Understand the impact of humans on other populations and our responsibilities.
- IV. Evaluation

Assessment will take place through exams, and quizzes.

There will be five regular exams (online) during the semester. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true false, matching, fill-in-blanks, or short answer questions.

Tentative grades for the exams are as follows: 1st Exam (40 pts.), 2nd Exam (40 pts.), 3rd Exam (40 pts), 4th Exam (40 pts) and final Exam (40 pts.). Total points for lecture exams are 200 and will count 60%, and quizzes will count for 40% with a total percentage of 100%. The grading scale will be 90-100% (A); 80-89% (B); 70-79% (C); 60-69% (D); below 60% (F).

- V. Text and Materials.

Hillis et al. 2019. Principles of Life. Third Edition. ISBN-13: 9781319017712.

(see image at the end). If for some reason you already have the second edition, it's fine, the information is pretty much the same with few differences.

VI. All the material for this course (power point presentations and videos) will be available on Blackboard for you to review it on your own time.

In order to pass this course successfully, it is important that you review the provided material, so you are fully prepared for quizzes and exams. Please, **check your UTEP email and Blackboard frequently.**

VII. Instructional Methodologies

Class time will consist of Power point presentations and videos, and supplementary materials. Presentations and videos also will be available on Blackboard. You will have plenty of time to work on your assignments, and will also likely receive reminders about due dates. Anything that I mention in the power point presentations, videos, or the study guides can appear on the exams. The **videos will be asynchronous, meaning you can watch them on your own time.** Exams will be taken on Blackboard through **Respondus LockdownBrowser (instructions will be shared as the first exam approaches).**

VIII. Makeup Policy

No make-up exams will be given for reasons other than illness (doctor's note required), absence with the instructor's prior approval, or when a student is on official University business (documentation is required before absence).

IX. Academic Dishonesty

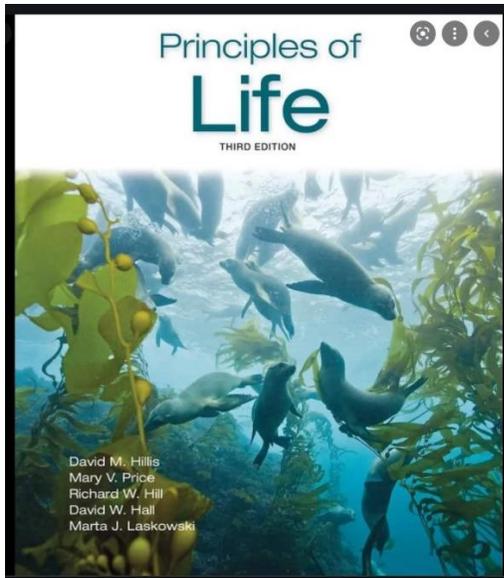
Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. All university guidelines will be strictly followed. Please read these guidelines carefully. If you have any questions regarding the university policy please contact the Dean of Students.

Please if you do, come to class on time. It is disturbing and distracting everybody if people come late. Please do not hold private conversations during lectures, but feel free to ask questions or start a discussion at any time. **Phones MUST remain off during class. Laptops will allowed only in the first three rows.**

X. Tentative Calendar (Fall 2021)

| Week of | Tentative Topic | Required reading |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aug 23 | Introduction/Processes of Evolution | Chapter 13 (15) |
| Aug 30 | Reconstructing and using Phylogenies | Chapter 14 (16) |

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| Sept 6 | Speciation | Chapter 16 (17) |
| Sept 13 | Exam 1 (Sept 16) / History of life on Earth | Chapter 17 (18) |
| Sept 20 | History of life on Earth | Chapter 17 (18) |
| Sept 27 | Bacteria, Archaea, Viruses | Chapters 18 (19) |
| Oct 4 | Exam 2 (Oct 9) / Eukaryotes | Chapter 19 (20) |
| Oct 11 | Eukaryotes | Chapter 19 (20) |
| Oct 18 | Plants | Chapter 20 (21) |
| Oct 25 | Exam 3 (October 28) / Animal diversity | Chapter 22 (23) |
| Nov 1 | Animal diversity | Chapter 22 (23) |
| Nov 8 | Animal diversity | Chapter 22 (23) |
| Nov 15 | Exam 4 (Nov 18) / Animal Function | Chapter 28 (43) |
| Nov 22 | Animal Function / No Class (Nov 25) | Chapter 28 (43) |
| Nov 29 | Global Ecosystem | Chapter 42 (46) |
| Dec 7 | Final Exam 10:00am - 11:30am | |



I will be out of town on weekends, but I will respond on Sunday evening or Monday.

I am the Co-Director of UTEP's Indio Mountains Research Station.



COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Although not required, I highly encourage the use of masks.

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El

Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.