THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

COURSE SYLLABUS - BIOL 1306 ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY (SPRING 2024)

I. Course Number, Title, and Prerequisites
   BIOL 1306 – Section 21092 (3 credits) – Prerequisites (BIOL 1107, 1305)
   Course Meetings: TR; 4:30 pm – 5:50 pm; UGLC Room: 128; Jan 16 – May 02

II. Instructor Information

   Dr. Vicente Mata-Silva “Dr. Mata”
   Office: Biology Building B406
   Phone: 747-5354
   E-mail: vmata@utep.edu
   Office Hours: (TR 2:00 pm – 4:00 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, quizzes, and attendance.

   There will be five regular exams (online) during the semester. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true false, and/or short answer questions. The five exams will count 50%, quizzes will count for 40%, and attendance 10% of your total grade. The grading scale will be 90-100% (A); 80-89% (B); 70-79% (C); 60-69% (D); below 60% (F).

   Attendance at all sessions is absolutely required. Attendance will be checked through Iclicker.
If you accumulate more than three unjustified absences, you will be asked to drop the course. If you miss two exams without justification, you will be asked to drop the course.

A brief quiz will be available on Blackboard every Friday from 10:00am to 11:59pm.

V. Text and Materials.

Hillis et al. 2016. Principles of Life. Second Edition. ISBN 978-1-4641-0947-8 (see image at the end). If you have the third edition, it’s fine, the information is pretty much the same with very few differences.

VI. All the material for this course (power point presentations and links to videos) will be available on Blackboard for you to review it on your own time. Blackboard postings are not intended to substitute for in-class note taking and assiduous study of those materials. 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 short videos, and supplementary materials. Presentations and videos also will be available on Blackboard. Anything that I mention in the power point presentations, videos, or the study guides can appear on the exams. Exams will be taken on Blackboard through Respondus LockdownBrowser (instructions will be shared as the first exam approaches), Quizzes will be available directly on Blackboard.

VIII. Makeup Policy

No make-up exams or quizzes 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).

If you accumulate more than three unjustified absences, you will be asked to drop the course. If you miss two exams without justification, you will be asked to drop the course.

Missed Examination Policy:
Missing any of the exams contributes zero percent toward the student’s final course grade, and may well be a catastrophe for grade expectations. These problems will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

If a student must miss an exam (not a quiz) because of illness, death in the family, University-sponsored event, or for any other reason other than their own demise, the student must contact me by email, either BEFORE the test date or WITHIN 48
HOURS following the start of the examination and (for all exams except the Final) BEFORE the next class period.
The student is expected to contact me within that 48-hour period.
**Missed quizzes** can be taken only with strong justification and approved by me.
Under some circumstances, a quiz may be taken beforehand by appointment.

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 for 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. **Be aware that I do not like to see students texting while I am lecturing. Phones MUST remain off during class.**

**Laptops will allowed only in the first three rows.**

**Drop Policy:** The student drop date is **28 March 2024**.
The results of the first lecture examination, and a handful of quizzes will be known by that time.
Students are thus expected to act in a wise and timely fashion in their own interests.
The instructor will not drop any student who has taken any quizzes or any examination; withdrawal action must be taken by the student’s own initiative by this **28 March** deadline.

**Civility Policy:** **Civility** between the members of the class, and between the instructor and the students, is **expected**. Please use polite and temperate language at all times.
Silence your Iphone once you sign in (Iclicker).

X. Tentative Calendar (Spring 2024)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>Tentative Topic</th>
<th>Required reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Introduction/Processes of Evolution</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Processes /Phylogenies</td>
<td>Chapter 15,16</td>
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<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Speciation</td>
<td>Chapter 17</td>
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<td>Feb 05</td>
<td>Review / <strong>Exam 1</strong> (Feb 9)</td>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>History of life on Earth</td>
<td>Chapter 18</td>
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<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Bacteria, Archaea, Viruses</td>
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<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Review / Exam 2 (Feb 29)</td>
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<td>Mar 04</td>
<td>Eukaryotes</td>
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<td>Mar 11</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break – NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>Plants</td>
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<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Review / Exam 3 (Mar 28)</td>
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<td>Apr 01</td>
<td>Animal diversity</td>
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<td>Apr 08</td>
<td>Animal diversity</td>
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<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>Review / Exam 4 (Apr 18)</td>
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<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>Animal Function /Global Ecosystem</td>
<td>29/45</td>
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<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>Global Ecosystem/ Review</td>
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<td>May 07</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam 9:00am - 11:59pm</strong></td>
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