Instructor Contact Information

Dr. Michael Dixon
016 Cavness Science Building
325-486-6636
michael.dixon@angelo.edu

Office Hours: Mon 9:00-11:00, 3:00 – 5:00
Tue 11:00-12:00, 2:00 – 4:00
Wed 9:00-11:00, 2:00 – 4:00
Thu 11:00-12:00, 2:00 – 3:00
Fri By Appointment

About This Course

The content of Biology 1309 includes generalizations and specifics of environmental biology. You are expected to understand and remember the facts presented and to demonstrate an ability to work with those facts. This information will be presented during lecture, in the laboratory and through reading your textbook and other assigned material.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

The objective of the study of a natural sciences component of a core curriculum is to focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method. Courses involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on the physical world and on human experiences.

The SLO’s for this course and the associated activities include:

- Critical Thinking
  - (CT1) Students will gather, analyze, interpret and evaluate data.
    - Students will conduct experiments in the lab, gather data and then analyze their results.

- Communication
  - (CS1) Students will communicate information via written means on lab activities and projects.
    - Students will conduct lab experiments and communicate their findings in writing to each other and their instructor

- Empirical & Quantitative Skills
  - (EQS1) Students will collect and analyze quantitative data.
    - Students will take measurements as part of a lab experiment. They will analyze their data and generate conclusions.
  - (EQS2) Students will make observations to test a hypothesis and generate conclusions based on their observations.
    - Students will make directed observations, gather data and then analyze their results

- Teamwork
  - (TW2) Students will work together on applied learning activities and collaborate with one another to support course goals.
    - Students will conduct experiments in the lab in groups, gather data and then analyze their shared results.

Course Materials Required:

Textbook
Internet Access and E-mail

Some assignments and course materials will be available on the Blackboard web site http://blackboard.angelo.edu/. All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to me, please include the course name and section number in your subject line.

Attendance
You are expected to attend all lecture and lab periods. The single most important thing you can do to get a good grade in this course is to show up. I will take attendance regularly. You will get a zero on the assignment if you are not present. Quizzes and other in-class activities may not be made up. The only exceptions that are made require prior permission.

Exams
There will be four exams given during the semester, including a comprehensive final exam. Each examination will include information presented in class and out of your textbook. Each test will be comprehensive - that is it will include material presented at any time during the course. This is unavoidable because early topics of discussion are built upon and expanded as the course progresses.

Exams will be mostly multiple-choice but may include a few short answer questions. Exams will cover material covered up through the last class day before the exam.

The final exam will be approximately twice the length and number of points as the previous exams.

Missing an exam is a very serious matter. If you have a documented legitimate excuse, such as severe personal illness, a death in your family, or a university-sponsored event, you must notify me before the exam or very promptly afterward. I will work with you if you act responsibly. If you miss an exam for any other reason or do not notify me promptly then I will use the score you get on the final exam to replace ONE missing exam grade. You will receive a zero if you miss more than one exam.

As a reward to those of you who put in the necessary work, the final exam is optional if you have an “A” average in all of your work at the end of the semester.

Laboratory
BIOL 1109 Man and the Environment Laboratory is recommended but not required. Our experience has been that students who are enrolled in lab do better on tests and get a better grade in the lecture. This is probably due to the additional time study concepts and practical or hands on experience of the students that participate in lab.

Final Grade Calculation
Your grade in this course will be determined by adding together all of the points you earn on your tests, quizzes and any other assignments and then dividing this number by the total
number of points possible. You can anticipate that about 80% of our lecture points will come from tests. “Extra credit or bonus” assignments will be added in to the total you earned without adding them into the number of possible points.

Your semester grade will be determined using the scale:

- 90 – 100% = A
- 80 – 89% = B
- 70 – 79% = C
- 60 – 69% = D
- <60% = F

Rounding off of averages or the use of a curve may occur at the instructor’s discretion.

**Academic Honor Code:**
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook.

**General Policies Related to This Course**
All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)

**Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university’s [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such
a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Title IX at Angelo State University

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.
Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Withdrawal From the Course
You are not automatically withdrawn from a course if you stop attending. If you stop attending and do not withdraw I am required to submit a grade for you. This “F” cannot be removed.

Lecture Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction, Syllabus</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods and limitations of science</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry and Energy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life and It’s Interactions</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4 (maybe some 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Populations</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Biotechnology</td>
<td>9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional chapters, pages and readings will be announced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Intro – Evolution</td>
<td>Feb 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Evolution - Populations</td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Populations – Agriculture</td>
<td>Apr 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>EVERYTHING!</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 6, 10:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/
https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/
https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/
https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures
https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php
https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php
https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of