

BIOL 6302

Advanced Biology



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Office Hours: Monday 8:00-10:00 & 1:00-2:00; Tuesday 1:00-2:00; Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00, Thursday 8:00-10:00, Friday 8:00-10:00, or by appointment.

Course Information

Course Description

Advanced Biology is a required review course for all biology graduate students; each biology graduate student must pass this course to be eligible for graduation with a master's degree. The basic principles of biology will be reviewed through questions provided by biology graduate faculty members over readings assigned from *Campbell Biology*. Students must be able to demonstrate a master's level comprehension of the topics addressed in the questions.

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Gain factual knowledge, including terminology, classifications, methods, and trends
2. Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
3. Apply knowledge to critically answer essay questions

Course Delivery

This is a face-to-face course with online components that students are expected to access in [Blackboard](#).¹

Required Texts and Materials

Campbell Biology, 10th edition (dandelion on the cover), by Jane Reece, Lisa Urry, Michael Cain, Steven Wasserman, Peter Minorsky, and Robert Jackson, 2014, Benjamin-Cummings Publishing Co.

This text will be the primary source of information used in answering the questions in the question pool.

Course Format

This course is designed to assess your understanding of biology. A list of questions contributed by biology graduate faculty members are provided as a single document on Blackboard. The questions require an answer that is approximately one hand-written page in length. Prior to each meeting, you are expected to assess your understanding of the information presented by answering the questions provided. The student should be prepared for class discussion over the assigned questions. During some course meetings members of the graduate faculty will be available to answer questions. Class time provides you an invaluable opportunity to ask questions, enhance your understanding, evaluate your preparedness, and maintain a schedule of study that will allow you to be prepared for the exam.

Communication

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

Grading

Examination

An examination will be given on **Wednesday, November 3, 2020 at 5pm**; three hours will be allotted for the exam. The exam will consist of 12 questions that are randomly selected from the question pool.

A second examination will be given **Tuesday, November 23rd from 5:00-8:00pm** for students who failed the first exam (<70%) and for students who wish to try to improve their score. This second examination will consist of a different set of randomly selected questions from the question pool.

The grade for each examination will be calculated by averaging all question scores (each on a 100 point scale).

Course Grade

A grade of 70% or better is required to pass the course. The course grade awarded will be the percentage score obtained on the comprehensive examination and the following conditions.

- First exam grade \geq 70%:
 - Skip the 2nd exam: Course grade is the examination grade
 - Take the 2nd exam: Course grade is the higher of the two examination grades
- First exam grade $<$ 70%:
 - If the 2nd exam grade \geq 70%: Course grade is the examination grade.
 - If the 2nd exam grade $<$ 70%: Course grade is an F

Letter grades will be given as follows: A (100-90%), B (89-80%), C (79-70%), and F (<70%). Grades will be rounded up with a 0.5, and down with a 0.4 or lower. The **drop date** this semester is Tuesday, 22 November by 5:00pm. Drops are handled in Rampart.

A student who fails the course must enroll in Biology 6302 the next semester it is offered. A student who fails the course two times will be dismissed from the biology graduate program.

Re-grade Procedure

Any student that would like a graded question to be re-evaluated should write out the justification for the question to be re-graded and submit to the course coordinator. The exam page and the justification will be considered and a final decision regarding the grade that the student should receive on that question will be returned to the student.

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](#)²
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)³

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](#).⁴

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](#).⁵ The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dr. 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](#)⁶ for more information.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#)⁷ 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](#).⁸

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](#)⁹ for more information.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [Incident Reporting Form](#)¹⁰

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.miller@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit the [Title IX website](#).¹¹

Information About COVID-19

Please refer to ASU's [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Updates](#)¹² web page for current information about campus guidelines and safety standards as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Modifications to the Syllabus

This syllabus, including grade evaluation and course schedule, is subject to modification on potentially short notice based on developing circumstances.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Questions
25 Aug	Introduction to the course	
1 Sept	GENETICS: Part 1	1-10
8 Sept	GENETICS: Part 2	11-18
15 Sept	CELL BIOLOGY: Part 1	19-35
22 Sept	CELL BIOLOGY: Part 2	36-51
29 Sept	EVOLUTION: Part 1	52-63
6 Oct	EVOLUTION: Part 2	64-76
13 Oct	ECOLOGY: Part 1	77-87
20 Oct	ECOLOGY: Part 2	88-95
27 Oct	Review week	all
3 Nov	EXAMINATION #1: Wednesday, 3 Nov. 6-9 pm	
10 Nov	Receive exam scores	
17 Nov	Review week – 2 nd	all
23 Nov	EXAMINATION #2: Tuesday, 23 Nov. 6-9 pm	

¹ <https://blackboard.angelo.edu/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/>

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/academics/catalog/>

⁴ <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

⁵ <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>

⁶ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

⁷ <https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96>

⁸ https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/writing-center/academic_honesty.php

⁹ [https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-](https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of)
[of](#)

¹⁰ <https://www.angelo.edu/incident-form>

¹¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix>

¹² <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>