INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Carrie H. Brown
E-mail: brownch@sfasu.edu
Phone: 468-3971
Office: Liberal Arts North (LAN) 419/420
Course ID: MBBROWNS16121
Office Hours: TR, 12:30–1 pm

Supplemental Instruction (SI)
SI Leader: Kaylee Bruggeman
Time: MW 5-6 pm
Place: AARC Room A

Text and Instructional Materials:
- *Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology*, 5th Edition; Simon, Dickey, Hogan, & Reece; Pearson
- Student Access Kit for Mastering Biology (www.masteringbiology.com)

Course Description:
Bio121 is a concepts oriented course for the non-science major. Within this course the student will study the origin of life, the cell, growth and reproduction, genetics and evolution.

Number of credit hours: 4

Program Learning Outcomes:
There are no specific program learning outcomes for this major addressed in this course. It is a general education core curriculum and/or a service course.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:
*Texas State Exemplary Educational Objectives in the Natural Sciences addressed by this course are:*

Objective one requires that students “Understand and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences.”

Objective two states that students must be able “To recognize scientific and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretations both orally and in writing.”

Objective three states that students must be able “To identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories.”

Objective four states that students must be able “To demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing modern science, including issues that touch upon ethics, values, and public policies.”

Objective five states that students must be able “To demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of science and technology and their influence on, and contribution to, modern culture.”
**General Education Core Curriculum**

This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L through LiveText, the assessment management system selected by SFA to collect student work for core assessment. LiveText accounts will be provided to all students enrolled in core courses through the university technology fee. You will be required to register your LiveText account, and you will be notified how to register your account through your SFA e-mail account. If you forward your SFA e-mail to another account and do not receive an e-mail concerning LiveText registration, please be sure to check your junk mail folder and your spam filter for these e-mails. If you have questions about LiveText call Ext. 1267 or e-mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to LiveText this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to LiveText. Not every assignment will be collected for assessment every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in LiveText this semester.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY WILL NOT BE COLLECTING ANY STUDENT WORK FOR CORE ASSESSMENT DURING THE SPRING 2016 SEMESTER.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in LiveText</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
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Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who complete Concepts of Biology will be able to:

1. Explain the scientific method and critically evaluate scientific information (EEO 1, 2, 5).
2. Identify the chemical basis for life and the characteristics that distinguish living things from inanimate matter (EEO 3, 4, 5).
3. Illustrate how genetic information is passed from parents to offspring and how this genetic information is expressed by cells (EEO 2, 4, 5).
4. Classify the diversity of life forms from the species to kingdom level (EEO 2, 4).
5. Analyze biological interactions that occur from the sub-cellular to the ecosystem level of organization (EEO 1, 2, 4, 5).
6. Discuss the role of evolution in the history of life on Earth (EEO 1, 3).

Specific Course Requirements:

1. **Lab Requirement** – Concepts of Biology Lab (BIO 121L) is a required co-requisite with BIO 121 Lecture that counts for one-third (33.33%) of your final course grade.

2. **Quizzes** – There will be five open-book quizzes and/or exercises offered in D2L worth a total of 50 points. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short-answer questions. Dates and times of quizzes will be provided in class and posted on the D2L calendar.

3. **Lecture Exams** – There will be three regular major exams worth 100 points each given during regular lecture periods and a fourth exam to be given as the final exam. Dates of exams are shown on the tentative course schedule.

   Lecture exams will consist of multiple choice, matching and true/false questions recorded using a **Scantron Form 882-E**. You MUST bring the correct Scantron form to class with you on exam days with a number 2 pencil.

   Exams will cover information from lectures, reading assignments from your textbook, quiz material, and assigned homework in MasteringBiology.

   Exams are administered at the beginning of a class period. Students who arrive late for an exam (one student has completed and turned in the exam) will not be allowed to take the exam and will receive a “0.”
   - All personal belongings (including cell phones and calculators) must be left in the front of the classroom during exams.
   - Exams will not be returned. Upon request, you may review exams with me in my office before the last regularly scheduled class period in the semester.

4. **Homework** – There will be homework assignments to be completed online using MasteringBiology (www.masteringbiology.com). Homework will be worth a total of 50 points. To earn these points you must purchase a Student Access Kit for Mastering Biology. You'll need to join the course using course ID MBBROWNS16121 after you've registered for MasteringBiology (instructions are in the Access Kit).
5. **Attendance** - *(see SFA policy 6.7, Class Attendance and Excused Absence)*

   It is critical for your success that you attend lectures. Attendance will be taken for every day of class and will count 100 points of your lecture grade. You cannot make-up points lost due to an absence for any reason. No makeup work will be allowed after a student exceeds nine (9) absences.

   The instructor will not notify or otherwise provide assignments to students who are absent without a legitimate excuse (university excused absences). At my sole discretion, a student may be allowed to make up a regular exam for legitimate excuses (written confirmation of participating in university sponsored events, serious illness, or a family emergency). If you miss an exam and either did not make prior arrangements or cannot document a legitimate illness or emergency, you will receive a “0” for that exam. All make up exams must be taken before the final exam and will be given in an alternate format (for example, short answer or essay).

6. **Students are required to complete course evaluations for both lecture (BIO 121) and lab (BIO 121L) sections. Failure to complete both course evaluations will result in a 1% reduction in your overall grade.** Evaluations are completed online and instructions will be provided near the end of the semester.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

The lecture schedule outlined below is tentative and may be changed at the instructor’s discretion. Changes will be announced in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 19, 21</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ch. 1 Intro: Biology Today</td>
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<td>Jan. 26, 28</td>
<td>Ch. 2 Essential Chemistry</td>
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<td>Feb. 2, 4</td>
<td>Ch. 3 Molecules of Life</td>
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<td>Feb. 9, 11</td>
<td>Ch. 4 A Tour of the Cell</td>
<td>EXAM I Chapters 1-4</td>
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<td>Feb. 16, 18</td>
<td>Ch. 8 Mitosis and Meiosis</td>
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<td>Feb. 23, 25</td>
<td>Ch. 9 Patterns of Inheritance</td>
<td>Ch. 10 Structure/Function DNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 1, 3</td>
<td>Ch. 11 Gene Control</td>
<td>Ch. 12 DNA Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 8, 10</td>
<td>EXAM II Chapters 8-12 Mid-term</td>
<td>Ch. 5 The Working Cell</td>
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<td>Mar. 15, 17</td>
<td><em>No class - Spring Break</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 22, 24</td>
<td>D2L on-line exercise Ch. 5-7</td>
<td><em>No class - Easter Break</em></td>
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<td>Mar. 29, 31</td>
<td>Ch. 6 Cellular Respiration</td>
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<td>Mar. Apr. 5, 7</td>
<td>Ch. 7 Photosynthesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 12, 14</td>
<td>EXAM III Chapters 5-7</td>
<td>Ch. 13 How Populations Evolve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 19, 21</td>
<td>Ch. 14 Biological Diversity</td>
<td>Ch. 15 Microbial Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 26, 28</td>
<td>Ch. 16 Plants and Fungi</td>
<td>Ch. 17 Animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. May 3, 5</td>
<td>Ch. 18 Ecology and Biosphere</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>FINAL May 10</td>
<td>EXAM IV (Ch. 13-18)</td>
<td>10:30 am–12:30 pm</td>
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Final course grades will be calculated and assigned as follows:

**Lecture Average – 66.67% of the course grade**
- 4 exams worth 100 points each = 400 points maximum (44.44%)
- On-line (D2L) quizzes/exercises = 50 points maximum (5.56%)
- Attendance = 100 points maximum (11.11%)
- Homework = 50 points maximum (5.56%)

**Lab Average – 33.33% of the course grade**

**Course Grade** - Course averages will be assigned as follows:
- A = 90% - 100%
- B = 80% - 89%
- C = 70% - 79%
- D = 60% - 69%
- F = <60%

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Acceptable Student Behavior** *(SFA policy 10.4, Student Code of Conduct)*
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Specific rules for this class are as follows:**
- A student who exhibits unacceptable behavior will be asked to leave class.
- **All cell phones must be turned off or silenced during class.**
- **Students using cell phones during class, including texting, will be asked to leave.**
- **Laptops or notebooks cannot be used in class without specific prior permission.**
- Out of respect for others, students should not hold conversations with other students during lectures.
- No talking is allowed during examinations. Talking after the first exam is handed out will result in a “0” on the exam for all parties involved.
- **Arrive on time and stay until class is dismissed.**