UTRGV COURSE SYLLABUS

General Biology 1406  Instructor: Dr. Lucia B. Carreon Martinez
FALL 2016  Telephone: NA email only
Email: lucia.carreonmartinez@utrgv.edu
M-F (Varies)  Office location & hours: LHSB 2.602 TBA or by appointment

Textbook and/or Resource Material
Campbell Biology 9th or 10th Edition  Reece et al
OR Campbell Biology  Loose leaf textbook ISBN: 9780133922851

Course Description and Prerequisites
A study of the basic principles of Biology. Topics will include biological chemistry, cell structure and function, photosynthesis and respiration, DNA structure and function, mitosis, meiosis, Mendelian genetics, evolution, and the structure and function of bacteria, viruses, protozoan, algae, fungi, and plants

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Describe the characteristics of life.
2. Explain the methods of inquiry used by scientists.
3. Identify the basic requirements of life and the properties of the major molecules needed for life.
4. Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of viruses, prokaryotic cells, and eukaryotic cells.
5. Describe the structure of cell membranes and the movement of molecules across a membrane.
6. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in metabolism.
7. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
8. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins.
9. Describe the unity and diversity of life and the evidence for evolution through natural selection.

Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements
Satisfies one course of the core curriculum requirement in Life and Physical Sciences
Learning Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Empirical & Quantitative Skills, and Teamwork

Co-requisite: BIOL 1106 Biology for Science Majors I Laboratory
Recommended prerequisite: MATH 1314 Successful completion of College Algebra or concurrent enrollment in higher level mathematics is recommended. Recommended

Grading Policies
Your final grade will be determined by five exams 60% (15% each, only four exams will count)
Homework assignments (10%),
Surprise quizzes 20% (with mobile device or computer),
Group work activity 12%.

If you missed one examination you can make it up by taking a cumulative final exam, or if you want to improve your grade (the final exam would replace the lowest grade of the previous exams).

NOTE: If you decide to take Final Exam, it will be taken into account by replacing the lowest of the previous grades.

UTRGV’s grading policy is to use straight lettergrades (A, B, C, D, or F).
Important dates
The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at http://my.utrgv.edu at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Important dates for Fall 2015 include:

June 6 Classes Begin
June 6- June 8 Last day to drop a class before it appears on the transcript and counts toward the “6-drop” limit. Last day to receive a 80% refund for dropped classes (other policies apply when a student is withdrawing from all classes).
July 1st Drop/Withdrawal Deadline; last day for students to drop the course and receive a DR grade. After this date, students will be assigned a letter grade for the course that will count on the GPA.
July 4th Independence day- No classes
July 11th Study Day; no classes
July 12 th Final Exams (schedule is posted at my.utrgv.edu – check your scheduled time and list it on the syllabus)

Other Course Information
ATTENDANCE:
- Students are required to attend all classes, and must be on time for pre-lecture quizzes and/or exams. Excessive absences will result in a loss of points from participation grade. I am required to report excessive absences (more than three) to the ALERT program.

Exams & Make-up Exam
- No make-up exams or quizzes will be given. Quizzes: Clicker’s quizzes CANNOT be made up
- You will be assigned a zero (0) for all missed exams or quizzes. If you know you are to miss an exam, inform the professor as soon as possible and before the exam.
- Students will not be allowed to start an exam once the first exam has been turned in.
- During examinations your tabletop must be devoid of books, notes, calculators, cell phones, etc.
- For exams and final exam YOU MUST BRING A SCANTRON (Form No. 882-E). YOU are responsible of providing pencils, pen and eraser. Exams must be returned with the SCANTRON at the end of the exam.
- Students are not allowed to leave the class during exams and quizzes. If you leave the class during an exam, you will lose the opportunity to complete the exam. If emergency make sure you bring a doctor’s note.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during exams. All devices must be turned off and put away prior to the exam. If there is an emergency situation that requires flexibility in this policy, you must get approval from the instructor prior to the start of the exam.
- Absences: If I am given a notification within 24 hours of your absence, and a valid medical excuse is provided, I will justify your absence, but your quiz will not be taken into account.
- Issues concerning examinations and grading will be addressed for one week after each exam is given, but not latter.
- Cell phones are not allowed for phone calls, in case of an emergency you need to notify the instructor before the class starts that you are waiting for a call, AND if you take a call during class, go outside to talk. Do not ever talk on the phone in class.

NOTE: “This syllabus is subject to change”. Any changes incorporated will be given to you in the lab class as soon as possible. Therefore, it is very important you attend all classes.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Themes in the study of life</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>The Chemical context of life</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Water and life</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Carbon and Molecular Diversity of life</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Exam I*</td>
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<td>The structure and function of large biological molecules</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>A tour of the cell</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Membrane Structure and Function</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>An introduction to Metabolism</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Cellular respiration and fermentation (group work activity)</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>Exam II*</td>
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<td>Photosynthesis (group work activity)</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>The Cell cycle</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Meiosis and sexual life cycles</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mendel and the gene idea</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>Exam III*</td>
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<td>The chromosomal basis of inheritance</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>The molecular basis of inheritance</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>From gene to protein</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Regulation of gene expression</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Exam IV*</td>
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<td>Viruses and Biotechnology</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Descent with Modification: A Darwinian view of life</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The evolution of populations</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>The Origin of species</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
<td>Exam V*</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>CUMULATIVE</td>
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* Exact Dates of subjects covered and all exams (except the final exam) are tentative and may change as needed to coincide with progress in course.

UTRGV Policy Statements:

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.
If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.
MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available Nov. 18 – Dec. 9, 2015. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

ATTENDANCE
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.