



**BIOL 1409.001I2**  
**Biology for Non-Science Majors II**  
**Fall 2025**  
**Online through Brightspace/D2L (Lecture/Lab)**

**Instructor Information: Sheena Abernathy**

E-mail: [sabernathy@com.edu](mailto:sabernathy@com.edu) (preferred method of communication)

Office Telephone: (409)933-8330

**Office hours and location:**

**Office Hours:** Monday 10:00am-1:00pm, Tuesday 7:15am-8:00am, Wednesday 8:00am-9:00am (virtual) and 12:00pm-2:00pm (virtual), Thursday 7:15am-8:00am, Or by appointment

**Virtual Office Hours:** During my virtual student hours I will respond to emails as quickly as they come in and I am able to during those times. I will be available to meet with you through Microsoft Teams, but you will need to contact me ahead of time to schedule the meeting.

**Office:** STEM 325-39 (Main Campus)

**Required Textbook, Materials, and Resources:**

**Required Textbooks**

- *Campbell Essential Biology with Physiology*, Simon, Dickey, Hogan, and Reece e-text with Modified Mastering Biology. Pearson. Note: The e-book and Modified Mastering Biology are purchased at the time of registration and you will gain access to the online materials once you are in Brightspace/D2L when classes begin.

**Required Resources**

**Computer Requirements**

It is your responsibility to have access to a computer with the following resources:

- Internet access through a wired Ethernet connection
- A contemporary web browser capable of viewing flash video (Chrome and Firefox usually work best)
- Java installed and updated
- COM e-mail account
- **Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor**
- **Webcam – either built in or separate device**
- Microsoft Office (COM offers free Office 365 access to students)
- A PDF reader

You are responsible for maintaining your own online access to the course. If your computer does not allow you to complete the assignments in the course, please use the computers available on campus. Be aware that the college computers are only available during the hours of operation for the computer labs and library. It is up to you to be aware of those times and get all assignments turned in on time.

**Course Description:**

A survey of biological principles with an emphasis on humans, including evolution, ecology, plant and animal diversity, and physiology. Prerequisite: TSIA2 945-990 ELAR/CRC test AND 5 or higher on Essay OR 910-944 on CRC with 5-6 on Diagnostic Test + 5 or higher on Essay, or IRW 0320 with a grade of "C" or better. Successful completion of BIOL 1408 with a grade of "C" or better is recommended.

**Course Requirements:**

MasteringBiology – you will have weekly assignments in MasteringBiology to be completed for credit. There are also assignments that are for practice and do not count towards your grade. These assignments can be completed to help prepare you for exams.

Lecture Exams and Comprehensive Final Exam – both lecture exams and the final exam will be taken in D2L and will consist of multiple choice, T/F, diagram identification, and short answer style questions.

Lab Activities – you will be completing graded lab activities online through Mastering Biology and D2L. These labs will be what your lab exams are based off, so it is crucial that you complete the various lab activities.

Lab Practicals – lab practicals are exams that cover the various lab experiments and will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and identification of results style questions.

**Required Online Resources**

- COM Brightspace/D2L: <http://com.brightspace.com>. COM Brightspace/D2L will be used for online activities and more. All of the class resources are available through Brightspace/D2L.
- Modified Mastering Biology with eText – **Login will be completed through Brightspace/D2L**. You will have several assignments on Mastering Biology for each topic covered.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser (available through Brightspace/D2L) and a **webcam** for Respondus Monitor

## **Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

### **Lecture Grade:**

1. Lecture exams (200 points) – A total of two lecture exams, each worth 100 points, will be given throughout the semester (see Tentative Course Outline).
2. Chapter Study Guides (100 points) – you will complete a Chapter Study Guide for the various chapters to be turned in via Brightspace/D2L. These study guides also serve as the review for exams.
3. Mastering Biology Activities (100 points) – you will have Mastering Biology Activities for each section of material covered in the Learning Modules.
4. Discussion Posts (100 points) – you will have various discussion posts in Brightspace/D2L to complete throughout the semester.
5. Comprehensive Final Exam (150 points)– covers ALL the material presented in lecture and assigned as reading throughout the semester.
6. Chapter Quizzes (Extra Credit) – you will have five Lecture Quizzes for material covered in the various Learning Modules.

### **Laboratory Grade:**

1. Lab Activities (100 points) – Each section of material will have a lab activity associated with the material covered in lecture. Some labs will be completed in D2L and some will be completed in Mastering Biology. A total of eight labs worth 12.5 points each.
2. Lab Practical (150 points) – two lab practicals each worth 75 points will be given during the semester covering material from previous labs.

## **Determination of Course Grade (Total 900 points)**

### **Lecture Grade**

Lecture exams	200 points
Chapter Study Guides	100 points
Mastering Biology Activities	100 points
Discussion Posts	100 points
Comprehensive Final Exam	150 points

### **Laboratory Grade**

Lab Activities	100 points
Lab Practical	150 points

## **Grading Scale:**

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on total points earned and are assigned as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Average</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>89.5% - 100%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>79.5% - 89.4%</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>69.5% - 79.4%</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>59.5% - 69.4%</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0 – 59.4%</b>

## **Lab Science Statement**

The grade for this course consists of both a lecture and laboratory component. Students must earn 70% or better in the laboratory component to successfully pass the course. Earning less than 70% in the laboratory component will result in an F for the course regardless of the lecture grade. Passing the laboratory component and failing the lecture component will not guarantee a passing grade for the course. Deviations from this policy will be at the sole discretion of the instructor.

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** Any deviations from the policies described below are at the sole discretion of the instructor.

**Late Work Policy:** The course is designed to accommodate some of life's mishaps, difficulties, or tragedies by providing extended deadlines for selected assignments. In those cases, there is a deadline extension after the initial deadline. After the extended deadline has passed, the assignment is closed, and the link may be removed. Expect that no additional time will be provided.

- MasteringBiology Activities, Quizzes, and Labs have an extended deadline that results in a 15% loss of points for each day the assignment is late. Please use the course outline to help schedule your time for the course to assure that you meet the assignment and assessment deadlines.
- Chapter Study Guides have an extended deadline of typically 1 day that results in a 15% loss of points if submitted after the original deadline. The extended deadline for the Chapter Study Guides is posted in the course schedule. Please use the course outline to help schedule your time for the course to assure that you meet the assignment and assessment deadlines.
- Labs in D2L have an extended deadline of typically 1 day that results in a 15% loss of points if submitted after the original deadline. The extended deadline for the Labs in D2L is posted in the course schedule. Please use the course outline to help schedule your time for the course to assure that you meet the assignment and assessment deadlines.

- Lecture Exams, Final Exams, and Lab Practicals are an exception and have no extended deadline.
- NOTE: if you wait until the last minute to complete assignments and/or exams and have issues with accessing the assignment or exam, you will not be granted an extension unless there is a documented system outage.

#### **Make-Up Policy:**

- MasteringBiology Activities, Quizzes, and Labs do not have a make-up policy due to the extended deadline.
- Lecture Exams and Final Exams: Ample time is given to complete the online exams and there are no make-up exams offered.
- Lab Practicals: Ample time is given to complete the online exams and there are no make-up exams offered.

**Extra-Credit Policy:** During the semester there will be opportunities for extra credit. Students are responsible for submitting any extra credit work by the due date and no late work for extra credit will be accepted.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to actively participate in their online course. In order to be counted as present in the online portion of this course, you must log in at least **2 times per week** to participate in the class, complete assignments, print notes, or complete quizzes. This policy follows the attendance policies prescribed in the College Catalog (<http://coursecatalog.com.edu/>). Failing to log in to Brightspace/D2L, failing to log in to Mastering Biology, or failing to complete your work as scheduled demonstrates insufficient progress towards obtaining the course goals (objectives) and is detrimental to learning course material.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Responses can be expected within 24 hours during the week or 48 hours if it is the weekend.

#### **Student Learner Outcomes**

1. Describe modern evolutionary synthesis, natural selection, population genetics, micro and macroevolution, and speciation.
2. Describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.
3. Identify major phyla of life with an emphasis on plants and animals, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptation, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.
4. Describe basic animal physiology and homeostasis as maintained by organ systems.
5. Demonstrate the ability compare different sexual and asexual life cycles noting their adaptive advantages.
6. Illustrate the relationship between major geologic change, extinctions, and evolutionary trends.
7. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions, and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
8. Use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
9. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.
10. Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support and accomplish a shared goal while recognizing and respecting different viewpoints.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Link(s) to resource(s) about avoiding plagiarism:** <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dean of Academic Programs, Dr. Barney at (409)933-8727 or [rbarney@com.edu](mailto:rbarney@com.edu).

**Online Classroom Conduct Policy:** College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook. <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Dean of Students and may result in dismissal from this class.

**Course policies are subject to change.** It is the student's responsibility to check Brightspace/D2L for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in Brightspace/D2L.

**Fall 2025 Tentative Course Outline:**

Week	Lecture Topics	Online Mastering Biology and D2L Assignments	Due Dates
1	<b>Chapter 14</b> – How Biological Diversity Evolves <b>Chapter 15</b> – The Evolution of Microbial Life	About Me Discussion Posting Intro to Mastering Biology How DSMs Work Practice Quiz (D2L)	Wed, 10/15
		Ch. 14/15 Activity (MB) Ch. 14/15 Study Guide (D2L) <i>Ch. 14/15 Quiz extra credit (MB)</i> Lab 1 – Microscopy Interactive Lab (MB) Lab 2 – Microbial Life Lab (D2L) DB – Introspections #1 (D2L)	Sun, 10/19 <i>Extended due date (D2L) 10/20</i>
2	<b>Chapter 16</b> – The Evolution of Plants and Fungi <b>Chapter 28/29</b> – Plant Structure and Function	Ch. 16 Part A/Part B Activity (MB) Ch. 16 Part A/Part B Study Guide (D2L) <i>Ch. 16 Part A/Part B Quiz extra credit (MB)</i> Lab 3 – Kingdom Plantae Lab (D2L) Lab 4 – Kingdom Fungi Lab (D2L) DB – Plant Adaptations and Survival (D2L)	Sun, 10/26 <i>Extended due date (D2L) 10/27</i>
3	<b>Chapter 17</b> – The Evolution of Animals	Ch. 17 Activity (MB) Ch. 17 Study Guide (D2L) <i>Ch. 17 Quiz extra credit (MB)</i> Lab 5 – Kingdom Animalia (D2L) DB – The Lorax (D2L)	Sun, 11/2 <i>Extended due date (D2L) 11/3</i>
4		<b>Exam 1 (Chapter 14-17, 28-29)</b> <b>Lab Practical 1 (Labs 1-5)</b> <b>DB – Introspections #2 (D2L)</b>	<b>Sun, 11/9</b>
5	<b>Chapter 21</b> – Unifying Concepts of Animal Structure and Function <b>Chapter 22</b> – Nutrition and Digestion <b>Chapter 23</b> – Circulation and Respiration <b>Chapter 24</b> – The Body's Defenses	Ch. 21-24 Activity (MB) Ch. 21-24 Study Guide (D2L) <i>Ch. 21-24 Quiz extra credit (MB)</i> Lab 6 – Chapters 21-22 Lab (MB) Lab 7 – Chapter 23-24 Lab (MB)	Sun, 11/16 <i>Extended due date (D2L) 11/17</i>
6	<b>Chapter 25</b> – Hormones <b>Chapter 26</b> – Reproduction and Development <b>Chapter 27</b> – Nervous, Sensory, and Locomotor Systems	Ch. 25-27 Activity (MB) Ch. 25-27 Study Guide (D2L) <i>Ch. 25-27 Quiz extra credit (MB)</i> Lab 8 – Chapter 25-27 Lab (MB) DB – Understanding Body Systems (D2L)	Sun, 11/23 <i>Extended due date (D2L) 11/24</i>
7		<b>Exam 2 (Chapter 21-27)</b> <b>Lab Practical 2 (Labs 6-8)</b> <b>DB – Introspections #3 (D2L)</b>	<b>Mon, 12/1</b>
8	<b>Comprehensive Final Exam</b>		<b>Thurs, 12/4</b>

A note about assignments listed in the Course Schedule:

- Assignments that can be found in Mastering Biology will be indicated with an “MB” beside them.
- Assignments that are in D2L will be indicated with a “D2L” beside them.

## Institutional Policies and Guidelines

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto:AccessibilityServices@com.edu)

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is November 25.

**FN Grading:** The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

### Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

### Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.