PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

SYLLABUS

[BIOL 1021 General Biology]
[Fall 2019]
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Instructor:	Dr. George E. Brown
Section # and CRN:	P01 and 12926
Office Location:	430F New Science
Office Phone:	936-261-3161
Email Address:	gebrown@pvamu.edu
Office Hours:	MWF 9:10a.m.-10:10a.m. and 5:10p.m.-6:10p.m. in room 106 New Science TR 3:00p.m.-4:50p.m. in room 106 New Science Students may schedule a tutorial session time with the instructor by making the request in class so that all students have the opportunity to participate
Mode of Instruction:	[Face to Face which encourages student discussion of course content and presentations]
Course Location:	Room A101 New Science Building
Class Days & Times:	MW 4:00pm-4:50pm
Catalog Description:	[Discussions and presentations of current biological topics by students, faculty, and lectures]
Prerequisites:	This is a high impact first year experience seminar for freshmen biology majors therefore freshmen biology majors or minors can usually benefit from the specific academic enhancement presented in this course
Co-requisites:	[Freshmen biology majors should be enrolled in or completed General Biology 1015]
Required Texts:	Campbell Biology, **ELEVENTH Edition**, by Lisa A. Urry. Michael L.Cain, Steven A. Wasserman, Peter V. Minorsky, and Jane B. Reece, ISBN -10: 0-134-09341-0; or ISBN 13: 978-0-134-09341-3 Student Edition
Recommended Texts:	Supplements: Required Materials **Materials needed to enhance learning biology:** 1. University Catalog Requirements for Graduation 2. The A Game" by Kenneth J. Sufka, Ph.D. ISBN: 978-1-936946-02-0 (Issued to 2017 freshmen during freshmen week)

3. Assigned premedical and medical careers articles

4. Class handouts on career opportunities in the professions

5. Selected materials provided by graduate and professional schools

6. Students must read the topics on the e-course for this class prior to class and be prepared to be quizzed by the instructor.

7. Students are required to maintain a notebook with all class handouts, graded exams, reports, and quizzes attached to the notebook.

8. **Number 2 pencils** for exams

9. At least 6 each **SCANTRON forms 884-E**S (Answer choices for 200 questions) for each of the six exams

Student Learning Outcomes:

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: **[NOTE: Begin each outcome with a verb]:**	**Program Learning Outcome # Alignment**	**Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment**
1	Students will be able to develop strategies in time management	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
2	Students will be able to establish career goals and objectives	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
3	Students will be able to demonstrate mastery of the scientific method	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
4	Students will be able to develop good study habits	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
5	Students will be able to achieve mastery of reading in the scientific content area	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility

6	Students will be able to achieve mastery of test taking strategies	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
7	Students will be able to develop a career plan to successfully complete the biology curriculum and graduation requirements within four years	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
8	Students will be able to develop strategies to become a qualified competitive applicant to graduate or professional school	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
9	Students will be able to demonstrate exposure experiences learned about careers opportunities in professions of the biosciences, the health professions, and health professions schools	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
10	Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of opportunities to participate in summer biological research internships and health careers opportunity summer internships.	All of the University's Core Curriculum Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 are included	Critical Thinking Communication Problem Solving Personal & Social Responsibility
	Course Outline: a. Introduction b. Biology degree plan and graduation requirements c. Time management and study sessions d. Goal setting and time management e. Self-assessment f. Invited Seminar Presenters that provide career opportunity experiences g. Invited Seminar Speakers that provide information to enhance student academic success h. Medical School and graduate school required prerequisites. i. Discovering science, knowing who you are and how. j. Reading and studying k. Note-taking and writing l. Health care exposure m. Developing cultural competences n. Listening, memory and test taking o. Scientific inquiry p. Critical and creative thinking q. Using critical thinking in problem solving and decision making		

	r. Shifting your prospective s. Developing creativity in science t. Working in the laboratory u. Relating to others v. Managing career and money w. Moving ahead and building a smart future		
	a.		

Major Course Requirements

Method of Determining Final Course Grade

Course Grade Requirement]	Value	Total
1) Exam 1,	25%	25
2) Exam 2, mid-term	25%	25

Subtotal: 50% of semester grade

9) **FINAL EXAM** Grade. Students may earn up to 50% of their semester grade on the final exam.	50.00%	50.00
Total:	**100%**	**100**

Grading Criteria and Conversion:]
A = 90% to 100%
B = 80% to 89%
C = 70% to 79%
D = 60% to 69%
F = 0% to 59%

Detailed Description of Major Assignments: [Demonstrate on the cumulative final exam that they can earn scores of between 70% and 100%. Therefore students can earn up to 50% of the semester grade on the final exam.]

Assignment Title or Grade Requirement	Description
Score 70%-100%	Standardized Cumulative Final Exams

Course Procedures or Additional Instructor Policies

IV. Type of Course:

This is part one of a comprehensive introduction of the concepts of enhancing academic success in the biological sciences and career opportunities in modern biology, for first year students majoring in biology. This section (BIOL 1021-P01) concentrates on premedical preparation. Section BIOL 1021 -P02 concentrates on biological career goals, and BIOL 1021-P03 concentrates on pre-dental preparation.

V. Course Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide first year biology majors with an in depth knowledge of the biology curriculum, graduation requirements, prerequisites for entry into health profession schools and graduate biomedical programs, and academic enhancement of cognitive strategies by learners. This course is

oriented toward the improvement and information processing. Students are encouraged to monitor their ability to acquire and retain scientific knowledge. Developing good study habits, improving retention of information, eliminating problems encountered during test taking, and managing time for effective learning are topics that will be emphasized in this course. Career information and training activities will be used to achieve the 10 **Outcomes Expectations for Learners** listed below in section VI. This seminar is designed to assist students with their transition from high school environment to the university environment, which has been shown to be difficult for many freshmen. This course should to the main source of academic, career, and social advisement and counseling. This course will also insure that you meet with your academic and career advisor at least once a week.

You should read each assigned chapter in your textbook, class handouts, class materials and write notes in your **wire binder research notebook** before the instructor teaches the topics in class. Therefore you should be able to perform each of the course **outcome expectations for learners.** Be prepared to ask questions at the beginning of each class about concepts that you did not understand in your reading.

The class instructor conducts discussion type classes. These classes require student participation and demonstrations. The instructor will ask students questions, present problems to solve and use audio visuals. You should be prepared to actively participate in class by going to the marker board to demonstrate your knowledge of concepts.

When you meet with your Biology Research instructor for class or study conferences, you are required to **bring your course notebook, textbook and related class materials** with you. Don't come without them. They will enhance your study sessions.

VI. Outcomes Expectations for Learners:

In order to be successful in this course, students must demonstrate an understanding of the following ten concepts:

1. Develop strategies in time management.
2. Establish career goals and objectives.
3. Demonstrate mastery of the scientific method.
4. Develop good study habits.
5. Achieve master of reading in the scientific content area.
6. Achieve mastery of test taking strategies.
7. Develop a career plan to successfully complete the biology curriculum and graduation requirements within four years.
8. Develop strategies to become a qualified competitive applicant to graduate of professional school.
9. Obtain exposure to the health professions and health professions schools.
10. Obtain knowledge of health careers opportunity summer internships at professional or graduate schools.

VII. Course Evaluation Methods:

The University's Academic Catalog grading policy is used in this course. **All lecture exams will be cumulative** in terms of topics tested on. Each exam covers all chapters and topics taught from the first day of class to the day immediately before the exam. The average of all lecture exams will constitute fifty percent (50%) of the semester grade. (The average of laboratory practicalexams, quizzes, reports, and test

will count as an equivalent lecture exam,) **The cumulative final exam will constitute the remaining 50% of the semester grade.**

At least two cumulative exams (mid-term exam and final exam) will be conducted during the semester. The dates for each exam will be announced at least one week prior to the administration of the exam. However unannounced quizzes may be given by the instructors in order to evaluate how well students are learning the most recent biology concepts taught. The average of all semester quizzes and reports will count as one lecture exam. **The mid-semester exam scheduled for, Monday, October 14, 2019.**

The **final exam for this course is scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2019, 1:30p.m. - 3:30p.m.** All final exams are required to be given as **scheduled by the University Semester Final Exam.** Therefore you are encouraged to plan and schedule your activities and other choices to avoid a conflict with your final exam.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Students are strongly advised to take all exams at the scheduled time. Plan and schedule your activities so that you can be present to take all exams at the scheduled time. Students with non-valid or non-official excuses for missing an exam will earn a grade of zero (0) for the missed exam. Students may request a make-up exam for one that was missed. However, the instructor will schedule the time and place of the make-up exam which will not interrupt the teaching of the class or delay the complete coverage of the course topics. Students that are scheduled for the make-up exam and miss it will not be provided a second opportunity to take an exam for the original exam missed.

VIII. Class Attendance:

The University Attendance Policy requires students to be present for each scheduled class. Students are required to demonstrate their knowledge of each concept of modern biology covered by the course textbook and the instructor. Students with or without official excuses for missing class will be tested and evaluated the same as students who were present for class. However, students attending class have the advantage of being taught knowledgeable information which they are expected to know. **Excessive absenteeism will result in the student's grade being reduced by letter grade.**

Recommended Student Conduct:

1. Arrive early for class, be seated, and be prepared to participate in class discussions.

2. Eat breakfast and lunch before coming to class.

3. **Dress for success.** Students may also wear medical scrubs and laboratory coats to classes. It is appropriate to wear these in lecture classes because they are worn in the profession of your choice.

4. Start your preparation for the final exam and standardized pre-entry exams such as the MCAT at the beginning of this semester.

5. **Be serious about the final exam.**

IX. Conduct That Is Not Allowed:

1. **Cellular phones, I-Pads, I-Pods, Palm pilots, CD players, Radios, Cameras, Lab top Computers** and other sorts of high technology communication instruments are not allowed to be used for any part of this course. These are **instruments** for **cheating.** If you are carrying these, they **must be turned off** and locked in your book bag during class so that they cannot be seen or used. Students that are caught using these or any instruments during class **will be charged with cheating** and therefore earn a failing grade. See item 4 below concerning cheating.

2. **Smoking is not allowed in the New Science Building.**

3. **Food and beverages are not allowed in the classrooms. Do not bring food into the class room.**

4. **Cheating on exams, quizzes, reports, or any graded activity is not allowed**. Failing grades (zero) are assigned to students that cheat. **This classroom has video cameras which records the action of students during class exams. These recordings can be used as evidence of student cheating.**
   - **a.** Please go to the rest room before starting your exam. Once a student leaves the classroom during an exam they will not be permitted to return to that exam.
   - **b.** Students are not permitted to communicate with each other during an exam. Therefore students cannot talk to, pass written materials to, or show answers or questions to other students in the class.
   - **c.** Laboratory reports and presentations must be the work of the individual student. **Evidence of copying your work from others, including the world wide net, is cheating.**
   - **d. Students should read the section on Offenses and Appropriate Disciplinary Actions in the current PVAMU web site catalog.** This is also referred to in section XI below.

5. Students enrolled in this course are not permitted to **wear hats, caps, head rags, helmets or any type of hear gear** in the class rooms for this class. Dress for success. Please do not insult and disrespect the class by violating this cultural practice.

X. Course Outline:

a. Introduction
b. Biology degree plan and graduation requirements
c. Time management and study sessions
d. Goal setting and time management
e. Self-assessment
f. Medical School and graduate school required prerequisites.
g. Discovering science, knowing who you are and how.
h. Reading and studying
i. Note-taking and writing
j. Health care exposure
k. Developing cultural competences
l. Listening, memory and test taking
m. Scientific inquiry
n. Critical and creative thinking
o. Using critical thinking in problem solving and decision making
p. Shifting your prospective
q. Developing creativity in science
r. Working in the laboratory
s. Relating to others
t. Managing career and money
u. Moving ahead and building a smart future
v. Invited seminar speakers

The Academic Calendar for fall 2019 is published in the University's web site and in the fall semester Course Registration Bulletin which can be accessed by students.

1. Instruction begins for this class on **Monday, August 26, 2019**

2. Late Registration for the fall semester ends by 5:00p.m., Wednesday, September 30, 2019.

3. Add/Drop for all students ends by 5:00p.m. for all sstudents on Friday, August 30, 2019.

4. Labor Day Holiday (University is closed), Monday September 2, 2019 Class resumes, Tuesday, September 3, 2019

5. Last day to withdraw from a course without it being part of the academic record, Wednesday, September 11, 2019

6. Withdrawal form courses between Thursday, September 12 and November 01, 2019 will earn a "W" on the academic record.

7. **Mid-Semester Exam: Monday, October 14, 2019**

8. Biology majors should start intensive **Study Schedule** for their very important Final Exams by Wednesday, November 13, 2019 and continue until the start of final exams.

9. Thanksgiving Student Holiday occurs Thursday- Saturday, November 28- 30, 2019. **Only nine days remains before the start of final exams.**

10. Course Review Day: Monday, December 2, 2019 and Tuesday, December 3, 2019

11. Last day to withdraw from the University: Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

12. **The cumulative final exam** for section BIOL 1021 P01 is scheduled for 1:30p.m. – 3:30p.m., **Monday, December 10, 2019** in room A 101. The cumulative final exam will constitute the remaining 50% of the final semester grade. **It will test all topics covered during the semester. Final exams are required** to be given **only** at the times and dates announced in the 2019 Fall University Final Exam Schedule. Students **must arrange** their schedule and activities so that they are prepared and **present for the final exam**.

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library
The library and its partners have as their mission "to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service" and to support the University's core values of "access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility" through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty.

Center for Academic Support
The Center for Academic Support (CAS) offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Tutoring Center is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library

COMPASS

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library

Writing Center
The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Location: Hilliard Hall 121

University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):
Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class, should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):
You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.

2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.

3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.

4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook)
The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):
Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy
Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class.

Student Academic Appeals Process
Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in

the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

Disability statement (See Student Handbook):
Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class, should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

***Minimum* Recommended Hardware and Software:**

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

***Netiquette* (online etiquette):**

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

***Technical Support*:**

Students should go to https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/ if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

***Communication Expectations and Standards*:**

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement:

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplishing by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.