



RANGER COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

General Biology I

BIOL 1406

4 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR:

James Francis

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EMAIL: jfrancis@rangercollege.edu (best method of contact)
Office: Ranger (M&W): Academic 9; Erath (T&R): Faculty Office 2 or SciLab 2.
OFFICE HOURS: Ranger: 11:00-11:30 AM(M & W), 3:30 (M); 1:00 – 1:40 PM (TR). I am available Monday - Sunday from 9AM until 7PM, by email.

Course Description

Fundamental principles of living organisms will be studied, including physical and chemical properties of life, organization, function, evolutionary adaptation, and classification. Concepts of cytology, reproduction, genetics, and scientific reasoning are included.

Required Textbook and Course Materials

YOUR TEXTBOOK IS INCLUDED IN IncludEd!!! You will not receive a hard copy of the text but will have the option to order a loose-leaf copy once you have registered for the McGraw-Hill Connect website. The easiest and fastest method to get access to Connect is to go to “Start Here!”, select “Get To Know Connect” and you will be taken to the website where you will register, pay for the Connect access & get started. You MUST register through blackboard so that you will have access to the CONNECT site (with LABS), if you have trouble connecting to this please email me.

Connect Access Card for Biology: Concepts and Investigations

Course Purpose

Life Science courses focus on describing, explaining and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method. Courses involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on the physical world and on human experiences.

Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the process of science as a way to understand the natural world.
2. Describe the cell as the basic unit of life.
3. Describe the major metabolic pathways in cellular respiration and photosynthesis, and the role of enzymes and high-energy molecules, such as ATP, in these processes.
4. Describe the structure and expression of the genetic material in living organisms.
5. Describe the process of cellular division.

6. Describe the mechanics of passing characteristics from parent to offspring.
7. Describe the mechanism of organic evolution and adaptation.

Methods of Instruction

Reading/lectures/notes

Online practice, discussion boards, and homework through Lumen.

LearnSmart with Connect Lab Access

Labs in which major biological principles will be demonstrated by examination of specimens, conducting experiments and viewing videos.

Methods of Assessment

Lecture: The lecture portion of the course comprises 75% of your final grade in BIOL 1406. Exams will cover all material discussed since the last exam and may consist of one or more of the following: 1) fill-in-the-blank questions, 2) short answer questions or short essay, 3) matching, 4) multiple choice

NOTICE: Lab will be 25% of the total grade for 1406. Though it is its own course with its own time slot, at the end of the semester it will be included with your overall 1406 grade.

Each question will be graded as correct or incorrect in accordance with information in the text and lectures. Each exam will carry equal weight in the average, including the Final Exam.

ONE LAB & 3 HOMEWORK (Practice/Learn Smart) will be dropped on the last day of class.

The course grade will be computed as follows:

ASSIGNMENTS 15%

DISCUSSION BOARDS 5%

UNIT EXAMS 30%

LAB 25%

FINAL EXAM 25%

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

Grading scale: A = 90-100% B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = Below 60

Course/Classroom Policies

Any student who is disruptive to the class or who does not abide by the classroom policies and rules as set forth by the instructor (whether verbally or in writing) will be dismissed from the class and may be dismissed from the course. Any student found with unauthorized notes (cheat sheets, electronic devices, etc.) during an exam or copying from another student's exam will be subject to disciplinary action. Any student misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Student Services.

All cell phones, pagers or similar devices should be turned off and placed out of sight during exams. No smoking or tobacco use is permitted in the building. If you smoke, please do not smoke near the entrance of the building.

Extra Credit and Grading: On occasion, you may be given the opportunity to earn extra credit points, but this is not guaranteed. The instructor reserves the right to give extra credit in the form of pop quizzes, rewards for attendance, assignments, bonus questions, or any other method deemed appropriate by the instructor.

As a human, I can make mistakes with questions or assignments. Please reach out if you have any questions about the grades or if you notice an error.

As far as grade rounding, I will take into consideration how involved you were in the course throughout the semester. The cutoff will be 1 point.

Lecture and Exam Absences Policy: The course catalog states: "Regular and punctual attendance in all classes and labs is considered essential for optimum academic success. If the student has the equivalence of three weeks of unofficial absences in a course in which he/she is currently enrolled, the instructor may drop the student from the course with a grade of —F.

Unofficial absences are counted from the first day of class as listed in the College Calendar, regardless of the date of the student's registration. The only official absence is an authorized College activity, or an approved Leave of Absence. All work and/or assignments missed because of an official absence must be completed within two weeks or the official absence may count as unofficial. An official absence during the two-week period does not extend the deadline for the completion of assignments. Ranger College will excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day and travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused may not be penalized for that absence and will be

allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.”

A student who misses any lecture is responsible for obtaining any missed material, notes, assignments, announcements, etc. Exams are obviously very important and should be taken seriously. Students should arrive early on the scheduled exam dates and times to avoid being tardy. Students who are tardy on exam dates will not be allowed to take the regular exam and will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam only if the tardy is excused. Make-up lecture exams are given only for exams missed due to an excused absence or excused tardy and may be given later in the semester. Any absence or tardy may be excused solely at the discretion of the instructor. Conflicts with work/job schedules are not considered a valid excuse for missing an exam. Speak to your job supervisor about the importance of class attendance and exam dates. You will not be allowed to make up any exams due to an unexcused absence or unexcused tardy, and you will receive a grade of Zero for the missed exam. You may be required to provide written documentation or evidence to substantiate the reason for any absence or tardy. Evidence to substantiate an excused absence or tardy may be required and authenticated prior to my scheduling a make-up lecture exam. It is the sole responsibility of the student to notify me of the intent to take a make-up and provide substantiating evidence within one week of missing an exam. **IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MAKEUP EXAM YOU MUST CONTACT ME PRIOR TO MISSING THE EXAM!!!** Failure to schedule a make-up exam within one week of missing an exam may result in the loss of make-up privilege. Make sure that you do not miss a scheduled make-up exam appointment, as it CANNOT be rescheduled. Make-up exams are normally more difficult than regular exams and may be in essay format to accommodate fairness to the students who took the regularly scheduled exam. Students are strongly urged to not miss any scheduled exams, as this could negatively impact your grade. You are required to take the Final Exam and there is **NO MAKEUP** for the Final Exam.

All assignments/labs/tests **DO HAVE DUE DATES** that will be strictly adhered to. All Learn Smart & Learn Smart Labs will auto-submit at the due date! Please pay attention to all due dates. These are included in the syllabus, the calendar & there will be weekly announcements with due dates as well. **FINAL EXAM may NOT be taken early, per Ranger College policy.**

Non-Discrimination Statement

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

ADA Statement

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.

COVID-19 Policy

Ranger College is committed to providing a safe environment for students and employees. If you feel sick or have COVID-19 symptoms, or have been around people confirmed to have COVID, please follow the protocols of Ranger College and don't risk infecting others. I will do whatever I can to make sure you stay on top of the course if you do have to stay home.