BSC 1309.01E Human Structure and Function
Course Syllabus: Fall 2014

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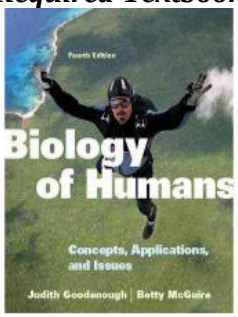
Course Information

Required Course Materials

Required Textbook



ISBN 13: 9780321707024

Known for its unique "Special Topic" chapters and emphasis on everyday health concerns, the Fourth Edition *of Biology of Humans: Concepts, Applications, and Issues* continues to personalize the study of human biology with a conversational writing style, stunning art, abundant applications, and tools to help students develop critical-thinking skills. The authors provide students a practical and friendly introduction for understanding how their bodies function and for preparing them to navigate today's world of rapidly expanding and shifting health information. ***Special Note***: The lecture textbook has been chosen to participate in the rental program offered by the University bookstore.

Course Description

BSC 1309 is a course for non-biology majors designed to apply the principles of biology to humans as a functional unit of our social organization. Fundamental principles of humans, as in all living organisms, include physical and chemical properties of life, organization, and function. This course will explore basic biological concepts in a manner that stresses relevance to the human population by focusing on current issues and should engage the student in thought-provoking analyses to reflect and integrate into societal interactions. .

Student Learning Objectives

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) requires the following Core Competencies for accreditation: Communication, Teamwork, Critical Thinking, and Empirical and Quantitative Skills.

Critical Thinking - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.
Communication - In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M - Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
Empirical and Quantitative Skills - Students will be able to interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data.
Teamwork - Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.

Course Requirements

Instructional/Methods/Activities/Assessments

This course will provide a variety of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the learning objectives for the course. You will work toward achieving these objectives through assigned readings, course exams, two assessments/assignments, and participation in a group presentation. Following is an explanation of each course requirement including due dates, assignment instructions, and other requirements.

Attendance (Not Graded)

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Attendance records are used for institutional reporting (e.g. financial aid, TRiO, mid-term, etc.). Although attendance is not a graded component for the course, you have the ability to earn "bonus points" on your ***lowest taken*** exam score. To qualify for the bonus points for attendance, you must (1) arrive on time (late arrivals are disqualifiers) and (2) stay for the entire class period. The following are the bonus points you have the potential to earn based off your semester attendance percentage:

Attendance Percent	Bonus Points
100	50
90 - 100	40
80 - 90	30
70 - 80	20
60 - 70	10
Below 60	0

Please Note: A documented excused absence (refer to the University's Student's Guide Handbook, Polices and Procedures, and Conduct on TAMUC-website) will be required if you fail to attend class.

Critical Thinking and Empirical and Quantitative Skills Assessments/Assignments

There are two assignments covering specific topics of study which will be used to assess portions of the learning objectives for the course. These assignments are designed to evaluate the student's understanding of the subject matter. Assessments evaluate a student's ability to:

- Analyze, evaluate, or solve a problem when given a set of circumstances or data (Critical Thinking)
- Interpret, test, and demonstrate principles revealed in empirical data (Empirical and Quantitative Skills).

The Critical Thinking assessment will cover the topics of Transcription and Translation (Chapter 21). The assessment covering the topic of Genetics and Heredity (Chapter 20) will be given to assess Empirical and Quantitative Skills. Both assessments will be given after the topics have been covered during class lecture.

Assessment Method (20% of Course Grade)

The assessment for Critical Thinking (Genetics and Inheritance) will be given on **September 29**. The assessment for Empirical and Quantitative Skills (Transcription and Translation) will be given on **October 13**. Each assessment will be given in a multiple choice format. The two assessments each represent 10% of the course grade. You will need a scantron (Form Number 882-E) for each of the assessments.

Group Presentation

You will work within a team environment to research, compose, and present assigned biological concepts (e.g. skeletal muscle contraction, action potential generation, negative feedback, etc.) and/or its influence on society (e.g. one amino acid change that results in sickle cell anemia, how uncontrolled restraints on cell division lead to cancer, the effects of cigarette smoking, etc.). You should be able to effectively interpret and present the principles of your chosen topic. You will select your presentation topic from a list provided by the instructor and also form your group the first day of class. Your group will present your chosen topic on the date indicated on the topic list correlating with the lecture topic on that date. All students within your group ***must*** participate in the presentation so that a grade might be individually derived for each team member.

Assessment Method (10% of Course Grade)

The presentation grade counts as 10% of your course grade. The criteria for the presentation is as follows: Organization (10%); Topic Knowledge (20%); Creativity and Visual Aids (10%); Communication Skills (20%); and Effectiveness as a Team Member (40 %). Team members will return a feedback form evaluating each member's teamwork contribution. The remaining 60% of the presentation grade will be determined by me based on the Presentation Grading Rubric for Organization, Topic Knowledge, Creativity and Visual Aids, and Communication Skills. Your group should incorporate images, videos, or other resources in your presentation to convey your topic. The presentation grading rubric with criteria and point value of presentation components may be found on the following website: **http://faculty.tamuc.edu/sgossett**

Course Exams

There will be a total of seven exams for the course. This scheduling permits (1) you to have smaller "portions" of biological information in which to be tested over at one time and (2) lower course percentages on exams than if only two or three exams were given. In an effort to allow you to focus your study in preparation for exams, study guides for each of the chapters covered this semester is provided at the website below. You should print and work the study guides as you progress through the assigned class reading. During lecture, I will make every effort to cover the pertinent points of the assigned reading presented on the study guide; however, you are responsible for obtaining the answers from your textbook. If you need assistance or clarification not covered during the class lecture, you may visit with me during my office hours. The study guides and accompanying chapter PowerPoint may be located at the following website: **http://faculty.tamuc.edu/sgossett**

Exam	Scheduled Date	Time	% of Lecture Grade
Exam I – Chapters 2, 3, and 4	September 8	10:00 a.m.	10%
Exam II – Chapters 19, 20, and 21	September 22	10:00 a.m.	10%
Exam III – Chapters 5, 6, and 7	October 6	10:00 a.m.	10%
Exam IV – Chapters 8, 9, and 10	October 20	10:00 a.m.	10%
Exam V – Chapters 11, 12, and 13	November 10	10:00 a.m.	10%
Exam VI – Chapters 14, 15, and 16	November 24	10:00 a.m.	10%
Final Exam – Chapters 17 and 18	December 8	10:30 a.m.	10%

Assessment Method (Course Exams count 70% of the Course Grade)

Each of the course exams will be composed of 50 multiple choice questions derived from the exam study guides. Each exam counts 10% of your course grade. You will need a scantron (Form Number 882-E) for each of the course exams.

Course Grading

Course Grade Schematic

Critical Thinking Assessment	**10%**
Empirical and Quantitative Skills Assessment	**10%**
Presentation	**10%**
Chapters Exams (Total of 7)	**70%**
Total Course Grade	**100%**

Course Grading Scale

A	**90 - 100**
B	**80 - 89**
C	**70 - 79**
D	**60 - 69**
F	**59 or lower**

Technology Requirements

You will need access to a computer to access the exam study guides, the grading rubric for the course presentation, and if you choose to view the PowerPoint for the assigned chapters. Should you not have access to a home computer, you may use those provided by Texas A&M University – Commerce at Gee library or in the Computer Lab located in the Science and Technology Center, Room 210.

Support

Academic Success Center ...where minds meet

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is focused on providing academic resources to help each student reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success. They provide excellent resources available on their website to increase your ability to study effectively, facilitate time management strategies, and enhance your learning. The Academic Success Center also offers on campus tutoring. Please visit their website for more information: http://asc@tamuc.edu

Early Intervention for First-Year Students

Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

Course and University Procedures/Policies

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

You should arrive on time (***LATE*** arrivals are disruptive and not conducive to a learning environment). It is ***your responsibility*** to maintain contact with me regarding your course participation. You need to inform me if circumstances prevent your attendance in class. In the event you are absent on the date of a graded course component (e.g. exam, assessment/assignment, or presentation), you are responsible for providing me with the excused documentation and to schedule a time for completion.

In order to create a "learning environment" free of disruptions, you ***MUST TURN OFF*** your cell phone as well as all other electronic devices. The only acceptable electronic device is a laptop computer you are using to take class notes. You give up the privilege of using your laptop in class if you are caught "surfing the web," reading email, watching videos, etc.

You will be permitted to make-up an exam or assignment; however, it will require a ***documented official excuse*** (refer to the University's Student's Guide Handbook, Polices and Procedures, and Conduct). All make-up work must be completed within two (2) days of the date noted on your official excuse for returning to school. It is your responsibility to schedule a time during my office hours to complete the assessment/assignment and/or exam. Assessments and/or exams not taken or not in compliance with an official excused absence will be recorded as a score of zero.

ADA Statement

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, fax (903) 468-8148, or email StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. This policy is enforced both in traditional and virtual classroom environments. The student should refer to the University's Student's Guide Handbook, Polices and Procedures, and Conduct.

Plagiarism is a criminal activity. The student must cite all sources of information. The copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a grade of zero and can result in further disciplinary action. You are being educated to be credible in your field of study. If you plagiarize or cheat, you lose the credibility that is precious to any field. As in any unacceptable behavior, actions are accompanied by a result/consequence. As a consequence of plagiarism or cheating in this course, the result/consequence to your action will be an "F" for the course and could also incur further University disciplinary consequences.

Course Outline/Calendar of Reading Assignments, Assessments, and Exams Schedule

Week	Date	Class Reading Assignment, Assessments/Assignments, and Exams
1	**August 25**	Introduction to Course and Syllabus Review
1	**August 27**	Chapter 2 - Chemistry Comes to Life

1	**August 29**	Chapter 2a - Food Safety and Defense
2	**September 1**	Labor Day Holiday - No Class
2	**September 3**	Chapter 3 - The Cell
2	**September 5**	Chapter 4 - Body Organization and Homeostasis
3	**September 8**	**Exam I over Chapter 2, Chapter 3, and Chapter 4**
3	**September 10**	Chapter 19 - Chromosomes and Cell Division
3	**September 12**	Chapter 19a - Stem Cells: A Repair Kit for the Body
4	**September 15**	Chapter 20 - Genetics and Human Inheritance
4	**September 17**	Chapter 21 - DNA and Biotechnology
4	**September 19**	Chapter 21a - Cancer
5	**September 22**	**Exam II over Chapter 19, Chapter 20, and Chapter 21**
5	**September 24**	Chapter 5 - The Skeletal System
5	**September 26**	Chapter 6 - The Muscular System
6	**September 29**	**Genetics and Inheritance Empirical and Quantitative Skills Assessment**
6	**October 1**	Chapter 7 - Neurons: The Matter of the Mind
6	**October 3**	Chapter 8 - The Nervous System
7	**October 6**	**Exam III over Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Chapter 7**
7	**October 8**	Chapter 8a - Drugs and the Mind
7	**October 10**	Chapter 9 - Sensory Systems
8	**October 13**	**Transcription and Translation Critical Thinking Assessment**
8	**October 15**	Chapter 10 - The Endocrine System
8	**October 17**	Chapter 10a - Diabetes Mellitus
9	**October 20**	**Exam IV over Chapter 8, Chapter 9, and Chapter 10**
9	**October 22**	Chapter 11 - Blood
9	**October 24**	Chapter 12 - The Cardiovascular and Lymphatic System
10	**October 27**	Chapter 12a - Cardiovascular Disease
10	**October 29**	Chapter 13—Body Defense Mechanisms
10	**October 31**	Independent Study Day - No Class
11	**November 3**	Chapter 13a - Infectious Diseases
11	**November 5**	Chapter 14 - The Respiratory System
11	**November 7**	Chapter 15 - The Digestive System
12	**November 10**	**Exam V over Chapter 11, Chapter 12, and Chapter 13**
12	**November 12**	Chapter 15a - Nutrition and Weight Control
12	**November 14**	Chapter 16 - The Urinary System
13	**November 17**	Chapter 17 - Reproductive Systems
13	**November 19**	Chapter 17a - Sexually Transmitted Diseases
13	**November 21**	Chapter 18 - Development throughout Life
14	**November 24**	**Exam VI over Chapter 14, Chapter 15, and Chapter 16**
14	**November 26**	Independent Study Day - No Class
14	**November 28**	Thanksgiving Holiday
15	**December 1**	Chapter 18a - Autism Spectrum Disorders
15	**December 3**	Independent Study Day - No Class
15	**December 5**	Independent Study Day - No Class
16	**December 8**	**Final Exam over Chapter 17 and Chapter 18** **10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

* The instructor reserves the right to administer revisions to the class schedule if circumstances require.