

**General Biology I – Attributes of Living Systems**  
**BIOL 1306 - 3 credits**  
**Texas A&M University San Antonio, College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Fall 2024 Syllabus**

**Dr. Brenda Rushing**

**Office:** SciTech 311M - **Office phone:** 784-2212

Email: [brushing@tamusa.edu](mailto:brushing@tamusa.edu)

**Student Help Time** (aka, office hours): Mon./Thurs./Fri from 2-3:30 p.m.

It is helpful to me if you plan to attend office hours by scheduling through my Calendly app:

<https://calendly.com/brushing-appts>

If these times do not work with your schedule, please do email me for an alternate time! I can also do Zoom meetings!

**Class Meeting Times and Location(s):**

Lecture: MWF 1-1:50 p.m., STEM 141

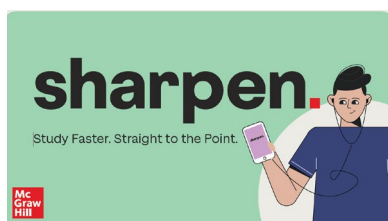
**Textbook for Lecture \*\*\*REQUIRED\*\*\*:**

**Biology** – Raven et al. – 13th edition McGraw Hill – **\*\*BOOK FEE ASSESSED-SHOULD HAVE ACCESS ON FIRST DAY OF CLASS\*\***

**\*\*You may also purchase a loose copy at a special rate from the publisher. This is a great option if you know you will need a physical copy of the text. Order using the link within Connect.**

**Other Required Materials:**

- **Lab: MUST BE ENROLLED IN BIOL 1106 LAB CONCURRENTLY (unless already taken)**
- **Blackboard – this is where you will go for lectures, grades, and weekly announcements**
  - Power-point versions of lectures will be posted on Blackboard
  - Announcements regarding lectures or labs may be posted on Blackboard
  - Grades for individual assignments/labs etc... will be posted on Blackboard as we go along.
- **On-Line Learning System Components**
  - We will be using “McGraw Hill Connect” which is an on-line tool for learning and studying modules. You will have access to this via blackboard. It will require a one-time set-up.
  - There is also a study feature called “Sharpen” within this system that has flashcards, videos, quizzes, and other helpful tools. Here is the QR code to access the app (also in Connect.)



**Catalog Description and Prerequisites:**

**Course Description:** This course examines the fundamental molecular, cellular, and genetic principles characterizing living organisms including the role of the scientific method in the discovery of these principles. Specific concepts include the chemical basis for life, energy transformations, cell structure and function, the metabolic processes of respiration and photosynthesis, cell reproduction, and basic concepts of heredity and genetics. This course is designed for students majoring in science fields. This course meets the standards for the life and physical Sciences category of courses under the core curriculum.

## Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop critical thinking skills, communication skills, and empirical and quantitative skills.
2. Students will understand and apply the scientific method to novel questions in order to develop a strategy to answer those questions.
3. Students will understand the role of the scientific method in scientific discovery.
4. Students will summarize the laws of matter and energy as they apply to living organisms
5. Students will classify the organic and inorganic components that make up living organisms
6. Students will explain the role of water in the fitness of the environment
7. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the differences between eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells.
8. Students will identify components of plant and animal cells, including the structure and function of cell organelles.
9. Students will understand cellular membranes as they relate to transportation of molecules into and out of cells.
10. Students will understand the energy transforming principles of photosynthesis and cellular respiration.
11. Students will understand the cellular cycles of mitosis and meiosis
12. Students will understand the basic principles of gene to protein
13. Students will apply the principles of Mendelian genetics to solution of basic genetics problems to better understand inheritance patterns and be able to discuss how they can contribute to the solution of medical and social dilemmas.
14. Students will be able to discuss recent advances in modern genetics considering the medical, social, and economic impacts of the new findings.

## Supplemental Instruction

Supplemental Instruction (SI) group study sessions are available for this course. Sessions are offered for free, three times per week. These sessions are facilitated by your SI Leader, Sydney King, who is attending class with you and has successfully taken this course before. All students should attend SI sessions to ask questions about course content and to develop learning/study strategies. Students who participate in SI sessions typically earn higher final course grades than students who do not participate in SI. SI attendance is voluntary, and it is not a substitute for class attendance or individual studying. For information about the days, times, and locations for SI sessions, refer to Blackboard or speak with your SI Leader.

## Course Content

### 4 Regular Exams – (100 points each)

- Each exam will have 35-50 questions ranging from multiple choice, short answer, true/false, drawing, matching, fill-in-the-blank, etc. Not all types of questions will be on every exam.
- Exams **will not be scaled**, however you will be informed of the class average on that exam and thus it will give you an idea of your standing in the class (see scaling policy on FINAL GRADES below).
- If you feel that your exam was graded incorrectly, I would be happy to discuss it with you **within 1 week of taking the exam**. After that, your grade will stand.

### 1 Project – (100 points)

- This project will encompass the last unit of the semester – including concepts on DNA replication, transcription and translation.

### 1 Cumulative Final Exam – (100 points)

## Homework Assignments –

- On-line homework assignments, such as SmartBook (SB) readings and chapter homework (HW), are a way to guide you through sections of your book and help you to assess whether or not you are understanding the material. These will be completed as per the deadlines listed on the schedule –plan ahead to make sure you complete these in time. You may miss two without penalty (i.e. two may be dropped.) If you do all the assignments, the two lowest will be dropped. It is recommended that even if you miss a deadline, you still complete the assignment to keep up with the course material.

### **In-Class Activities/Active Learning–**

- There will be **quizzes/polls** throughout the semester that will help reinforce concepts and allow for active learning during the class. There will be no make-ups for these.
  - Polls/quizzes will be assessed through the iClicker system. You will earn participation points and/or quiz points through this system.
  - Attendance will also be tracked and may be used at the end of the semester for consideration in cases of borderline grades.
  - You will receive an iClicker with a bar code that you will register to your name. You **MUST** use the same remote for every class period!
- There will be **hands-on activities**. These in-class assignments should help assess where you are in terms of the concepts being taught. If you struggle with these activities, this should help identify where you need to focus your studying or where you need to ask for more help. There are no make-ups for these if you miss a class, but you may obtain the activity to work on later for studying purposes.
- I will sometimes also be using a random name drawing from all students in the class to answer questions.
  - This isn't intended to put someone on the spot, but to allow all students a chance to speak up now and then. If you don't feel up to answering that question, I can put your name back into the bag (no penalty) and move onto to another student for that particular topic.

### **iClicker Student Instructions & Resources:**

- You must [create a free iClicker student app account](#) to ensure that your grades appear in your instructor's iClicker gradebook. You can do this by downloading the mobile app via the App Store or Google Play, or by visiting the [iClicker student web app](#).
- [Register the 8-digit remote ID](#) from the back of your iClicker remote. You can do this upon creating your iClicker student account or at any other time through your account profile.
  - Registering your remote is required in Courses in order to identify you as the participant using the remote. If you do not register your remote, your instructor will only have your remote ID and not your name in the gradebook with your responses. If you register later, your name will still be associated with those past responses!
- [How to use my remote?](#)
- [Click here for instructions on finding your instructors course](#)
  - If your instructor has it to where you need a join code, then you should check Blackboard for where that might be or reach out to them directly!
- [How to Use iClicker's Student Study Tools](#)

### **Roadmap to Success!**

#### **You are here to learn and I am here to facilitate your learning process.**

- In college, it is expected that for every credit hour you spend in class, you spend 3 hours working on that material at home. Thus, it is expected that in addition to coming to class every Mon/Wed/Fri, you also spend 9 hours a week on this course outside class time. This of course takes time-management skills. Please take this into consideration when planning your semester activities.
- **ATTEND SI SESSIONS!** You will learn a lot from your SI leader and your peers during these sessions.
  - Try to attend at least once a week to get added practice learning the course material and study techniques.
- Create a study calendar that blocks out time for all of your commitments.
  - Eating and sleeping
  - Working out
  - Working a job, caring for family members etc.
  - Specific study times for each of your courses (an hour a day, a block of time on a weekend, whatever fits your schedule)
  - Fun time/down time
  - Realize that you may need to be flexible with certain weeks (exam week etc.)

- **Be sure that study time is without phone, social media interruptions, etc.**
  - These distractions make you lose focus.
  - Suggestion: Set a timer for a length of time you will work, and then take a 5-10 minute phone break. (Time the phone break too so you don't go down a social media rabbit hole!)
- Come to class regularly and on time – it affects your grade, not only because points may be assessed, but because of understanding the material.
- I highly recommend that you take handwritten notes during class, as this method also has been shown to increase learning.
  - One option is to print the PowerPoints prior to class and make notes on the slides themselves, as they will not contain all of the information you need.
  - If you have a tablet, taking notes on the slides themselves is also a good option.
  - Another suggestion is to take independent notes (paper or digitally) during lecture and correlate them with the slides later.
  - Here is a relevant website on note taking: <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/note-taking/>
- Ask questions in class or fill out a “muddiest point” note card to drop off at the end of class.
- Think about finding a study partner, or create a group, that meets once a week with a specific time and place. The earlier in the semester you do this, the better! 😊
- Do seek out help from me and your peers
- Cell phones away please during class unless asked to use them for biology purposes.

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

**Lecture Attendance:** Attendance will be taken daily however you will not be assessed points. However, keep in mind that attendance may be used at the end of the semester as an additional evaluation of your performance (i.e. if your grade is borderline and you have attended class regularly I will be more inclined to bump you up to the next grade). If you must miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining what you missed (announcements, class notes, handouts, etc...) from a fellow classmate, not me.

In which case make a buddy: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exam Day Attendance:** Mandatory – If you arrive late, you have only until the end of the period to take it. So, my advice: show up early.

**Random Mandatory Attendance:** Occasionally there will be a topic, guest speaker, or an activity that will occur in class. These days will be mandatory. You will have prior warning to when these days occur.

#### **MAKE UP POLICIES:**

**SmartBook assignments/Homework Assignments:** Because these are on-line and because they will be open and available for more than one day, you should have ample opportunity to complete these. There is a 2-day grace period for SB assignments without penalty. There is a 5-day grace period for turning in HW assignments; however, you will lose points (20%) per day late. If there is an emergency that is considered a university-excused reason that prevents you from completing an assignment in the allotted timeframe, you must contact me **within one day of the due date**. If I do not hear from you within that time period, you have forfeited the right to make up the assignment or quiz.

#### **Exams:**

- You may make up an exam only if:
  - you contact me within **one** day (24 hours) of the scheduled exam
  - your absence is one approved by TAMUSA policies (illness, death in the family, other immediate-family emergencies). Documentation will be required.
  - **Again – if I do not hear from you within 24 hours of the scheduled exam, you have forfeited the right to make up the exam.** (Unless of course there are extenuating circumstances, such as hospitalization or other serious emergency.)

**In-class activities** – as mentioned above, any hands-on activities we conduct in class **cannot be made up** as they require your presence and will often be conducted as a group. However, if you miss for an excused reason, we can discuss the reason why and then you may be exempt from the points given in class.

### Grading

**EXAMS = 60% of your grade (total points earned / total points available X 0.60) = part A**

**HOMEWORK/SmartBook assignments = 20% of your grade (total points earned total points available X 0.20) = part B**

**ASSIGNMENTS in-class/QUIZZES/Participation polls = 10% of your grade (total points earned / total points available X 0.10) = part C**

**CLASS PROJECT = 10% of your grade (total points earned / total points available X 0.10) = part D**

**(A + B + C + D) x 100 = FINAL COURSE PERCENTAGE**

**\*\*NOTE ABOUT BLACKBOARD “TOTAL POINTS” column\*\* - Blackboard is strictly a way of reporting your scores to you. Please pay attention to these percentages above – realize that while it may look like you have an “A” based on points listed – this does *not* mean you have an “A” in the course (i.e. some points are worth more than others.) The grades must be weighted appropriately to determine the final average. While I do attempt to set up the gradebook correctly weighted, be aware that errors can sometimes occur.**

### **Final Grade:**

A = 90-100%.....I will *consider* scaling up if you earn an 89.7%, but I will **NOT** scale up for an 89.49% or less

B = 80-89%..... I will *consider* scaling up if you earn an 79.7%, but I will **NOT** scale up for an 79.49% or less

C = 70-79%..... I will *consider* scaling up if you earn an 69.7%, but I will **NOT** scale up for an 69.49% or less

D = 60-69%..... I will *consider* scaling up if you earn an 59.7%, but I will **NOT** scale up for an 59.49% or less

F = below 60%

### Email Etiquette

Professional email etiquette is a requirement when communicating with me (or anyone) online. A proper greeting (e.g. Professor, Dr. Rushing, Dear Dr. Rushing etc.) with a coherent message is required. The subject line should include the name of the course WITH your SECTION INFORMATION. For example:

To: [brushing@tamusa.edu](mailto:brushing@tamusa.edu)

Subject: Question about Gen. Biol. Class MWF 1 p.m.

Dr. Rushing,

My name is “your name here” and I was wondering what format the Gen Bio midterm will be in.

Best (or Regards or Thank you),

“Your name here”

**Emails that do not satisfy these conditions may be ignored. \* Please do not write emails as you would text messages or include the entire email body in the subject heading, and please be respectful to all.**

Please allow 24-48 hours for a response during the regular work week and 72 hours for a response over the weekend. I typically respond the same day if I can, but I will not regularly be answering e-mails after 6:00 p.m. so please plan accordingly. If I do not respond to your email within a couple of days, you may respectfully inquire again in case I missed the first attempt.

### **IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or

chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

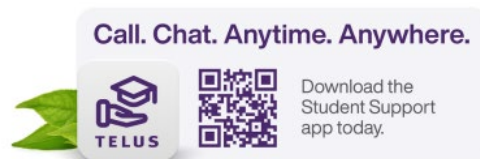
**Academic Learning Center:** The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

**Counseling/Mental Health Resources:** As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit [tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

*Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').*

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer to peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



**Emergency Preparedness:** JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

**Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:** According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend by the census date will have their financial aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester, a Care report will be submitted, and you will possibly be dropped from the class. Your financial aid may have to be recalculated and a portion of your federal aid may have to be returned to the DoE.

**Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center:** The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/>.

**Meeting Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

**Military Affairs:** Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.



Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

#### *Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.

2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### *Students' Responsibilities*

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

**Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements, and ethical misconduct.**

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. **If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.**

#### **Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission**

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

**NOTE:** Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>



**Important Dates:**

August 26	First day of class
September 2	Labor Day Holiday
November 11	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
November 19	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
November 27	Study Day – No classes
November 28-30	Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes
December 5	Last day of classes
December 6	Study Day – No classes
December 7-13	Final exams

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>.

**General Biology I CLASS SCHEDULE-Fall 2024**

Tentative schedule-**Subject to change**. Changes will be announced on Blackboard and in class.

Week	Dates	Lecture Topics/Readings
1	Aug 26-30	Syllabus/expectations/iClicker Ch. 1 Scientific Method
2	Sept. 4-6	<i>Sept. 2 Labor Day no classes</i> Ch. 2 Atoms, Molecules and Water
3	Sept. 9-13	Ch. 3 Organic Molecules
4	Sept. 16-20	Mon.--exam review/start Ch. 4 <b>Wed. Sept 18 Exam 1 (Ch. 1-3)</b> Ch. 4 General Features of Cells
5	Sept. 23-27	Finish Ch. 4 Ch. 26 (selected) Non-living particles
6	Sept.30-Oct 4	Ch. 5 Membrane Structure, Synthesis & Support
7	Oct. 7-11	Mon—exam review/start Ch. 6 <b>Wed. Oct. 11 Exam 2 (Ch. 4, 5, 26)</b> Ch. 6 Energy & Metabolism
8	Oct. 14-18	Finish Ch. 6 Ch. 7 How Cells Harvest Energy
9	Oct. 21-25	Finish Ch. 7 Ch. 8 Photosynthesis
10	Oct. 28-Nov. 1	Mon.—exam review/start Ch. 10 <b>Wed. Oct. 30 Exam 3 (Ch. 6, 7, 8)</b> Ch.10 How Cells Divide
11	Nov. 4-8	Ch. 11 Sexual Reproduction & Meiosis Ch. 12 Patterns of Inheritance
12	Nov. 11-15	Finish Ch. 12 Ch. 13 Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance
13	Nov. 18-22	Mon.—exam review/start Ch. 14 <b>Wed. Nov. 20 Exam 4 (Ch. 10, 11, 12, 13)</b> Ch. 14 DNA: The Genetic Material
14	Nov. 25 (Mon.)	Finish Ch. 14 if needed Ch. 15 Genes and How They Work
15	Dec. 2-4	Finish Ch. 15 Ch. 16 Control of Gene Expression
	Dec. 6	Study day (no classes) (possible optional review session for final)
		Final exam week 12/9-12/13 Final exam (comprehensive) Date: <b>FRIDAY Dec. 13, 10-11:50 a.m.</b>