

Texas A&M University – San Antonio  
Department of Natural Sciences – Biology Program

**BIOLOGY 1309, Section 002**

**Introduction to Life Sciences II (3 credit hours)**

**Fall 2024, Tuesday/Thursday 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. STEC 143**

**Contact Information: Dr. Marv Lutnesky**

Email: [Marvin.Lutnesky@tamusa.edu](mailto:Marvin.Lutnesky@tamusa.edu)

Tel: 210-784-2285, Fax: 210-784-2299

**Office Hours: My office is located in the Science & Technology Building (STEC), Room 311U.** Hours: Monday and Thursday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., or directly after class (but only if you let me know as we are leaving class), or by appointment at other times. Feel free to call (ext. 2285) or leave a message (ext. 2244, or [Marvin.Lutnesky@tamusa.edu](mailto:Marvin.Lutnesky@tamusa.edu) [No Bb email, see below]) so that we can get together.

Note: This is a *face-to-face* class. However, I will post occasional out-of-class assignments or virtual meetings in advance through email for occasions we do not meet in person.

**Academic Catalog Course Description:** This course is designed for non-science majors. Students examine the principles of organismal biology, biodiversity and ecology in the modern world and how these principles relate to issue in today's society and their broader meaning to the public. Topics in this second course include the study of life at the organismal level considering their morphology, life histories, physiology, and ecology. The nature and evolution of biological diversity and how that diversity is studied is included. Experimental hands-on exercises are included. This course meets the standards for the Life and Physical Sciences category of courses under the core curriculum. TSI Restriction(s): Reading

**Required Materials:**

- 1) **Textbook (E-book)\*:** Hoefnagels, M., 2021. *Biology: the essentials*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill Higher Education, New York, NY.

\*BOOK FEE WAS ASSESSED...YOU SHOULD HAVE ACCESS ON FIRST DAY OF CLASS through the online Connect system. **Do not pay again if you hit a paywall.** You may also purchase a loose-leaf 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.

- 2) **Connect:** Connect is an online learning platform that accompanies the textbook. You must register for it separately. Student registration can be found via the link provided on Blackboard under the Course Content tab. This is also the same location your ebook can be found.

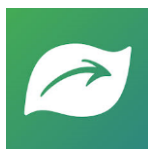
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- 3) **Blackboard (Bb):** Site for slides, assignment submission links, and grades. All announcements will be via your school email, not Bb. Remember, to reach me, use the email in contact information above, not Bb.
- 4) **Scantron forms and pencils:** exams will be in multiple formats (see below), but a major portion of **three of four exams** will be machine-graded. Scantron forms (see picture, below; available in the campus bookstore) are used for this purpose, and can only be correctly read when a pencil is used (#2 pencils are best).



### Recommendations for Success

- 1) **Come to class...never miss!** You need to “be there” to learn, and literally, your grade depends on it (see below) due to “**Questions of the Day**” used to keep you on track with your studies! **There will be an attendance sheet to sign daily.**
- 2) **Inside of class, take notes by hand; you learn better this way** (see Ihara AS, Nakajima K, Kake A, Ishimaru K, Osugi K et al., 2021. Advantage of handwriting over typing on learning words: evidence from an N400 event-related potential index. *Front. Hum. Neurosci.* 15:679191. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2021.679191).
- 3) **Outside of class, you are highly** encouraged to work from a **computer or laptop with audio/microphone** as smart phones typically do not have the capacity to run some of the virtual materials. If you need a computer or wi-fi, please contact IT directly for assistance. IT contact information can be found in the Table of Contents in Blackboard as well as the University website. Furthermore, computer labs on campus are open and available to you! Finally, it is up to the student to have a **stable internet/browser connection** when conducting any online coursework.
- 4) **Read the book, and do the assignments...again your grade depends on this! You should be spending about 1.5 hours daily (outside of class) on this course alone** (reading your book, doing the assignments, re-copying your notes, playing “stump me” with others, etc.).
- 5) **Use my office hours...** If you do not understand something after reading your textbook, attending lectures, and discussing it with classmates, please come see me! I am here to help you understand and learn!
- 6) **Download the free app... iNaturalist.** It will help you with some assignments (see below).



←Seek by iNaturalist app (free!); see below...

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### **Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will...

1. ...develop critical thinking skills, communication skills, and empirical and quantitative skills through working as a team.
2. ...gain an appreciation for the diversity of life on Earth.
3. ...be able to describe modern evolutionary synthesis, natural selection, population genetics, microevolution and macroevolution, and speciation.
4. ...be able to describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.
5. ...be able to identify the major phyla of life with an emphasis on plants and animals, including the basis for classification, structural and physiological adaptations, evolutionary history, and ecological significance.
6. ...be able to compare and contrast how different organisms carry out similar life functions.
7. ...be able to illustrate the relationship between major geologic change, extinctions, and evolutionary trends.
8. ...understand the basic principles of population, community, and ecosystem ecology.
9. ...be able to evaluate if an ecological question is best answered via experiments at the population, community, or ecosystem level.
10. ...be able to apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
11. ...be able to use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory or field.
12. ...be able to critically assess content and illustrate its broader meaning to the public.

**Lecture Attendance...** Extra credit (EC) points (see limitations on EC, below) are earned for each lecture attended...i.e., just sign in at the start of class (no later than 10 minutes late, and not leaving early...*if you sign for another student, you forfeit your attendance points*). In addition to learning directly from lectures, most lecture days will include a graded “Questions of the Day” (QoD scores, see Course Grading, below). *Unexcused absences from lecture will result in missed QoD points* (see Policies, below).

**Course Grading:** There will be a total of **four 100-point exams** in this class. Two of the exams are taken in the term, i.e., **term exams (100 points each: Thursday, 26 September, and Thursday, 31 October)**, the third exam is a **cumulative score on questions asked at the end of each lecture period (with a few exceptions), i.e. the Questions of the Day, or the QoD score, over the course of the semester (100 points)**, and the fourth exam is a **comprehensive, 100-point final exam (as scheduled by the University, Thursday, 12 December, 2:00 – 3:50 p.m.)**. Exam questions will be in one of the following formats: multiple choice, matching, calculations, fill-in the blank, short essay, or essay. Exams will be based on lectures and your text.

**Course grades** will be based on the percentage of points earned from your **highest three exam scores (lowest exam score is dropped)**; 90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, and 60% = D, and natural breaks in the distribution of scores. Typically, grade curving is not used in this course; if a grade curve were used, it would only be applied at the very end of the course, after all assessments are scored.

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Finally, note that the hand-graded (as opposed to machine-graded) sections of exams and assignments take time to grade, so students will not receive *instant gratification* regarding exam results; exams will be returned no later than within two weeks of the exam date (however, QoD scores are usually returned during the next class meeting).

**Graded Work:**

| Category  | Number of Assignments | Team (T) or Individual (I) work | Points per Assignment | Point Subtotal |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Attendance  | 26                    | I                               | 2 EC*                 | 35 (5%)        |
| In-term Exams <sup>§</sup>  | 2                     | I                               | 100                   | 200            |
| QoDs <sup>§</sup>   | ~26                   | I                               | 2 to 6                | 100            |
| Final Exam <sup>§</sup>   | 1                     | I                               | 100                   | 100            |
| Connect Homework  | 11                    | I                               | 20                    | 220            |
| Connect Quizzes   | 11                    | I                               | 10                    | 110            |
| Environment and You   | 4                     | I or T                          | 10                    | 40             |
| Endangered or Imperiled Organism or Habitat Presentation (Paired) | 1                     | T                               | 30                    | 30             |
| <b>Total<sup>§</sup> =</b>  |                       |                                 |                       | <b>700</b>     |

\*Extra Credit Points

<sup>§</sup>The lowest of the 100 point exams, or the 100 point QoD, is dropped

**Policies:**

- 1) ***No make-up exams will be given without approval before a scheduled exam. Unexcused, missed exams, receive a score of zero. If this occurs, this score (or one of these scores if it occurs more than once) is automatically used as the lowest, dropped, score for the class.***
- 2) ***Any missed exams or QoD scores that are due to excused absences must be made up within two weeks of the excused absence, otherwise the missed exam receives a score of zero.***

Protocol example for an excused absence involving a “Questions of the Day” (QoD):

- a) For example, if a QoD is missed due to scheduled TAMUSA event on a Tuesday, then:
  - i) On Thursday, leave class *before the QoD is asked* (this is permissible because the QoD may be on any material covered to date, including the material covered on the missed Tuesday).
  - ii) To remedy this situation, come to scheduled Office Hours (see above) to make up the missed (but excused) QoD points within two weeks of the Tuesday miss; otherwise the score for the missed QoD automatically converts to a zero.

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- 3) Use of electronic equipment (computers, phones, etc.) is discouraged due to 1) how people learn (see #3 of recommendations for success, above), and 2) professional etiquette (see #7, below). Regardless, if you want to take notes with a computer, come to my office hours for an agreement form.
- 4) Academic integrity is expected of all students at all times (see below). **Make sure you take care of all personal needs (e.g. bathroom, etc.) before exams. Leaving the room during an exam for any reason ends the exam.**
- 5) Extra credit opportunities are sometimes available to the entire class. When available (to be announced), extra credit earned can only be used to improve grades up to “B,” i.e., one cannot rise to outstanding performance via extra credit (the “A” grade; by definition, means the student’s performance has been outstanding, and an outstanding performance does not require “extra credit” to be recognized as such).
- 6) **Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines**  
 Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution 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>
- 7) **Attitude and perseverance are everything!** Have a great attitude! I continue to write letters of recommendation for students with great attitudes. *Performance is more than just about grades.* No one wants to work with someone with a bad attitude, not even one with great technical ability! Bad attitudes include passive acts of rudeness such as texting or using a computer for e-mail or social media during a lecture or lab activity; practice professionalism.

**BIOL 1309, Introduction to Life Science II, Schedule of Homework and Quiz Due Dates**

| Due Date           | Due time   | Chapter # | Chapter Name                  | Homework Due | Quiz Due |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Sunday, Sept. 1(8) | 11:59 p.m. | 12        | Forces of Evolutionary Change | Yes          | Yes      |
| Sunday, Sept. 8    | 11:59 p.m. | 13        | Evidence of Evolution         | Yes          | Yes      |
| Sunday, Sept. 15   | 11:59 p.m. | 14        | Speciation and Extinction     | Yes          | Yes      |
| Sunday, Sept. 22   | 11:59 p.m. | 18        | Populations                   | Yes          | Yes      |
| Sunday, Sept. 29   | 11:59 p.m. | 19        | Communities and Ecosystems    | Yes          | Yes      |
| Sunday, Oct. 6     | 11:59 p.m. | 20        | Preserving Biodiversity       | Yes          | Yes      |
| Sunday, Oct. 13    | 11:59 p.m. | 15        | Diversity of Microbial Life   | Yes          | Yes      |

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|                    |               |    |                                   |     |     |
|--------------------|---------------|----|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Sunday, Oct.<br>20 | 11:59<br>p.m. | 16 | Diversity of Plants               | Yes | Yes |
| Sunday, Oct.<br>27 | 11:59<br>p.m. | 17 | Diversity of Animals              | Yes | Yes |
| Sunday, Nov. 3     | 11:59<br>p.m. | 23 | Animal Organ Systems              | Yes | Yes |
| Sunday, Nov.<br>10 | 11:59<br>p.m. | 28 | Circulatory & Respiratory Systems | Yes | Yes |

**Tentative outline of Topics**

*Topics for the first exam (See Chapters 12 – 14, 18)*

1. Evolution acts on populations with changes in allele (gene) frequencies; natural selection shapes evolution, which is inevitable in three main ways; other forces influencing evolution
2. Evidence of evolution from DNA and amino acid sequences of proteins, from biogeography, anatomical structure, patterns of embryonic development, and fossils
3. Evolution resulting in reproductive isolation...and speciation; barriers to reproduction before and after fertilization of eggs; speciation in geographically isolated populations and in populations that are not geographically isolated; gradual and “sudden” speciation events; extinction; systems of classification based on patterns of common descent
4. Populations evolve interacting within the context of their environment (physical and social); common patterns of reproductive strategies...patterns of life history; population growth; the growing human population

*Topics for the second exam (See Chapters 19, 20, 15, 16)*

1. Communities and ecosystems; biomes, keystone species, symbioses (commensalism, parasitism, mutualism), competition, predation, succession, food webs, and nutrient cycling
2. Preserving biodiversity; global climate change, pollution and habitat destruction, invasive species, over-exploitation, strategies for conservation
3. Microbial life including diverse algae; origins, prokaryotes, eukaryotes and multicellular organisms, protists, and fungi
4. Plant life; Bryophytes, seedless vascular plants (including ferns), gymnosperms (including conifers) and angiosperms (flowering plants)

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*Topics for the final exam (Comprehensive, but also see Chapters 17, 23, 27)*

1. Animal Life; sponges, cnidarians, mollusks, annelids, nematodes, arthropods, echinoderms, chordates and vertebrates (including fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals)
2. Tissue types; skeletal and muscular systems, circulatory and respiratory systems
3. Blood, clotting, human heart, heart attack, stroke

## **IMPORTANT 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.

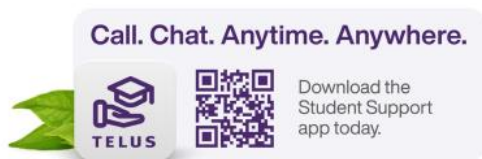
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *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.



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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. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

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.



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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.

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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.

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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>).

**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>.