



Texas A&M University San Antonio
College of Arts and Sciences
General Biology II Laboratory
BIOL 1107.03L - 1 credit
Fall 2026 Syllabus

Lab TA Instructor:

Email:

Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor: T. Marie Tipps

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Office: STEM 311K

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 11:30AM – 1:30PM; & by appointment, please email me!

Class meeting times and location: Wednesdays 11:00 AM – 1:45 PM in STEM 371

Required co-requisite for Biology Majors: BIOL 1307 General Biology II

Recommended prerequisite: MATH 1314 Successful completion of College Algebra or Concurrent enrollment in higher-level mathematics is recommended.

Materials Required: Laboratory instruction handouts provided on Blackboard.

*You are also **HIGHLY** encouraged to work off of a **computer or laptop** for your pre-/post-lab coursework. *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.

Course Description: This course provides hands-on laboratory exercises that highlight the fundamental principles concerning the biology of organisms: biodiversity, evolutionary relationships among major groups of organisms, structural/functional characteristics of these organisms, and general ecological principles of organism relationships. This course is designed for students majoring in science fields. Biology majors taking this course must be concurrently registered for BIOL 1307.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and Empirical and Quantitative skills. Students will learn to work as a team.
2. Students will understand and apply the Scientific Method to novel questions to develop a strategy to answer those questions.
3. Students will learn how to collect and analyze scientific data through hands-on activities in which they gather the data.

Required:

- Signed safety agreement prior to start of second lab period.
- **You must wear closed toed shoes and pants to lab each week. Students not in proper attire will be asked to leave.**



- **Lab coats must be purchased and worn in the lab during designated weeks on the syllabus schedule.** If you forget your lab coat, you will be required to rent one for \$2 or leave the lab for the day and take a zero. Renting is **dependent on lab coat availability.**
- Students must log-in regularly to both the Blackboard site and to their TAMUSA email account to keep updated on information related to the class.

Grading Scheme:

Attendance – Mandatory. Laboratories are important to the biology experience. Attendance and participation will be recorded at all lab meetings for a total of 100 attendance points. However, if a student misses more than 3 laboratory classes in a regular semester then the student will automatically fail the course. Please see a more detailed description below in the **Laboratory Attendance Policy**.

Assignments – There are 11 assignments due worth 20 points, the *lowest assignment grade will be dropped* each for a total of 200 points for the semester. These will be explained each week before they are due and will require additional work outside of class.

Pre-lab Quizzes – There are 10 quizzes with each quiz worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points for the semester. **These will be pre-lab quizzes due at 11:59PM per due date in Blackboard.** Pre-lab Quizzes will also be timed at 20 minutes with 5-10 questions. These quizzes are to ensure your preparedness for lab.

Laboratory Proposal – This will be a group document that I will provide more information during the Scientific Writing and Animal Behavior Lab. I will also provide a grading rubric to ensure you understand the requirements for your grade including the appropriate animal behavior topic. Your group proposal will be worth 100 points and must be submitted via Turnitin.com. You must also submit on the original due date a completed proposal. The original proposal is worth 100 points.

This is much like a real grant or research proposal and you will have to gain approval on your proposal to move forward. In other words, I will either accept or reject your proposal. If rejected (score less than 70/100), you will be required to resubmit for approval. If you receive greater than 70/100, resubmission is optional. **All resubmissions must be done in track changes and will be regraded for points up to the instructor's discretion.** Again, to be eligible for resubmission, you must submit a completed proposal on the original due date found in the lab syllabus schedule.

Presentation – During the Scientific Writing and Animal Behavior Lab mentioned above, you will form groups during lab and conduct an independent study on animal behavior based on your experimental design outlined in the proposal (see above). As a group, you will present the results of this study during the final lab. A grading rubric will be distributed to the groups during the semester to ensure you understand the requirements for the presentation. In addition, each person will be anonymously graded by your other group members on your participation to ensure that everyone pulls their own weight (see below regarding group participation). If I receive a bad report from your group for your performance, this will be reflected on your individual grade. The presentation is worth 50 points.



Group Project Participation – You will be graded on your participation in the animal behavior proposal writing, editing, experiment execution, and presentation. You must do your part to receive these points. There will be a peer-evaluation for each of these components. You automatically receive 15 points, unless your peer-evaluations indicate lack of participation in any of these areas.

Late Work – **I do not accept late work** unless it is due to a university approved and documented absence or an unavoidable situation. If such circumstances arise, you are required to communicate with me **within 24 hours of the due date** for the assignment in question. *You will also be required to provide appropriate documentation.* If you do not, you will receive a zero. *It is at my discretion whether I will deduct points for approved late work.*

Assignment Points

Attendance	100
Quizzes (10)	100
Assignments (11; 1 dropped)	200
Lab Proposal	100
Participation	15
Presentation	50
Total	565

A=565-508, B=507-452, C=451-395, D=394-339, F=<338 or below. I will round up or down the decimal place on a grade. So, if you receive a 459.5, you will get an A for the letter grade. However, a 459.4 will be a B. I will not make a decision about scaling the course grade until course averages have been determined.

Laboratory Attendance Policy - Laboratory courses are unique to your education in that they will provide you with hands-on opportunities to gain the skills and critical thinking processes inherent to the study of biology. For these reasons, we have a strict departmental attendance policy:

- Attendance is **mandatory**.
- **If you miss more than 3 labs for whatever reason (excused or not), the maximum score you can earn for the laboratory section of a course is 50%.**
- If you miss a lab section for a university excused absence, you may attempt to make up the lab in another lab section if the following criteria are met and directions followed:
 - a) the absence is considered a university excused absence and was determined to be one by your primary instructor (documentation will be required),
 - b) you must contact via e-mail both your instructor and the instructor of the section you would like to attend, and
 - c) you must receive written confirmation that you are able to make up the lab. *If you do not receive written confirmation, you will not be allowed to make up the lab. **Due to the nature of certain lab topics, not all labs have makeup ability; therefore, missing lab forfeits any associated points.***



TENTATIVE Lab Schedule: *Every effort will be made to keep the following schedule.*

*All labs will meet in-person on campus in STEM 371 (unless otherwise noted) and count towards your “Attendance” points.

**All pre-lab quizzes and assignments outlined in the Due Dates column count toward your final grade.

Week	Lab Meeting Date (Tuesdays)	LAB TOPICS	Quiz/Assignment Due Dates *Note all due dates are 11:59PM PRIOR to your lab meeting day. *
1	8/25	No Lab Meeting – First Week of Classes	-
2	9/1	Lab Intro., Syllabus, Lab Safety, & Science: A Way of Knowing	Lab Safety Agreement (during lab) Scientific Method Assignment (Mon., 9/7)
3	9/8	Modeling Processes in Evolution	Pre-Lab Quiz 1 (Mon., 9/7) Evolution Lab Assignment (Mon., 9/14)
4	9/15	Dealing with Diversity; Introduction to Classification (Dichotomous Keys)	Pre-Lab Quiz 2 (Mon., 9/14) Dichotomous Key Assignment (Mon., 9/21)
5	9/22	Simple Statistics & Introduction to Scientific Writing, the Proposal, and Animal Behavior Experiment Kickoff	Pre-Lab Quiz 3 (Mon., 9/21) Statistics Handout / Proposal Planning Assignment & Annotated Bibliography (Mon., 9/28)
6	9/29	Population Ecology (Mark-Recapture Simulation) & <i>Proposal Work</i>	Pre-Lab Quiz 4 (Mon., 9/28) Population Ecology Assignment (Mon., 10/5)
7	10/6	Community Ecology (Simpson’s Diversity Index)	Proposal Due (Mon., 10/5) Pre-Lab Quiz 5 (Mon., 10/5) Community Ecology Assignment (Mon., 10/12)
8	10/13	Pollinator Ecology	Pre-Lab Quiz 6 (Mon., 10/12) Pollinator Assignment (Mon., 10/19)
9	10/20	Animal Skull CSI & Human Evolution	Pre-Lab Quiz 7 (Mon., 10/19) Skull Assignment (Mon., 10/26)
10	10/27	Animal Behavior Experiment - Conduct	<i>Optional</i> Proposal Re-submission (Mon., 10/26)
11	11/3	Protist Diversity	Pre-Lab Quiz 8 (Mon., 11/2) Protist Diversity Assignment (Mon., 11/9)
12	11/10	Presentations on Animal Behavior Experiment	Copy of Presentation submitted via Blackboard (Mon., 11/9)
13	11/17	Plant Diversity	Pre-Lab Quiz 9 (Mon., 11/16) Plant Assignment (Mon., 11/30)
14	11/24	No Lab Meeting – Thanksgiving Holiday	-
15	12/1	Animal Diversity – Dissections *Lab Coat Mandatory*	Self/Peer Evaluation submitted via Blackboard (Mon., 11/30) Pre-Lab Quiz 10 (Mon., 11/30) Dissection Assignment (Sun., 12/6)



Important Fall 2026 Dates:

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don’t hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

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 at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

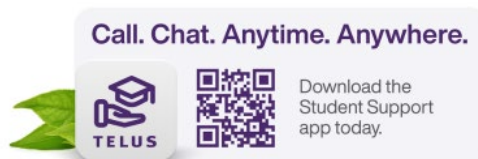
Appointments available MATH Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed

	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, 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 system. 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 on emergency response may be found at: [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and the [Emergency Action Plan](#). 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 by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in real-time with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#) . The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

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 report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

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 or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety 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 on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to 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, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

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 discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, 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 sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (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; 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.

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet these criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

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, 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, 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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#).