

**Cellular Physiology**  
**BIOL 3409 - 4 credits**  
**Texas A&M University San Antonio, College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Spring 2026 Syllabus**  
**Dr. Chris Mares      Phone number 210-784-2265**  
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**Office hours:** Monday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.; 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. You may also email or call me to set up an appointment.

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

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. S&T 141

**Textbook for Lectures:**

Essential Cell Biology 6<sup>th</sup> edition; Alberts, Heald, et. al.

**Other Required Materials:**

- On-Line Components
  - Lectures will be posted on Blackboard
  - All Announcements will be posted on Blackboard (if classes/office hours changed or cancelled)
  - Grades for assessments/labs etc... will be posted on Blackboard as we go along.
  - Quizzes and other activities may be posted in Blackboard as well.

**Catalog Description and Prerequisites:**

**Course Description:** This course is the study of how different biochemical, metabolic, and molecular pathways of the cell work together to produce the many functions of cells such as movement, response to hormones, growth, protein synthesis, etc. Topics of signal transduction pathways, protein targeting, secretion and endocytosis, and cellular organization and motility are covered. Cell-cell interactions and tissue formation will be discussed, including the loss of cell division control leading to cancer. With laboratory section. Prerequisites: BIOL 2411, BIOL 2431, CHEM 2323

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to describe the function of cellular organelles and cell membranes.
2. The students will also be able interpret cell theory and the endosymbiotic theory.
3. The students will be able to discuss cell basic functions of the cell including cell to cell signaling, motility, protein synthesis, and biochemical processes.
4. Students will be able to describe different cell death pathways and basic responses to pathogens and infectious agents.
5. Students will be able to describe key elements of the cell cycle control, mitosis, and meiosis.
6. Students will understand how cellular processes can be altered and lead to complex diseases such as cancer.

## **Course Content**

### **LECTURE**

**5 Regular Exams – (100 points each; each one is worth 10% of your overall final grade; 5 tests = 50% of your overall grade)**

**1 Final Exam – (The final is worth 15% of your final grade).** The final will be comprehensive.

- If you feel that your exam was graded incorrectly, I would be happy to discuss it with you.

**Quizzes/Activities/Assignments – (Points will vary)** - Activities may include computer-based activities, worksheets, small papers, quizzes, pre- and post-unit activities, etc. These will account for the remaining **10% of your grade.**

The remaining **25% of your grade will come from the lab portion of the course.**

**\*\*The final will not replace any lower test grade in BIOL 3409 (Spring 2026).**

### **GENERAL POLICIES:**

- Do come to class regularly and on time – it affects your grade, not because of points assessed, but because of understanding the material.
- Do take notes on the power point print outs of my lectures
- Do ask questions in class
- Do seek out help from me and your peers
- Do NOT have your cell phone out during class
- Do NOT check social media sites on your laptop during my lecture feigning that you are taking notes
- Do NOT come in late and ask to be caught up
- Do NOT leave early without talking to me prior to class beginning

#### **Lecture Attendance:**

Although points will not be assessed regularly for attendance during regular lectures, **I reserve the right to randomly take attendance and assess points or give a quiz on any day** (for example, I may assign an in-class discussion or assignment that can be used to assess points for attendance). If you must miss a class, **you** are responsible for obtaining what you missed (announcements, class notes, handouts, etc...) **from a fellow classmate**. Please feel free to come see me or make an appointment with me if you have any questions. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to find out what you missed by asking a FELLOW CLASSMATE.

**Exam and Quiz Day Attendance:** Mandatory (see make-up policy)

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

##### **Exams:**

- You may make up the exam only if
  - you contact me within **one** day of the scheduled exam and
  - your absence is one approved by TAMUSA policies (illness, death in the family, other immediate-family emergencies). Documentation will be required.

### Quizzes:

- You may make up the quiz
  - You contact me within one day of the scheduled quiz and if
  - Your absence is one approved by TAMUSA policies (illness, death in the family, other immediate-family emergencies). Documentation will be required.

### Activities/Assignments:

- It is your responsibility to find out if an assignment was assigned on a day you missed.
- You may make up an activity assigned if it is a take-home assignment.
- You may NOT make up an activity if it was an in-class activity – NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Due dates on any assigned work will be strictly enforced.

### Grading

#### Grade Scheme:

**90 – 100 = A**

**80 - 89 = B**

**70 - 79 = C**

**60 - 69 = D**

**≤59.5 = F**

I would consider scaling up from a B to an A if you had earned an **89.5 and** you had great attendance.

I would **not** scale up from a B to an A (regardless of your attendance) if you have earned an **89.4%.**

## Texas A&M University San Antonio 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](mailto: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 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](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 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](mailto: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:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	11:00 AM – 4:00 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 include 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 the [Jag E Alert System website](#). You can access more information about [Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan on our website](#). Download the [SafeZone App](#) 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 Jaguar Writing Center provides writing 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, 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 e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects.

The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center 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 **e-Tutoring appointment**. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on the [Writing Center's website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing: [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@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. The [General's Store is a food pantry](#) that is available on campus as well.

#### [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 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 with 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, based on 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](mailto: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. 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](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 reasonable accommodation for pregnant students as it would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is 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. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this 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. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto: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 students' 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.

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](#).

## Important Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition and Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Marling Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes
January 20	First Day of Class
February 4	Census Date
March 6-23	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic withdrawal
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [Academic Calendar](#) as available on our website.

### Artificial Intelligence Policy

Option 1: No Use of Generative AI Permitted [Insert Course Number]

This assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

(Note: [There is guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT on the APA website.](#))

**\*\*\* The following pages contain a tentative schedule for the cell physiology course. Please be advised that topics and the date they are covered WILL likely fluctuate.**

Cell Physiology Tentative Calendar

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
JAN	<u>19</u>	20	21 Intro/pre-test	22	23 Chapter 11
JAN	26 Chapter 11	<u>27</u>	28 Chapter 11	29	30 Chapter 12
FEB	2 Chapter 12	3	4 Chapter 12	5	6 <b>Exam 1</b>
FEB	<b>9 C13</b>	10	11 Chapter 13	12	13 Chapter 13
FEB	16 Chapter 13	<u>17</u>	18 Chapter 14	19	20 Chapter 14
FEB	<b>23 Chapter 14</b>	24	25 <b>Exam 2</b>	26	<b>27 C15</b>
MAR	2 Chapter 15	<b>3</b>	4 Chapter 15	5	6 Chapter 15
MAR	9	10 <b>Spring Break</b>	11	12 <b>Spring Break</b>	13
MAR	16 <u>Chapter 16</u>	17	18 Chapter 16	19	20 Chapter 16
MAR	<b>23 Exam 3</b>	24	25 <b>C17</b>	26	27 Chapter 17
MAR/APR	30 Chapter 17	31	1 Chapter 17	2	3 Chapter 18
APR	6 Chapter 18	7	8 Chapter 18	9	10 <b>Exam 4</b>
APR	<b>13 C19</b>	14	15 Chapter 19*	16	17 <b>Study Day</b>
APR	20 Chapter 19	21	22 Chapter 19	23	24 Chapter 20
APR/MAY	27 Chapter 20	28	29 Chapter 20	30	1 <b>Exam 5</b>
MAY	<b>4 C20</b>	5	6 TBD	7	8 TBD