
GENERAL BIOLOGY I
Biology 1306 (sections 060, D001, D040, D070)
Fall 2026

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Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 8 – 11 am or by appointment

Weekly Life Zoom Session – Tuesday 2 – 3pm: See Canvas page for link and instructions

Course Objectives: Biology 1306 is the first of two courses designed to provide a thorough introduction to biological science. The goal of the course is that students learn essential facts about the natural world and understand the significance of these facts within the context of major biological concepts.

Student Learning Outcomes: After this class, you should be able to...

- Define biology and evolution
- Comprehend and apply the scientific process
- Describe a cell, its parts, how it uses energy (respiration and photosynthesis), its' processes of replication (mitosis and meiosis), and the relevance of those things to patterns of inheritance (genetics)
- Understand the significance of biology to you and your life
- Apply the knowledge you have acquired to make educated decisions as a member of society

Required Textbook and Other Materials:

1. Biology 2e – Open Stax (Free Textbook)
 - a. <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e/?Book%20details>

Grading:

	Points Possible	Grade Distribution		
		Percentage	Points	Grade
Exam 1	100			
Exam 2	100	90-100%	582 – 650	A
Exam 3	100	80-89%	511 – 581	B
Final	150	70-79%	452 – 510	C
Quizzes	100	60-69%	387 – 451	D
Participation	50	50-59%	0 – 326	F
Group Project	100			
Total	700			

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A = above 89.5 B = 79.5 – 89.49 C = 69.5 – 79.49 D = 59.5 – 69.49 F = Below 59.5

All of your course grades will be in Canvas, so you will be able to view your current course grade at any time. Please be aware that I cannot give you EXTRA CREDIT or WORK at the end of the semester. Your average shown in Canvas will determine your final grade in the course.

At the end of the semester, grades will be calculated in Canvas according to the syllabus. If your average is **within 0.5 points** of the next letter grade, I will automatically round it up (see the grade scale above). The only other adjustment that will be made is if the final percentage is **WITHIN ONE POINT** of the next letter grade (and **NO** more), and the student has missed **THREE OR FEWER LECTURES, TWO or FEWER WEEKLY QUIZZES**, and has a **CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADE OF 80% or HIGHER**. If you meet these criteria, then I will **round up to the next letter grade**. (Mitigating circumstances will be considered at the instructor's discretion.)

Exam policy: There will be four exams during the semester. The first three are regular unit exams, consisting of approximately 50 questions (2 points each), while the fourth exam will be a comprehensive final, consisting of approximately 100 questions (1.5 points each). All exams will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, True/False, short-answer, and essay questions. The comprehensive exam will include both new and old content (terminology from all previous exams). The **majority of questions** will be taken from **lecture content (as reviewed in each module video)**. All exams will be taken online and will **require a lockdown browser and a Webcam**. Be warned that I typically **DO NOT curve exams, so don't bother to ask!**

To access the LockDown browser for the exams, follow these directions:

LockDown Browser + Webcam Requirement: This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The webcam can be the type that's built into your computer or one that plugs in with a USB cable.

Watch this brief video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature.

<https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

Download Instructions

- Select a quiz from the course
- If you have not already installed LockDown Browser, select the link to download the application and follow the installation instructions
- Return to the quiz page in a standard browser
- LockDown Browser will launch and the quiz will begin

Note: LockDown Browser only needs to be installed once per computer or device. It will start automatically from that point forward when a test requires it.

Guidelines

When taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:

- Select a location where you are comfortable having a video recording taken of yourself and your workspace environment. This area should be free of distractions and interruptions.
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and also that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Clear your desk or workspace of all external materials not permitted - books, papers, other devices
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test
- If the computer, Wi-Fi, or location is different than what was used previously with the "Webcam Check" and "System & Network Check" in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to the exam
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
 - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims
 - Ensure your computer or device is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed, or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move
 - If using a built-in webcam, avoid readjusting the tilt of the screen after the webcam setup is complete
 - Take the exam in a well-lit room, but avoid backlighting (such as sitting with your back to a window)
- Remember that LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Getting Help

Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
- 24/7/365 Live Chat Support is also available from the Help Center, or from within the "it's not working" troubleshooter.
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select "LockDown Browser & Respondus Monitor" as the product to view helpful articles.
- If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it

Make-up Exams: If you are unable to take an exam as scheduled due to unforeseen illness, a

family death, or other traumatic events, contact me within 24 hours of the event to schedule a make-up exam. Please provide **documentation** (letters from family are NOT acceptable) of the events that may conflict with exam dates. I will work with you to schedule a makeup exam.

If you are unable to take an exam as scheduled for some non-emergency reason, you must let me know in **advance**. Students who fail to make timely arrangements will most likely receive a grade of “0” for the exam missed.

Quizzes: There will be **at least** 17 quizzes during the semester. In each module, you will have several chapters (broken down into shorter sections. After a whole chapter has been covered, a quiz will cover the content. All quizzes will be a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer, fill-in-the-blank, and T/F questions. Quizzes will all be timed (10-20 min, with the types of questions in the quiz), and you will not be allowed multiple attempts (the exception is the syllabus quiz). Each quiz will be worth 10 points.

Please ensure you are using a computer with a **RELIABLE** Internet connection. If you are knocked offline during a quiz, I may need to clear it before you can make another attempt. If this happens, please email (with an image of the error) as soon as possible, and I will clear your attempt. Keep in mind that if you start the quiz with only a few minutes left before it closes, I will not be able to clear your response, and you will get a “0” for the attempt.

Group Projects: You will be assigned to a group of five this semester to complete one infographic project. This assignment will be worth **a total of 100 possible points**. For the assignment, you will have to create an **infographic** on a particular topic (list to be provided) and submit it for a group grade. Your final score on the group project will also include a team assessment that you must complete for your team members. Grades for this group project may vary depending on how active you are in planning, creating, and submitting the final projects. **More details on this assignment will be posted on CANVAS and discussed in class during the first week of the semester.**

CANVAS: Students should log onto **Canvas** ASAP and carefully read all announcements. Canvas and student email should be checked **DAILY** for new announcements or messages. On Canvas, you will find lecture outlines, reviews for exams, videos, discussion board posts, and much more that will be very helpful for you as you take this course. You will also have quizzes posted throughout the semester under the module sections (labeled Quizzes). Announcements will be posted when these quizzes are active for you to take. Another helpful feature is that all course grades will be posted in Canvas, so students can **view and calculate their current course grades at any time.**

Academic Integrity: Students should be aware that absolute academic integrity is expected of every student in all undertakings at The University of Texas at Tyler. Failure to comply can result in strong university-imposed penalties. **Be forewarned that possession of anything containing course content will be considered cheating, whether or not you actually refer to it during the exam.** Also, be aware that **TALKING to anyone other than the instructor or proctor during an EXAM will automatically be considered cheating.** It does not matter what you were talking about. This includes the use of **cell phones** (even if they call YOU) or any other electronic device that could be used to record test material. Violation of this policy will be **considered cheating and treated accordingly.** Penalties for cheating include anything from a **zero on the exam or quiz** during which the cheating occurred to an **F for the course in question**, at the instructor's discretion.

Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is prohibited unless the instructor notes otherwise. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often inaccurate or incomplete. **It is imperative that all work submitted should be your own.** Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and/or be reported for academic misconduct.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Withdrawing from Class: Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal.

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped include those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Artificial Intelligence Statement: UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

Final Exam Policy: Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy: If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy: Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the Registrar's Form Library.

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and

Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students: UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa: To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct: The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA: UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy 5.2.3. The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities: This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for University Events or Activities as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays: This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Pregnant Students: This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form.

Campus Carry: We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available

at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

Student Resources:

Resources to assist you in this course

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas Links to an external site.](#)
- [Robert Muntz Library . and Library Liaison](#)
- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [My SSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for all of our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)
- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THIS SYLLABUS AT ANY TIME. THEREFORE, YOUR ATTENDANCE AND ATTENTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON CANVAS ARE CRUCIAL BECAUSE THEY WILL ASSIST WITH REMAINING CURRENT ON THE MATERIAL AND KNOWING WHEN THE SYLLABUS MAY BE MODIFIED.

Schedule of Topics - BIOL 1306

Topic	Chapter
Introduction	1
Chemical Context of Life	2
Carbon and Molecular Diversity of Life	3
Tour of the Cell	4

EXAM I –Sept. 23rd

Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling	5, 9
Introduction to Metabolism	6
Cellular Respiration and Fermentation	7
Photosynthesis	8

EXAM II – Oct. 21st

The Cell Cycle	10
Meiosis and Sexual Life Cycles	12
Mendel and the Gene Idea	12
Chromosomal Basis of Inheritance	13

EXAM III – Nov. 18th

Molecular Basis of Inheritance	14
Gene expression (Gene to Protein)	15

FINAL EXAM – Dec 10th

No classes: Labor Day – Sept. 7th | Thanksgiving Break – November 23 – 27th

Last Day to Drop with a “W”: October 30th, 2026