

**Syllabus:** Biology for Non-Science Majors II Lecture Online  
**Course Number:** BIOL 1309.2W1 (Web Course) Lecture ONLINE via TC Online LMS (Moodle)  
**Semester & Year*:*** *8-week format* ***FALL 2025: (10-13-25) – (12-12-25)***

**Instructor Information**

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Office Hours: *Email for appointment*.

**Textbook Information**

During this semester for Concepts of Biology, we will be using an open-source textbook developed by Rice University. You can download it as a PDF to your computer, tablet, phone, etc. **for free** <https://openstax.org/details/books/concepts-biology> Select “Get this Book” in the orange box toward the center of the page and select how you would like to receive the book.

1. Print-allows you to order a copy from OpenStax. You can also purchase a copy from the TC Bookstore.
2. PDF-This format can be read on most tablet devices like iPad, Kindle, and most smart phones. You can select high resolution which takes up more space and takes longer to download or lower resolution.
3. Web View-you can read the book live on the web from your computer or device connected to the Internet. The book does not download.
4. EPUB-another format for popular mobile devices such as the NOOK.

If you prefer, you may purchase a printed copy of the textbook at the TC Bookstore.

**The course textbook is available as a FREE download for students!! Additional course materials video / PowerPoint lectures etc., will be provided within each unit lesson on TC Online LMS portal.**

**Course Communication**

Official communication is through **TC student email** via the myTC portal.

**Student Learning Outcomes for the Course**

Upon successful completion of the lecture portion of this course, students will:

1. Describe modern evolutionary synthesis, natural selection, population genetics, micro and macroevolution, and speciation.

2. Describe phylogenetic relationships and classification schemes.

3. 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.

4. Describe basic animal physiology and homeostasis as maintained by organ systems.

5. Compare different sexual and asexual life cycles noting their adaptive advantages.

6. Illustrate the relationship between major geologic change, extinctions, and evolutionary trends.

**Student Requirements for Completion of the Course**

This is a web course with the lecture component delivered online through the TC Online LMS, also referred to as “Moodle”.

Class materials, videos, quizzes, and assignments will be made available as the class proceeds through the semester. **This class will also involve seven (7)-unit exams).** **No notes or study aids phones, additional computers other people or other resources are permitted on exams in this course**. All course content will be available on TC Online aka Moodle: <https://tconline.texarkanacollege.edu/>

***LockDown Browser + Webcam* Requirement**

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

You must use a Mac or Windows computer or iPad device. **Mobile smart phones are NOT supported. This is a course requirement (not optional).**

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 the quiz in the course
* You will see the message "This quiz has been configured so that students may only attempt it using the Respondus LockDown Browser."
* Below this will appear a "Download LockDown Browser" link. Click the button to go to the download page and then follow the instructions
* Download Respondus LockDown Browser to your computer; follow the installation instructions
* Return to the Quiz page in Moodle (it may still be open in another tab)
* Select "Launch LockDown Browser"
* The quiz will now start

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

**Guidelines**  
When taking an online quiz, follow these guidelines:

* Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted
* 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
* The TC help desks want you to run the "System & Network Check" and the "Webcam Check" before you contact them and be sure to forward the results of these checks at the time of opening a ticket. Contact the TC Help Desk at **903 -823-3030** or at <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/helpdesk/> .
* Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select the "Knowledge Base" link and then select "Respondus LockDown Browser" as the product. If your problem is with a webcam, select "Respondus Monitor" as your product
* 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.

**TC Computer Requirement Policy:**

Students are required to have a computer with Internet access for classes. The computer must be an actual computer – smart phones, Androids, etc., are not acceptable substitutes because they lack software compatibility necessary to complete all assignments and tests. Financial costs for the necessary equipment and internet access are the responsibility of the student.

Students needing to purchase a computer may do so through the Texarkana College Bookstore. Systems purchased through the bookstore meet or exceed all requirements, are competitively priced, and may be purchased using financial aid funds. If the system is purchased through another source, it is the student’s responsibility to ensure the system meets all requirements.

Computer systems requirements:

* Webcam, microphone, and speakers or headphones
* Windows 10 or a recent version of Mac OS (minimum Sierra). Windows 10 S mode is not supported
* Hardware capable of running Microsoft Teams (free download) and supports multi-media playback
* Support for Chrome or Microsoft Edge – Note: Firefox, Safari, or other browsers may not work on all TC applications
* Able to run Microsoft Office which will be provided free to TC students
* Adobe Reader or another PDF viewer
* Antivirus software such as Windows Defender or another 3rd party anti-virus solution
* **The Respondus Lockdown browser is used for taking tests**; therefore, the system must be capable of running this software. Most newer systems that meet other specifications should work. Smart phones will NOT work with the Respondus LD Browser.

Students should regularly backup content to prevent loss of coursework due to hardware failure. Backup copies of documents and other coursework may be placed on OneDrive cloud storage. OneDrive is included free of charge for all TC students.

In order to take an exam using Respondus LockDown browser the student must have a valid TC Student ID Card (available at TC Enrollment Services in the TC Administration building.)

A list of Internet service providers can be found on the TC website at: <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/coronavirus/>.

**Technical Requirements & Solutions for this course**

***A basic level of technical competence and equipment are necessary for participating in this online class. You should already be able to perform the following tasks:***

* **Attach document files to e-mail.**
* **Complete assignments using word processing software.**
* **Locate, save, and retrieve files on the computer.**
* **Send/receive email.**
* **Submit comments to a discussion board.**
* **Use a web browser like Internet Explorer or Firefox and search engines like Google.**
* ***You must have regular, reliable access to the Internet using a laptop or desktop computer manufactured in the last five years! (access using only a mobile device is NOT enough to succeed in this class). The TC Library has internet access for all students.***

**You can access all course materials at:** [**https://tconline.texarkanacollege.edu**](https://tconline.texarkanacollege.edu)

(Pop-up blocker within your internet browser must be disabled or an exception must be made for this site)

Technical Trouble? Contact the **SERVICE DESK SERVICE:24/7 submit a ticket @:**

[**http://www.texarkanacollege.edu/helpdesk/**](http://www.texarkanacollege.edu/helpdesk/)

**Service Desk Phone is answered MON - FRI 8AM - 5PM** **(903) 823-3030**

**Maintain a reliable and fast internet connection!**

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain an internet account with an Internet Service Provider company that will support video requirements of the Respondus Lockdown Browser and WebCam Monitoring Software for Lab Major Exams using a computer.  A cell phone account is NOT sufficient and Respondus +Web Cam monitoring software will not work on cell phones for this course.  Furthermore, **the ISP company and the student must be in the United States of America.  Texarkana College  web servers currently block all access to entities outside of the USA for security purposes.**

**Lecture Course Schedule: Topics/Exams-BIOL 1309 2W1 \*\***

\*\**If there is a discrepancy between this listing and what is posted online, the online listing takes precedence.*

**Class Schedule: 2nd 8Week Semester Fall 2025 Oct 13 – Dec 12, 2025**

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| **Weeks / Deadlines** | **Material to be covered** |
| Week 1A 10/16 | **Course Enrollment Activity Quiz** **Respondus Browser+WebCam**  Chapter 27 SB Evolution Quiz |
| Week 1B 10/19 | Finish Chapter 27-Evolution,  *Graded Discussion Question Forum Post AND Reply*  **Exam 1 Evolution Unit – Respondus Browser+WebCam** |
| Week 2A 10/23 | Chapter 28 on Microbiology;  Microbiology SB Chapter 28 Quiz |
| Week 2B 10/26 | *Graded Discussion Question Forum Post AND Reply*  **Exam 2 on Microbiology** **– Respondus Browser+WebCam** |
| Week 3A 10/30 | Chapter 30 on Plants  *Plants SB Chapter 30 Quiz* |
| Week 3B 11/2 | *Graded Discussion Question Forum Post AND Reply*  **Exam 3 on Plants – Respondus Browser+WebCam** |
| Week 4A 11/6 | Chapter 31 on Invertebrates;  *Invertebrates SB Chapter 31 Quiz* |
| Week 4B 11/9 | *Graded Discussion Question Forum Post AND Reply*  **Exam 4 over Invertebrates – Respondus Browser+WebCam** |
| Week 5A 11/13 | Chapter 32 over Vertebrates;  *Vertebrates SB Chapter 32 Quiz* |
| Week 5B 11/16 | **Exam 5 over Vertebrates – Respondus Browser+WebCam** |
| Week 6A 11/20 | Chapters 11, 12, 13 and 15 over Body Systems Part 1;  *SB Body Systems Part 1 Chapters 11, 12, 13 and 15 Quiz* |
| Week 6B 11/23 | Finish Chapters 11, 12, 13 and 15; over Body Systems Part 1  *Graded Discussion Question Forum Post AND Reply*  **Exam 6 over Body Systems Part 1– Respondus Browser+WebCam** |
| Week 7A 12/4 | Begin Chapters 16, 17, 19 and 21 over Body Systems Part 2;  *SB Body Systems Part 2 Chapters 16, 17, 19 and 21 Quiz* |
| Week 7B 12/7 | Finish Chapters 16, 17, 19 and 21 over Body Systems Part 2  **Exam 7 over Body Systems Part 2– Respondus Browser+WebCam** |
| Week 8 12/8 - 12/10  Week 8 assignments available during week 7.  (12/1/25) | Chapters 34 and 35 over Ecology and Ecosystems;  SB Ecology and Ecosystems Quiz  **Exam 8 over Ecology Unit – Respondus Browser+WebCam** |
|  | **NO Final Exam!** |

**Student Assessment**

Students will be evaluated on a combination of lecture examinations, quizzes, videos and other written class assignments, and a comprehensive final examination.

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| **Grade** |  |
| **A** | **89.5-100** |
| **B** | **79.5-89.4** |
| **C** | **69.5-79.4** |
| **D** | **59.4-69.4** |
| **F** | **59.4-below** |

**The grade for the course is determined using the following criteria:**

**Exams 1 – 8 Moodle 70%**

**Unit Chapter Quizzes CONNECT 20%**

**Graded Discussion Forum Posts Moodle 10%**

**Grade 100%**

Unit exams and quizzes will be available online on the weeks indicated in the course schedule. Each exam will consist of approximately 40-50 multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions. The amount of time allowed for each exam is posted with each exam. These tests will be allowed only during the week assigned on the TC Online Moodle web site. For two (2) days following each test, students can review their exam and see what questions were missed. **When taking a test, be careful not to close the testing window, do not attempt to open other windows, or try to print the exam. These actions will cause the test to close**.

All major exams on Moodle require the use of the Respondus LD browser + Web Cam system. **You must record audio and video and your complete FACE must be completely visible in order for the instructor to ensure that you the student are following the posted rules for the exam. Failure to do so will result in a minimum of a grade of ZERO for the exam** and additional penalties at the discretion of the professor.

**It is also STRONGLY recommended that you only take exams on a private computer, NOT a workplace computer where pop-up windows and other programs running in the background and firewalls can cause your exam to be terminated early!**

**Absentee Policy for Online Courses**

**Absence in an online course is defined as the lack of an active post or submission within the course including required discussion board posts, written assignments and tests. This standard will be used to determine all lecture absentee issues***.* **All online students must complete an Enrollment Verification activity within the first week of class or the professor may drop the student for not having attended. Students must complete at least one (1) activity in their online class per week. Each week in which a student does not complete an activity will be counted as an absence.**

**The student must also complete an Enrollment Verification activity within the first week of class or the student may be dropped for not having attended**.

**MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE ABSENCES**The following number of unexcused absences will be the maximum allowable before a student may be dropped from the class:

**The maximum number of absences in this online class is ONE (1) per semester!!**

**IMPORTANT: For the purposes of officially attending class in this online course you must login to the course website (TC Online LMS) and participate in class activities and assignments for that week of class (as defined above) or you will be counted absent for that week.**

**WARNING: If you exceed the maximum number of absences for this course you may be dropped (W) from the course by the instructor for excessive absences.**

If circumstances develop (e.g. extended illness, moving from the city, etc.) which necessitates your withdrawal from this or any other course be sure to let me know AND officially withdraw in the Director of Admissions office located in the C. M. Nelson Administration building. The date each semester is posted on the inside page of the current Texarkana College Catalog/ Website under "Academic Calendar". A grade of W is recorded on your permanent transcript*if**you withdraw before the official deadline*.

**Make-up Policy**

Daily assignments will **not** be accepted late. All exams must be taken within the time window given, otherwise it is an automatic score of zero. Late exams will not be accepted at any point in this course.

**I DO NOT GIVE MAKE UP EXAMS**. Unit Exams are available for a seven (7) day period from home for the convenience of the student. Exams answers are available for two days after each test closes (Monday-Tuesday) by clicking on the exam link.

**Online Conduct**

Discussion Board responses, emails, and all other correspondence among faculty and students enrolled in this class are expected to conform to the level of conduct that would be expected in a regular classroom. Students should feel free to express disagreement with the instructor and other students **but it must be done in a manner which is not abusive, threatening, or harassing in any form**. Communication among students is encouraged but must end if one of the students requests that it be terminated. Students will not send unsolicited email espousing a cause, religion, or activity to other class participants and will not add other class participants to any list-servers or other entity which distributes unwanted email or material.  
Violation of these guidelines may result in disciplinary action against the offending student. This action can include termination of the student's participation in the class and a grade of "F".

**Netiquette**

Here are the core rules for communicating with me and with each other for the duration of this course:

**Remember that there is a person behind every message.** It is very easy to forget, as all we see is a computer screen. We don’t see facial expressions, gestures, or hear intonation of voice. All we have are words, and if words are not well-chosen, they are easy to misinterpret. Words that ARE well-chosen are often easy to misinterpret too. Remember that, just as you have feelings, each human being out there in cyberspace has feelings as well. Give people the benefit of the doubt if you are the one reading their writing, and if you are the one writing, remember the feelings of others and take the time to construct your sentences as clearly as possible.

**Sarcasm does not translate well in cyberspace.** Cyberspace is more literal than a face-to-face conversation. For example, a phrase like *"Yeah, I really believe that is true,"* can have the exact opposite meaning if you hear the person's delivery, see their body language, and observe their facial expressions in face to face conversation, but as just words on a page, it comes across literally, not figuratively. Again, make sure you say what you mean, and provide as few possibilities for misinterpretation as possible.

**“DO NOT TYPE IN CAPS ALL THE TIME.”** This is the online equivalent of screaming or yelling at someone. Please don’t do this, it is not appreciated.

**Do not type in all lower case or use text message-like abbreviations, such as btw (by the way), or b/cuz, or lol (laughing out loud).** This is a college class and college-level writing (grammar, punctuation, vocabulary, etc.) is expected.

**Avoid "flaming."** Flaming is when someone expresses a bold point of view, sometimes overly bold or hyper-critical, and others follow up with equally overly-critical commentary and/or personal attacks. It is not that we cannot disagree - it would be a boring world if everyone had the same opinion about everything. It is also in pointed discussions that I've been able to refine my already-held opinions or even change them completely. That's the purpose of college: to make you think, to get you to see different points of view, to make you question your beliefs or to cement them more firmly than before with facts, etc. Discussion is good, disagreement is fine, even welcome, but remember rule #1 above: there are humans with feelings involved.

**Keep your comments and postings relevant**. Camaraderie is good, but please do not include conversation unrelated to the subject line or course material in discussion board communications.

**Identify yourself fully.** In the subject box of every email, please type your full name, course and section number (e.g. Sue Jones. BIOL 1309.W1). Please include full identification of who you are when you generate or reply to an email to your instructor. This should include your full name (first and last) as well as the course you are enrolled in. It is my policy that in order to preserve student confidentiality ***any email that I receive without proper identification will not be responded to***.

**Write with civility and respect.** When asking questions, or making comments, do so in a respectful manner. If you are frustrated or irritated when you write the email, wait a minute to reread it asking yourself if the tone is appropriate for a student-teacher interchange before clicking Send. If you're really upset, write the email in Word and copy and paste it in later when you are calm enough to give it a reading with audience in mind. Practice patience. Emails will be answered within 24 hours of receipt Monday-Friday and often sooner. Usually I read email on the weekends, but some weekends, I will not be available.

**Copy yourself.** Send a copy of each email you write to yourself so you can be sure the email went through, and so you can resend it if there is any problem.

**Brevity.** Keep emails brief and to the point.

**Do not forward unsolicited material.** Do not forward material that you send to your friends to your classmates or professor. (Note: If you send emails to everyone in your address book, they will automatically go to your professor and any student in the class who has emailed you.)

(Excerpted from: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>)

**Academic Integrity Statement**

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, col­lusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. **The use of artificial intelligence powered applications such as Chat-GPT may violate TC policies and should NOT be used by students to complete assignments in this course!** Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an “F”.

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at <https://www.texarkanacollege.edu>.

**Disability Act Statement:**

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Tonja Blase at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance. If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating that you have a disability that requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. *It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class* so there is ample time to make the accommodations.

**Financial Aid: Attention!** Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.

**Basic Needs Security**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing enough food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in this course or ability to remain in school, is urge to contact Tonja Blaise, Director of Student Retention, at 903-823-3349 for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable the professor to provide any resources to help you than they may possess.

**Alternate Operations during Campus Closure**

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, Texarkana College may need to move to altered operations and course delivery methods. During this time, Texarkana College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to: online learning management system (Jenzabar or Moodle), online conferencing through TEAMS, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule.  It is the responsibility of the student to monitor Texarkana College's website ([www.texarkanacollege.edu](http://www.texarkanacollege.edu)) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, instructor email notifications on the method of delivery and course-specific communication, and Texarkana College email notifications for important general information.

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| **I reserve the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester. I will always inform all students by email if changes to the syllabus are made. This online version (*TC Online LMS*) is the official syllabus and supersedes all versions of this document in print.** |