Instructor: Heather L. Prestridge
Office: Science Building, Room 117
Office Hours: MW 3:45-4:15 PM other times by appointment
Other times are also available by appointment
Phone: 209-7572
E-mail: heather.prestridge@blinn.edu

Class Schedule for Spring 2011:
MW 4:15-5:30 ADM 2014 (B4)

Course Description
An introductory science course for all majors except science. Emphasis will be placed on the nature of biology and scientific problem solving, diversity of life, nature of genetic information, change in organisms, ecological relationships, and current issues in biology. Three on-line classroom hours and three laboratory hours per week. Credit: Four semester hours. Prerequisite: None.

Core Curriculum Course: This is a course in the 42-hour Core Curriculum of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate intellectual competencies, exemplary educational objectives and general perspectives. Specific information regarding the core may be found at http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum/characteristics.htm

Student Learning Outcomes:

Lecture Objectives:
1. Interpret the process by which scientific knowledge is acquired and evaluated
2. Describe the basic organization of life from the smallest unit of matter to its relationship with the environment
3. Recognize key biological macromolecules and the role they play in cell structure and function.
4. Relate the energy producing processes of organisms to the sustainability of life.
5. Compare and contrast the methods by which cells divide.
6. Summarize the function of DNA and the role it plays in inheritance.
7. Relate the mechanisms by which genetic change arises and its role in the diversification of life.
8. Evaluate the ecological role of humans and their impact on the environment.

Textbooks and other materials:

Required Textbook:
Required Laboratory Materials:

Biology 1408 Lab Book, purchase at Copy Center Bryan Campus.

Course content:
- Scientific thinking
- Organic Chemistry
- Energy
- DNA, Gene Expression and Biotechnology
- Chromosomes and Cell Division
- Mendelian Inheritance
- Evolution and Natural Selection
- Evolution and Behavior
- The Origin of Life and Diversification
- Animal Diversification
- Plant and Fungi Diversification
- Microbe Diversification
- Population Ecology
- Ecosystems and Communities
- Biodiversity and Conservation

Civility Statement:
Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. Civility applies to attire as well as language and behavior. Please dress appropriately for the academic classroom and laboratory. **If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student may not return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange for this conference.**

Course Requirements:
**Lecture Exams:** There will be four lecture exams each worth 100 points. Lecture exams will be given during your scheduled lab time in the lab room. Exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, and essay. Make-up exams will only be offered to those with **excused absences**, **no exceptions**. Students must contact me ASAP, either during the following class period or via e-mail.
prior to the following class period to be able to schedule a make-up. If you know that you will need to miss an exam prior to the test date, contact me ASAP so that I may plan accordingly.

**Comprehensive Final Examination:** The final examination is comprehensive and is worth 200 points. All students must take the final examination. If you miss the final exam, contact me immediately. Otherwise, a final exam grade of zero will be recorded for any student who has missed the final exam and not contacted me by 12:00 pm on the day immediately following the final examination.

**Lab Practicals:** There will be four major laboratory practicals covering skills and knowledge of laboratory activities. The format for each lab practical will be explained in class. **There will be no make-up lab practicals.** Each is worth one hundred points.

**Chapter Milestones:** There will be a chapter milestone at the end of each chapter you cover on-line. These must be passed with an 80% or higher to move to next chapter and are used only as a tool to monitor your progress through the material. Milestones quizzes do not contribute to your grade. **Not completing a milestone by its due date will be counted as an absence.**

**Lab Reports:** There will be a lab report due at the end of each lab. Lab reports are 5 points each, there will be 20 throughout the semester for a total of 100 points.

**Bonus Opportunities:** Throughout the semester, there will be opportunities for bonus points in the form of exam questions, in-class assignments, etc. Take advantage of them when they are offered. **DO NOT ASK ME FOR EXTRA CREDIT!!!!!!** Bonus points will be available to every member of the class uniformly.

**Major Exam Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Exam Type</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>LECTURE EXAM 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>LAB PRACTICAL 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>LECTURE EXAM 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>LAB PRACTICAL 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>LECTURE EXAM 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>LAB PRACTICAL 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>LECTURE EXAM 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>LAB PRACTICAL 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/?</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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Criteria for Grading:

Grading: Grades will be based on total points earned by the student in the course. You will not be allowed to keep your examinations. I will pass back your scantrons and any essay or short answer portions of each exam. It will be your responsibility to keep up with them throughout the semester. They will come in handy at the end of the semester!!!

Point Distribution

Lecture Exams .......................................................... 400 points
Laboratory Practicals ............................................... 400 points
Laboratory Assignments ...........................................100 points
Final Examination ...................................................200 points
Total points .......................................................... 1,100 points

Course Grade = (Your total points - your lowest exam or practical)/ 10 = Final Grade

Grading Scale: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

Class Policies:

Attendance: The College District believes that class attendance is essential for student success; therefore, students are expected to report promptly and regularly to all their classes. I am required to keep a record of attendance from the first day of classes and/or the first day the student’s name appears on the roster through final examinations. If you (the student) accumulate one week’s worth of unexcused absences he/she will be reported and sent an e-mail notification of excessive absences. If you (the student) subsequently accumulate two weeks worth of unexcused absences you will be administratively withdrawn from class. Students missing the due date for on-line chapter quizzes will be assigned an absence for that date. These absences count the same as missing lab!

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

The institution recognizes four types of excused absences: (1) religious holy days. The student should notify his/her instructor(s) no later than the 5th day of the semester concerning the specific date(s) that the student will be absent for any religious holy day(s); (2) Representing the College District at an official institutional function, (4) military service; and (3) official involvement in a high school activity for “dual credit” students.

All other absences will be treated as unexcused unless you (the student) present me with documentation of an illness, family emergency, or accident. You must present me with your documentation the first day you return to class from being absent. If you are too sick to come to class, you are sick enough to see a doctor. In this case, you MUST bring me a doctor’s note stating why you were absent. If a family emergency exists, you must provide documentation (obituary, doctor’s note from the family member, etc.). If
an accident occurs, I must receive documentation that you were involved (police report, photos from accident, a flat tire from your car, etc.).

**Make-up Policy**: Students not taking a major exam must have reasons that are considered valid by the instructor. The format of a make-up exam does not necessarily follow that of the missed exam, and is usually more difficult than the original. Because I drop your lowest grade on one major examination or lab practical, the major exam or lab practical you miss will count as that dropped grade if you are unexcused or fail to make it up in a timely fashion.

**Dropping**: If a student chooses to drop the course, it is the student’s responsibility to complete a drop order at the Office of Enrollment Services **(on or before April 15th)**. Failure to do so could result in a grade of ‘F’ in the course. After that you will be assigned either a “WP” or “WF” depending on your academic status in the course.

**Eating and drinking are not allowed during class or laboratory work**. Not only is this a Blinn policy, but there are safety reasons for not eating, drinking, or smoking around a Biology laboratory.

**Electronic devices**: Blinn policy states that all cell phones, **lap tops**, MP3 players, etc. should be turned **OFF** in class. Failure to honor this policy is a breech of the civility statement (seen below) and the student will be asked to leave the room. There may be cases where you must have a phone on in class (sick child, emergency worker, pregnant wife, etc.) If these scenarios occur, please discuss this with me **prior to class** and I will be happy to allow their use.

**Dishonesty Statement**: Blinn College does not tolerate cheating, plagiarism or other acts of dishonesty. Definitions of those acts and procedures for dealing with them are found under “Scholastic Dishonesty” in the Blinn College Student Handbook, copies of which are available at the information desk in the administration building or on the Blinn College web site under “quick-links”.

**ADA Policy**: Students needing special accommodation due to a disability must obtain authorization from the Disabilities Counseling Office in Room 157 of the Blinn Science Building. Their telephone number is 209-7251.

The above requirements and policies are discussed more fully in the Blinn College Student Handbook which, by reference, is incorporated into this information. Please obtain a copy and become familiar with its content.