

Midwestern State University Department of Biology  
Course Syllabus for  
BIOL 1013.X30: Introduction to Human Biology  
BIOL 1013.X3A: Introduction to Human Biology Lab

**Contact Information:**

Instructor: Dr. Marcy Brown Marsden  
Office: Bolin Science Hall Room 111  
Phone: (940) 397-4253  
Email: [margaret.brownmarsden@msutexas.edu](mailto:margaret.brownmarsden@msutexas.edu)

**Description:**

Introduction to how the human body works for non-science majors. Basic biological principles, including scientific literacy, cell regulation and metabolism, nutrition, cancer, genetics, biotechnology and body systems. Concurrent laboratory participation in online lab required. This course meets the general education requirement for a science course in the core curriculum. It is not intended for Biology majors or minors. There are no pre-requisites for this course.

**Class day/time and location:**

Lecture and lab are both online. The deadline for all weekly assignments is shown in the course roadmap.

**Requirements:**

Textbook

BIOLOGY: CONCEPTS AND APPLICATIONS (1348 Custom), \$93.50, Edition: 10<sup>th</sup>, ISBN: 9780357850657. Author: Starr. Publisher: Cengage Learning Custom Publishing.

Lab:

All lab materials will be provided through D2L.

Other materials: You will need a computer with internet access to complete online access.

D2L: This course uses Desire-to-Learn (D2L) extensively. Each student is expected to be familiar with D2L as it will be a primary source of communication regarding assignments, exam materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact MSU's technical support department by phone at 940-397-4278, or by email at [helpdesk@msutexas.edu](mailto:helpdesk@msutexas.edu)

**How we will work together on this course:** Items that are graded are **highlighted**.

<b>Included in the class:</b>	<b>What I need from students:</b>	<b>Why?</b>
D2L for organizing all course material and reporting grades, and for sending group emails	Log in to D2L at least once every 24 hours.	D2L gives you a single location to find everything for the course. When you log in it shows me you are still participating.
Handout for each chapter	Review the handout and use it to organize your notes	The handout can structure the unit material with an outline and a list of definitions
Digital textbook for purchase through the MSU bookstore	Quickly skim the chapter, then later use the textbook as a resource outside of my notes. You are <u>not accountable</u> for material in the textbook not covered in class.	You need a good source for answering questions. If you look up the answers on the internet you get too much—the book has just the right amount.
Powerpoint slides and recorded video with subtitles for each chapter	Review the video and/or Powerpoint	Two formats, since some students like to listen to a lecture, while others like to just work through slides at their own pace.
In-class example for each chapter (Powerpoint and video format)	Go through the example to see how it applies chapter content. Be ready for a reflective essay on the test that asks you to describe one of these examples.	Shows how a biological concept works in a practical example, making it more meaningful
Menti quiz for each chapter	Take the Menti quiz using your phone or computer—you will get a code or link for the quiz	Daily work that requires accountability, and provides sample questions
Exam review sheet	Use the exam review as an outline for the test. It works best when you try answering the questions during review	Tells you all that will be on the test, and is a concentrated overview of the material.
Quiz for each chapter that you can take twice—the highest score is the one that counts	Take the quiz twice by the end of week deadline	Quizzes give a weekly accountability and are 18% of your grade. Some quiz questions are on the exam
Four exams with 40 multiple choice questions and one reflective essay. For a curve I weight your highest exam more than your lowest exam.	Complete the multiple choice questions, and make a real reflection on the reflective essay. You can use your notes on the exam.	Multiple choice questions focus on content knowledge. The reflective essay asks you to think about the meaning of something from class. Exams are 42% of your grade.
Six labs	Complete the lab work (some is multi-day) and write a lab report for each.	Labs enhance your understanding of biology through practical study. Labs are 28% of your grade.
Team project	Work closely and respectfully with your team to complete the assignment.	The team project is 12% of your grade. It assesses teamwork, and allows you to apply content knowledge to a real-world public health concern.

**Evaluation procedures:**

I expect integrity from all students. If I suspect that a student is cheating I may choose to record a zero for that assignment for all students involved and/or drop you from the course. I may also choose to report you for academic dishonesty. Any action suspicious of cheating, attempting to cheat, or helping someone cheat on an exam will result in termination of your exam and a grade of zero.

For more information about the University Academic Misconduct Policy, see the [Student Handbook](#), Appendix E, “Academic Dishonesty Policies and Procedures”

Lecture counts for 60%, and your lab for 40% of your grade in this course. Each includes the following items:

Item in Lecture	Percent of lecture grade	Percent of overall grade (weighted)
Lecture exam average (4 exams total)	70%	42%
Mini-quizzes (one per chapter)	30%	18%
Total	100%	60% of overall grade

In terms of “curving”, I will weight your lowest lecture exam grade lower, and the highest exam higher according to the following formula: highest (30% of lecture grade), next highest (20%), next lowest (15%), and lowest (5%) for the 70% total. That means that if you have one bad exam it won’t drop you too much, and if you improve on an exam then it helps out a lot. This weighting won’t be applied until the final grade, so until then D2L will reflect all exams counting equally (17.5% each).

Item in Lab	Percent of lab grade	Percent of overall grade (weighted)
Lab worksheets	70%	28%
Team Public Health Campaign project	30%	12%
Total	100%	40% of overall grade

The grading scale is as follows

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Final grades are rounded to the nearest whole number (0.5 rounds up, 0.4 rounds down).

Although exams will be administered online, treat them as though you were in a proctored classroom setting. I do not use online or automated proctoring because these services have been found to be [discriminatory and violate student privacy](#). **Because I try to trust, I ask you to be honest.**

## **Lecture exams**

There will be four online exams. No exam grades will be dropped. A missed exam counts as a zero.

## **Mini-quizzes**

The mini-quizzes are available on D2L and you will have two attempts with your highest score counting. The deadlines are set in the syllabus, and they may not be completed late. All due dates are on the course roadmap posted on D2L.

## **Lab worksheets**

At the end of each lab you will complete a summary worksheet that you will submit to D2L dropbox. A GA will be grading your lab worksheets using a rubric that will be posted on D2L. You have two weeks to do each lab, and no late labs are accepted.

## **Team public health campaign project**

You will work with a team to complete a project developing a mock public health campaign. This is a semester-long project and you will be evaluated both as a team and individually. This project is described in greater detail in the D2L section for the team project.

## **For technical problems while doing assignments**

It is important to do labs and assignments early so that problems will not prevent you from completing the homework before the deadline is up. Since you have at least one week to complete all assignments, *due dates are firm* and will not be moved due to technical problems.

If you email Dr. Brown Marsden for help with a problem, please document the problem in every way possible (detailed descriptions, the time that the problem occurred, and screenshots are all helpful).

For a problem with D2L or MSU's website in general (for example, those websites are not working, or you cannot login).

- a. Contact MSU's Information Technology (IT) department Help Desk by phone at 940-397-4278
- b. Contact the help desk by email at [helpdesk@msutexas.edu](mailto:helpdesk@msutexas.edu)

## **Email**

Email is the best way to reach me. I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours to e-mails received during regular school hours (8:00 am – 5:00 pm M-F). Emails sent after business hours or during the weekend will receive a response the following business day. You can email me either through D2L or directly at [margaret.brownmarsden@msutexas.edu](mailto:margaret.brownmarsden@msutexas.edu)

## **Attendance policy**

Student attendance for this online course is defined by **active participation** in the course. You are expected to login at least daily each weekday during a summer course. Your participation can be documented by any or all of the following methods:

- Submission/completion of assignments
- Communication with the instructor

The student is solely responsible for checking updates related to the course. If a student fails to meet the attendance requirements, he or she may be recommended for withdrawal from the course. I will email you before making this decision.

If you experience health issues for you or a family member under your care that prevent you from working on the class please communicate with me immediately so we can work toward a plan for you to complete the class. Please do not wait to contact me, since we will lose valuable time and opportunities to make adjustments.

## **Important university policies**

### Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please provide appropriate documentation and we can work on what is required to accommodate you in class. Please contact the Disability Support Service in Room 168 of Clark Student Center (940) 397-4140 for other support, if needed.

### About Campus Carry at MSU

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the [University's Campus Carry policy](#)