

MICROBIOLOGY (BIOLOGY 2420)

Course Information Sheet

2025 Spring Term

PROFESSOR: Philip D. Ricker, Professor of Microbiology

OFFICE: My office is in the Science building, S140. My office hours can be found in the Instructor Information folder on the Blackboard course page. I do highly encourage you to make appointments ahead of time for office visits. Office visits can be in person or virtual.

TELEPHONE: My office telephone is 806-716-2314. If you leave a voice mail, I will receive it, however it may be a day or two before I listen to it. Email is the better way to reach me (see below). For **emergencies only**, you may text me at 806-891-4159. If you e-mail me from Blackboard, then your reply will go to your school e-mail. Any announcements I might make will also go to your school e-mail. NO, I cannot set it up to go to your personal email. However, if you email me from your personal email, I will reply to that email. My E-MAIL: pricker@southplainscollege.edu

OFFICE HOURS: This course is designed to be completely on-line. I will have office hours several days during the week. However, we can also “talk” via FaceTime or Zoom or just a good old traditional voice call. I do have particular hours I am in the office, however, since we will not be meeting face to face, we can really “meet” or talk almost any time. Just send me an email and we can arrange a time. Again, if it is an emergency, then send me a text.

PURPOSE: Microbiology. (4:3:4) A general microbiology course that covers the morphology and physiology of microorganisms with particular emphasis on the microbial relationship to disease, pathogenicity, and the immune response. Microorganisms include bacteria, viruses, and well as several other microbes.

Coronavirus is a microbe. Look how one little virus that is too small to be seen under the best of light microscopes has changed the course of the world!

This course satisfies the requirements for an Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degree as well as requirements for certification in some allied health fields.

TEXTBOOK: Microbiology, online edition from openstax.org, is the text and is optional for this class. The electronic format of the text can be downloaded for free. To download the text, go to openstax.org, search for microbiology. There is only one text for microbiology. The lab portion of the class required an access code from McGraw-Hill. You can purchase this code from the SPC bookstore, or you can purchase directly from McGraw-Hill. To purchase directly from McGraw-Hill, simply click on the first lab simulation, which is a tutorial. It will then guide you through the process.

A word about internet classes: Internet classes are very appealing because they allow students to complete a course within their own schedule. However, the downside is that the failure rate for internet classes is high. The only reason for a high failure rate is that students do not get their work turned in on time. It is too easy to wait until the last minute to complete assignments. Students must remain vigilant and make sure

assignments are turned in timely and regularly. Also, this course requires intensive reading and writing.

OTHER MATERIALS: For the lab portion of the class, lab simulations are utilized to give you as close to a real experience as is possible without actually being in the lab. Instead of a lab manual, students must purchase what is called a Connect Code from McGraw-Hill publishing (see above)

COURSE STRUCTURE:

LECTURE: The lecture part of the course composes 65% of the class. The Lecture material for the course is divided into 5 units. Each unit, you will have lecture material you will need to read, review, research and study. On the left side of blackboard is a folder for each unit which contains the lecture material. You will have an on-line exam at the end of each unit covering the lecture material in the unit. Each Unit exam is worth 65 points toward the final grade. The lecture material will contain a mixture of PowerPoints (some enhanced with audio or video) and study materials.

LAB: The lab part of the course composes 35% of the class. Each unit you will have several virtual labs to complete. The number of virtual labs will vary with each unit. These labs will take time to complete! The labs for each unit will only be available during that unit and must be completed by the exam date for the Unit. You do not have to complete the labs in one session. The virtual labs for each unit are worth a total of 15 points (each lab will be valued differently depending upon how many labs are in that unit). There is no reason why you should not receive all the points for each lab if you will take the time to complete the lab. The first time you click on a virtual lab, you will have to register and the program will ask you for a registration code. The other 20% of the lab grade will be two lab quizzes covering the material from the virtual labs...totaling 100 points of the final grade. The lab quizzes will ask specific questions about the virtual labs, so be sure and take notes.

ATTENDANCE POLICY Any student who initiates their own withdrawal from the course before the last day to drop will NOT be penalized and will receive a "W" on their transcript. Any student who does not log into Blackboard for 7 days in a row, or does not complete two or more virtual labs might be administratively withdrawn from the course.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY: The last day to withdraw/drop with a grade of "W" is April 27th. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Blackboard keeps the number of points you have accumulated, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help you decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

EXAMINATION POLICY: There will be a lecture exam for each unit of the course as well as two lab quizzes.

GRADING POLICY AND COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION: The final course grade will be determined as follows: Five Unit exams, each worth 65 points, is a possible total of 325 points from lecture. The lab simulations are worth a total of 75 points. The lab quizzes are worth a total of 100 points. So the total possible points is 500.

A student with total points of:

450 or above will receive an "A"

400 to 449 will receive a "B"

350 to 399 will receive a "C"

300 to 349 will receive a "D"

below 300 will receive an "F"

A word about internet classes: Internet classes are very appealing because they allow students to complete a course within their own schedule. However, the downside is that the failure rate for internet classes is high. The only reason for a high failure rate is that students do not get their work turned in on time. It is too easy to wait until the last minute to complete assignments. Students must remain vigilant and get assignments turned in timely and regularly. Also, this course requires intensive reading and writing.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about diversity, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

COVID-19: For information and resources about COVID-19, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/emergency/covid19-faq.php>.

SPC Tutors

Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, get to know the tutors, and view tutoring locations. <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

