

MICROBIOLOGY (BIOLOGY 2420)

Course Information Sheet

Fall 2020 Term

PROFESSOR: Philip D. Ricker, Professor of Microbiology

OFFICE: My office is in the Science building, S139. However, I will be in my office a limited number of hours this Fall due to COVID-19. See office hours section below.

TELEPHONE: My office telephone is 806-716-2314. If you leave a voice mail, I will receive it, however it may be several days before I listen to it. Email is the better way to reach me (see below). For emergencies, 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. E-MAIL: pricker@southplainscollege.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet face to face. However, if the need arises, we can “talk” via FaceTime or Zoom or just a good old traditional voice call. I do have 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.

OTHER MATERIALS: For the lab portion of the class, lab simulation 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. The ISBN for the connect code is **9781265965082**. Depending upon how you are paying for the code, you can purchase it from the SPC bookstore or you can purchase directly from the publisher. To purchase from the publisher, the very first time you start a lab simulation, the program will ask you for a code to register and give you an option to purchase a code if you don't already have one. You can purchase the code at that point.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

LECTURE: The lecture part of the course composes 60% 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 a 60 question on-line exam at the end of each unit covering the lecture material in the unit. Each question is worth one point, so each Unit exam is worth 60 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 40% of the class. Each unit you will have several virtual labs to complete. 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. Each virtual lab is worth 10 points. There is no reason why you should not receive all 10 points for each lab if you will take the time to complete the lab. There is a folder on the left of the blackboard page that contains the labs. The first time you click on a virtual lab, you will have to register and the program will ask you for a registration code.

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 dropped from the course (with a grade of F).

EXAMINATION POLICY: There will be a 60 question lecture exam for each unit of the course.

GRADING POLICY AND COURSE GRADE DETERMINATION: The final course grade will be determined as follows: Five Unit exams, each worth 60 points, is a possible total of 300 points from lecture. The lab simulations are worth a total of 200 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.

DISABILITY STATEMENT: Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 894-9611 ext. 2529, 2530.

DISMISSAL POLICY: A high standard of conduct is expected of all students. Any student who fails to perform according to expected standards or is a danger to themselves or others in lab will be withdrawn from the course.

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester, the successful student should be able to demonstrate that he/she has obtained a basic understanding of microbiology.