BIOL 2404 Introduction to Anatomy and Physiology
(Fall, 2018)

Section 67453: Lc MW 12:00 pm – 1:20 pm RVS 2257
Lb MW 1:30 pm – 2:50 pm RVS 2257

Biol 2404 is designed for the ACC Allied Health student who needs a single semester of anatomy and physiology. Biol 2404 is an introduction to the anatomy and physiology of the human body with special emphasis on fundamental anatomical and physiological principles. The laboratory experience emphasizes detailed of models and preserved materials and active experimental inquiry.

Contacting Instructor: Dr. Stephen Ziser  
office: RVS: Bldg A Rm 1141.3  
phone: (512) 223-6372  
email: sziser@austincc.edu  
Website: www.austincc.edu/sziser

Office Hours:  
Monday & Wednesday: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday: 11:00 am – 1:30 pm  
Friday: by appointment

Textbook:  
required: any human “Anatomy & Physiology” textbook, essentials or complete version (NOT an atlas or medical dictionary, etc)  
(Instructor’s lecture notes are posted online at course website)

Lab Manual:  
required: Lab Manual (online at course website above)

Other:  
ACC Student Services offers various forms of support to help you succeed at ACC such as advising, academic, career and personal counseling, financial aid and accommodations for disabled students. See the ACC Catalogue, the ACC Student Handbook, or someone in Student Services for details.

Ground Rules

“Learning is active, not passive. If you want to reach your potential you must enjoy working hard. Nobody can just pour knowledge into your head…you’ve got to be hungry for it.”  
--Barack Obama

Attendance:  
Your performance will depend heavily on your class and lab attendance. you will definitely do better on the exams if you attend regularly. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to get the lecture notes from someone.  
All materials covered in lectures & labs, textbook & lab manual, handouts and assigned readings are “fair game” for lecture exams.  
The exact dates of exams can be changed to accommodate changes in the syllabus or wishes of the majority of students. Any changes will be announced ahead of time. Keep your syllabus updated as changes are made. There is no excuse for forgetting an important date.  
Lecture attendance will not be regularly checked or graded but will be informally monitored. If your percent grade is within 1 point of a letter grade, your final letter grade will be determined by your attendance and participation in lecture and lab.  
Cell Phones that are not silenced in class will cost a student 1 point for each ‘ring’ – deducted from the total course points.
Preparation and Study Time:
The course schedule indicates reading assignments for each lecture and lab period. You are expected to read the assigned material before coming to that day’s class.

If you want to get a good grade in this course, expect to spend about two hours studying and reading outside of class for every hour in class. Since you are in class ~5 hour per week (lecture and lab) then you should expect to spend at least 10 to 15 hours per week studying and preparing for this class. The most common cause of poor grades is not being able, or willing, to schedule enough study time outside of class. Consider your priorities wisely.

Withdrawal:
The instructor has the right, but not the responsibility to drop you from the course for excessive absences. Withdrawal is the responsibility of the student. It is done by filling out the appropriate form and submitting it to the A&R office before the stated deadline.

Incomplete Grades:
An incomplete grade will only be given in extreme emergencies agreed upon by the instructor and student. Such a grade may require verification of the unusual circumstances and is given only if the student has completed at least 75% of the course work.

Cheating:
If you are caught cheating in the course at any time you will receive an F for the semester regardless of your total points. You may also be expelled from the college.

Receiving Final Grades:
If you would like to receive your unofficial final grade before the official ACC notification you can email me BEFORE the end of the last class period of the semester and I will reply with your final test score, your class totals and your final grade.

Exams and Grading

Exams & Lab Practicals:
There will be 5 - 100 point Lecture Exams. The exams may include true and false, fill in the blanks, matching, definitions and short answer/essay questions. They will not include any multiple choice questions.

There will be 5 - 25 point Lab Practicals. The practicals will involve identifying specific structures on models or dissected animals or identifying anatomical details of tissues and organs under the microscope.

There are no makeup exams or practicals! However, you will be allowed to drop your lowest exam and your lowest practical score. If you miss an exam or a practical for any reason this will count as the one you drop. You may only drop Exam V or Practical 5 if you receive at least a 60% on it, otherwise it will be averaged into your final grade and your second lowest scores will be dropped instead.

Quizzes, Assignments, and Lab Data Sheets:
Several of your lab activities will involve collecting data and reporting it on data sheets included in your course packet. These will be due on the day of the next class period. These
“experimental labs” cannot be made up if you miss them. You will lose points for work turned in late. No points will be given for work more than two weeks late. Each data sheet will be worth 5 to 10 points.

You will also take a few short 10 point lab quizzes and receive a few homework assignments during the semester. If you walk in after the quiz has begun you will lose 1 pt; if you walk in after the quiz is over you cannot take it. All points accumulated from the quizzes, assignments and data sheets will be converted to a percent and reported as the number of points out of 100 and added to your total course points.

**Extra Credit:**

Extra Credit questions are posted on the website for each lecture topic, see instruction there. Other opportunities for extra credit will be given throughout the course. You can earn up to 20 extra credit points during the semester which will be added to your total course points.

**Grading**

Your final course grade will be based on 600 total points. Your actual points accumulated divided by 600 will be converted to a percent value and your letter grade assigned based on the grading curve below:

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<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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**Grading Curve**

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How to Get an “A” in This Course

Be Organized. You will be getting LOTS of handouts in this course. Get a binder or file folder and keep your lecture and lab notes and all handouts from lecture and lab, in order, along with your syllabus. Keep everything in one place. Organizing your course materials will help you to organize the information in your head as well.

Do The Time. This course is very demanding and requires a serious commitment of your time and energy. Be sure that you can plan a schedule that will allow a minimum of 10-15 hours of quality time each week to study. You may also wish to take advantage of the study labs and the tutoring labs in planning your study time.

Read and Read Again. One way to begin your study of the material is to read the the webnotes before and after the actual lecture. Only a rare individual can digest all the information covered in a lecture in one ‘monster’ study session. The more times you actively go over it the better you’ll understand it and retain it. But actually read it thoughtfully, if your eyes are glazing over and your brain is wandering, you’re not really reading it. Try again later.
Attend Every Lecture. The more times that you hear or read about a particular concept the more likely you are to remember it. Lecture attendance also gives you a good idea of which topics the instructor considers the most important or the most difficult. One survey of college students showed that the main factors that correlated with good grades were attendance at every class and sitting near the front of the room. Regularly skipping classes or arriving late tells the instructor and yourself that the class isn’t really that important.

Really LISTEN in Class. A warm body in the classroom that’s dozing or texting has exactly the same educational value as not attending at all. Take good class notes, think about what’s being said, come up with questions to ask to make sure you understand it before the instructor moves on. Taking notes helps you to focus on the main points of the lecture. It will help you to know exactly which topics to focus on when studying. It also allows you to put things in your own words. If you don’t feel like you’re a good ‘note taker’ print out the ‘lecture outline’ and use it to help organize your notes as you take them in class. You might also want to record a few lectures and review them with your notes in front of you to make sure you’re getting everything. Once you know you are taking complete notes, stop recording; you can study much more material in the same time as listening to a single lecture.

There Are NO ‘Stupid’ Questions. It IS stupid to not ask questions when you have them. You paid for an answer, so ask.

Don’t Get Lost in the Details. Summarize the material into discrete topics, learn them. Start big, select 2 or 3 major points from each lecture, make each topic small enough that you can learn it completely in one study session. Take breaks between study sessions. Once you know the major topics, then start studying the rest of the material. This can be particularly effective if you do this after each lecture rather than saving it all until the weekend, or worse, the night before the exam. There is NO defendable reason to leave ‘whole questions’ on an exam completely blank.

Study For the Test Daily rather than pulling "all nighters" the days right before the test. It is almost impossible to absorb all that information on a test in one day, it's much more productive to take it in small manageable ‘doses’. Try to study by topic or chapter to keep up, don’t try to study everything every time you study.

Pay Particular Attention to Illustrations used in lectures and labs. Images can effectively summarize the major points of the lecture. A picture really is worth a thousand words. While studying try to recreate important diagrams and figures from memory. Practice explaining out loud exactly what each figure is telling you.

Eliminate Distractions. Effective learning requires active concentration on the material at hand. The time you spend studying should not be diluted by “multitasking” on myriad unrelated distractions. In truth, the brain cannot really “multitask”; anyone who says they multitask is just doing a lot of different things poorly instead of focusing on one thing and doing it well. There seems to be a very strong correlation with cell phone addiction and poor class performance. Since cell phones became a ubiquitous part of modern life, median test grades have gone down 20 - 30%.

Reorganize Your Notes into customized personal outlines of the material. Don’t just recopy notes; invent new ways to organize or categorize the information. Personally customized learning tools are much more effective than using commercially prepared study guides and outlines based on someone else’s ideas of what is important. Be careful to avoid "busy work" such as recopying notes or highlighting the text if its not really helping you to learn. It’s more the quality of time you spend than the quantity of time that is important in helping you to really understand the material.

Demonstrate Proficiency. When you feel like you are starting to retain the information, stop and quiz yourself. Try to recreate important diagrams and figures from memory. Practice explaining, out loud, exactly what each figure is telling you. Form study groups and ask each other questions. Go to the study objectives after you think you know the material and see if you can write out a clear and concise answer to each question; verify your answers by showing it to other students or the instructor. Try to explain concepts to someone else, not necessarily even someone in the course, and make sure they can understand it; there is no better way to learn it than to teach it.

Come to the Lecture to Listen, Come to the Lab to Work. There is much more information in a lab period than you can really learn in the short time given. Structure your lab time wisely to make the best use of it. Don’t waste time in lab with things you can do at home. Come to the lab prepared: that means knowing what activities you are doing that day, marking all the terms you need to learn on the illustrations in your textbook, knowing the procedures that will be followed, disposal instructions etc. before you begin the lab. The lab is time for “hands on” learning, if you spend half of it figuring out what’s going on or doing things you could have prepared at home you are wasting precious time you could have spent actually learning something.

Make Sketches of Lab Materials. Use your premarked textbook illustrations to find structures on the models, slides or dissections. Use separate sheets of paper in lab to take notes and make quick sketches to remind you what you did or what you saw in lab. The idea isn’t to render ‘artistic truths’ but to jog your memory as you study for the test.

Study What You’ve Got. Your instructor has distilled all the most important information that you will need to know for the exam and practical. He has summarized it, explained it, illustrated it and emphasized the most critical points. This is as
good as it gets. This is exactly “what you need to know for the test”. It’s all there right in front of you. Study IT. Stop looking for crutches to avoid the hard work of learning; skip other books and illustrations, stop surfing the web, skip the You-Tube videos, don’t buy coloring books or flash cards, get off the damn phone and study what you have. All that extra stuff you waste time on clutters your desk and your brain, sometimes to such an extent that you actually forget which things you’re really supposed to know.

**Just Do It.** Too much information? Confused? Can’t keep up? Don’t know where to start? Don’t wallow in your confusion. Start anywhere, even if it means closing your eyes and pointing randomly to your notes to choose. After you begin, things should start falling into place and becoming clearer.

**Seek Additional Lab Time.** Some things you can study at home. Others, like slides, models and dissections, you can learn well only in lab. Some campuses offer study labs in which you can dissect and review models and slides at times other than your lab time.

**Ask for Help.** ACC excels at offering ways to help students succeed in college. If you are having problems in the course, don’t wait until the day before the test or the end of the semester to do something about it. See me during my office hours or by appointment to discuss the help you need. If you need even more help, the study lab and the tutoring labs at most campuses offer ‘one on one’ help or group study time for all ACC students throughout the semester.

**Develop Your Own Personal Style.** Some study best in quiet isolation, others learn best by studying in groups. Some outline lectures, others record and listen to lectures to firm up their notes. Different methods work better for different people, find out what’s best for you. However, if the study techniques you are comfortable with are not working, stop using them. Try something different even if it feels uncomfortable at first.

**Never Give Up!** Hundreds have succeeded in this course before you. If you’ve got the maturity, the organizational skills, the determination and the flexibility to try new study methods, you will succeed.

**Reread These Suggestions** at the beginning of each new set of test material.

**How to Avoid Getting an “A” in This Course**

1. Come to the class only because ‘it’s a required course’, knowing there’s nothing of much use or of much interest for you there.
2. Attend class when you feel like it or if there’s nothing else going on, you can get it all off the web notes if you need it.
3. Come to lecture and lab with no idea of what is going to be covered that day, they’re gonna tell you that stuff anyway.
4. Only write down what the instructor writes on the board, nothing else he says is important, it’s just padding.
5. When you go to lab, look at everything once, then you’re done, if you’re lucky you can get out of lab early to do some gaming or texting.
6. Spend lab time ‘catching up’ in other classes so you won’t have to do it when you get out of this class. You can catch up in this class later.
7. Only study when you feel like it. Theres more to life than bustin’ your butt on a college course.
8. Use most of your study time to your recordings of lectures, it’s easier than taking notes.
9. Devote most of your study time to highlighting and underlining stuff you may or may not get back to.
10. Recopy your notes exactly as you wrote them, if your penmanship improves it means you’re learning the material.
11. Spend most of your study time looking up answers to review questions or sample test questions. That’s all you really need to know.
12. Make 100’s of flash cards. If you have time after that, go through them once.
13. Develop elaborate mnemonics to try to remember a list of a few terms.
14. Buy a ‘coloring book’ for the course, be very careful not to go out of the lines.
15. Hunt for You-Tube videos for every major topic covered in lab and lecture and watch them each once.
16. Keep your cell phone with you and ‘on’ at all times, there might be an important call or text.
17. If you look at it and ‘think you know it’ then you’re good to go, don’t sweat the details.
18. Study “all night” before an exam. Drink lots of caffeine to stay awake.
19. Wait until the last exam before deciding its time to “get serious” in this class.
20. Don’t worry about grades, there’s always a curve, nobody can really learn all this stuff.
21. Always remember, your poor grades are your teacher’s fault.