

Faculty Information



Name: Steve Sofge

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Phone: 432-335-6361

Office: WH 102B

Office Hours	
Campus Office Hours:	M: 1-5; W:1-4; Th: 11-1; F: 8-9am
Online Office Hours:	see hours above

About Your Instructor

Biography of S. Sofge:

I have wanted to teach as long as I can remember. I was born to teach biology. During my childhood, I was always interested in the natural world. I had many questions and it was what I was most curious about. Knowing how living things worked was something that I needed to know. I remember pulling the heads off grasshoppers and dissecting them to find the heart, vessels, stomach, intestines, etc. I had a bug collection as a child. I would lie under a tree and wonder how, in dry west Texas, that huge tree could possibly get enough water to be able to grow to that height and girth. I wanted to know how. This led me to a bachelor degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Biology and then I began a PhD in Biology. I am not sorry that I never finished the PhD for various reasons and have no desire to do so now. I have taught Biology for 35 years and it is true, you never really understand a subject until you teach it. Over the years, my knowledge of this field has grown quite large, however, someone once told me, "the more you know, the more you know you don't know". I have found that to be so true. It is impossible to know it all, so my education is never over, but is now confined to the books that I read and the connections that I continue to make. This is fun, a whole lot of fun for me. I don't know if a person can ever say they are a biologist, because I do not know how much knowledge one would have to have. I just keep learning. What a wonderful life this has been for me.

I have been very blessed in my life. Outside of the school environment, I have had a relationship that has gone beyond 32 years and is the other part of me that is most important. In addition to this, I have considered myself a fairly good carpenter, having remodeled a couple of houses, built a house from a shell with no interior walls to completion and have done a large constructions project on a 13,000 sq. ft. building. I have been able to do quite a bit of traveling and have become incredibly fascinated with the vast number of different cultures there are and how interesting they are.

I have two cats, BeBe and Cali, both of which are rescues. They provide a large amount of pleasure in my life and I consider them my children. Not have ever produced children of my own, pets become a large part of your life. I do have nieces and nephews which I adore and adore watching them mature and find lives of their own. They are blessings as well.

Needless to say, I feel I have had a wonderful life and look forward to each day and the moments it brings. My mom told me once "life is not measured in the number of breaths that you take, but rather by the moments that take your breath away". I'm certain she got that from somewhere other than her head, but I find it to be so true.

My wish for you is to find something you are passionate about, and move in that direction. It will only lead to happiness.

God Bless and Best Wishes for a successful semester,
Steve Sofge

Preferred Method of Communication:

I prefer that students communicate with me via email: ssofge@odessa.edu

Expectations for Engagement for Instructor:

As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will

provide my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;

respond to all messages within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday, and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; and,

notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of during the time I am unavailable.

As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will

provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus,

and

communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.

As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will

post grades for discussion postings within one week of the discussion thread closing.

provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

Textbook Information and Required Hardware/Software

Textbook(s):

Campbell Biology: Concepts and Connections 7ed by Reece, Taylor, Simon, Dickey

Laboratory Manual: Biology 11th ed. by Sylvia Mader

Computer:

A minimum of 512 MB RAM, 1 GB of free disk space, 866 MHz or higher recommended, and a monitor capable of at least 800 x 600 resolution.

Peripherals:

Speakers or headphones will be needed to listen to audio files. You should have access to a microphone or webcam that provides you with the ability to record your voice for a possible assignment later in the semester.

Anti-virus software/firewall:

Anti-virus software is highly recommended. Online courses involve a significant amount of file sharing, which increases your risk of getting a virus. Anti-virus software will help protect your computer in case of exposure to a computer virus. You may also consider using a firewall as added protection.

Other software:

You may need to view course content that is in the form of Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint documents. There are videos in the course, which will view using Windows Media Player, QuickTime or Real Player. There are also short videos on the publisher's website that require Adobe's Shockwave Player.

Internet connection:

A high-speed (Cable or DSL) connection is necessary for this course. If you do not have a broadband connection you may use a computer on campus for certain assignments.

Browser and settings:

You may use Mozilla's Firefox or Camino, Microsoft's Internet Explorer, Apple's Safari, or Google's Chrome for web browsing within Blackboard. Whichever platform you use, make sure to enable Cookies and to disable any pop-up blockers, especially those that come with Yahoo and Google toolbars. This is very important when viewing Tegrity recordings.

Websites:

www.MasteringBiology.com

Information About the Course

Course Description

This course is a study of the organizational aspects of cells from molecular to organismic levels.

Students learn to understand and interpret terms and discover principles covering cell anatomy, cell biochemistry, cellular respiration, photosynthesis, cell reproduction, evolution, ecology, and genetics.

In laboratory activities students learn to perform basic mathematical calculations of converting between the metric and English systems of measurement, acquire experimental data and apply reason to the interpretation of principles underlying the observations including cause and effect relationships. Designed as a transferable lab science course for science majors. Lab fee required. (ICOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Course Prerequisites:

Prerequisite: Pass reading on THEA or COMPASS or by passing the developmental reading sequence and be eligible for College Algebra by passing math on THEA or COMPASS or by passing the developmental math sequence.

Course Topics:

Module 1 :

Ch 1: Biology: Exploring Life

Ch 2: The Chemical Basis of Life

Ch 3: The Molecules of Life

Module 2 :

Ch 4: A Tour of the Cell

Ch 5: The Working Cell

Ch 6: How Cells Harvest Energy

Module 3 :

Ch 7: Photosynthesis

Module 4 :

Ch 8: The Cellular Basis of Reproduction and Inheritance

Ch 9: Patterns of Inheritance

Ch 10: Molecular Biology of the Gene

Grading

Type of Assignment	Percentage/Points	Learning Objective
5 Lecture Exams	100 pts	
4 Lab Exams	100 pts	
Final Exam	200 pts/20 %	
		1300 pts

Grading Scale:

"A" = 90-100

"B" = 80-89

"C" = 70-79

"D" = 60-69

"F" = 0-59

Grading Policy:

Please understand that this is a required course for several professional programs in order to prepare you for their individual state exams. Quality work and active participation is expected and not to be negotiated. As a general policy, grades will be taken in class. Any written assignments or tests will be graded outside of class. You can expect feedback on assignments within a week's time.

Student Course Participation

As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will identify alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet service is unavailable;

recognize that the college provides free wi-fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,

understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or service is unreliable.

As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to

getting "kicked off" of the system during tests or quizzes;

having trouble submitting assignments; and

dealing with a traumatic personal event.

As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;

ask questions if I don't understand; and

access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.

Course Policies

Disclaimer

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change in any part at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be in accordance with Odessa College policies. Students will be notified of changes, if any, in timely manner.

Original Effort

The work submitted for this course must be original work prepared by the student enrolled in this course. Efforts will be recognized and graded in terms of individual participation and in terms of ability to collaborate with other students in this course.

Digital Protocol

Cell phones must be placed on either vibrate or silent mode and are to be accessed in emergency cases only. The use of laptops or any other digital device is permitted in order to facilitate note-taking relative to instruction. Any written assignments will be submitted electronically on Blackboard. The electronic recording of the time on Blackboard will be considered the time of assignment submission. Take necessary steps to ensure that your assignments are submitted on "Blackboard" time. Back-up and/or additional copies of all assignments submitted is encouraged. Computers/printers are available to OC students in the LRC (301-303); therefore, not having access to a computer due to technical issues (crash; corrupted files) will not be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing assignments. If there is a loss of server connection with Odessa College due to maintenance, then an email will be sent to student with pertinent information and status reports. Assignments submitted electronically need to be WORD documents (doc or docx).

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be recorded using a “sign-in” sheet. Excessive absences will be grounds for disciplinary action, and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If you are more than 15 minutes late to class or leave class early without notifying the instructor, this will count as an absence. Students are permitted 3 absences before a loss of 10 bonus point(s) on an exam.

AVID

This course has been identified as a course by Career, Technical, and Workforce Education as one in which teaching and learning strategies adopted by AVID will be implemented. As a student in the legal program, you will be expected to develop an understanding of the strategies, to model the strategies, to maintain fidelity of implementation, and to examine how these strategies may impact your effectiveness as a professional in your chosen area of occupation, either through coursework or practicum experience as outlined by the course instructor.

Grade Inquiry Policy

It is the responsibility of the individual taking this course to maintain accurate track of assignment submissions and grades. There will be opportunities during the semester to meet with the instructor to discuss your academic progress. Contact the instructor to schedule an appointment. Class time will not be used for grade inquiries. All grades are final.

General Course Requirements

Attend class and participate.

Contribute and cooperate with civility.

Submit assignments on time. Late work will not be accepted. Medical and/or family circumstances that warrant an extension on assignments need to be presented to the instructor. Extensions will be allowed at the instructor’s discretion.

Incomplete Policy

An ‘Incomplete’ grade may be given only if:

The student has passed all completed work

If he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of an "I" will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

Odessa College Policies

Academic Policies

Note that the OC Student Handbook states (page 32) that "[i]n cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties. Complaints or appeals of disciplinary sanctions may be filed in accordance with the college due process procedure. Copies of the college due process procedure are available in the office of The Director of Student Life (CC104)."

For more information on your rights and responsibilities as a student at Odessa College, please refer to the following: The 411 of OC: Student Handbook 2012-2013; Student Rights & Responsibilities
<http://www.odessa.edu/dept/studenthandbook/handbook.pdf>

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion.

"Cheating on a test" shall include:

Copying from another student's test paper

Using test materials not authorized by the person administering the test.

Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test without permission from the test administrator.

Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.

The unauthorized transporting or removal, in whole or in part, of the contents of the unadministered test.

Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for one's self, to take a test.

Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.

"Plagiarism" shall be defined as the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work.

"Collusion" shall be defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. (Source: Odessa College Student Handbook 2012-2013, page 29-30)

Special Populations/Disability Services/Learning Assistance

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

Odessa College affirms that it will provide access to programs, services and activities to qualified individuals with known disabilities as required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), unless doing so poses an undue hardship or fundamentally alters the nature of the program or activity. Disabilities may include hearing, mobility or visual impairments as well as hidden disabilities such as chronic medical conditions (arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disorders, lupus, seizure disorders, etc.), learning disabilities or psychiatric or emotional disabilities. A student who comes to Odessa College with diagnosed disabilities which may interfere with learning may receive accommodations when the student requests them and submits proper documentation of the diagnosis. A Request for Accommodations form and guidelines for beginning the request process are available in the OC Help Center or on the Odessa College web site at <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/counseling/disabilities/index.htm>. The college strives to provide a complete and appropriate range of services for students with disabilities such as assistance with testing, registration, information on adaptive and assistive equipment, tutoring, assistance with access and accommodations for the classroom where appropriate. For information regarding services, students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services in the OC Help Center located in Room 204 of the Student Union Building or call 432-335-6433. (Source: Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 52)

Dropping a Course or Withdrawing from College

Students wishing to drop a non-developmental course may do so online using WebAdvisor, at the Wrangler Express, or Registrar's Office. A student wishing to drop a developmental course or withdraw from college should obtain a drop or withdrawal form from the Wrangler Express or the Registrar's Office. Students are encouraged to consult with instructors prior to dropping a class. Students may not

completely withdraw from the college by use of the Web. Students must drop a class or withdraw from college before the official withdrawal date stated in the class schedule. Students who are part of the Armed Forces Reserves may withdraw with a full refund if the withdrawal is due to their being ordered into active duty. A copy of the student's orders must be presented to the Registrar's Office at the time of the withdrawal. For details, please contact the Office of the Registrar. No longer attending class does not automatically constitute withdrawal from that class, nor does a student's notification to an instructor that the student wishes to be dropped. Failure of a student to complete the drop/withdrawal process will result in a grade of "F." (Source: Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 36)

Course Schedule

(Tentative and Subject to Change)

Module 1:

Ch 1: Aug. 26 - Sept. 2

Ch 2: Sept. 3 - Sept. 16

Ch 3: Sept. 17 - Sept. 30

Module 2:

Ch 4: Oct. 1 - Oct. 7

Ch 5: Oct. 8 - Oct. 21

Ch 6: Oct. 22 - Nov. 4

Module 3:

Ch 7: Nov. 5 - Nov. 18

Module 4:

Ch 8: Nov. 19 - Nov. 25

Ch 9: Nov. 26 - Dec. 2

Ch 10: Dec. 3 - Dec. 9

Final Exam: Dec. 12 from 8:00 am until 10:30 am

Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs)

Description of Institutional Core Objectives (ICO's)

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Therefore, with the assistance of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee, the Coordinating Board has approved guidelines for a core curriculum for all undergraduate students in Texas.

Through the application and assessment of objectives within the institution's core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Appropriate Odessa College faculty periodically evaluates all of the courses listed in the descriptions on the following pages of this catalog and keys them to Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs), as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). (Source: Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013, page 73)

Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs):

Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Empirical and Quantitative Skills - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

Teamwork - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Social Responsibility - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Course Objectives

1. Describe the characteristics of life.
2. Use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
3. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.
4. Compare and contrast the structures, reproduction, and characteristics of viruses, prokaryotic cells, and eukaryotic cells.
5. Describe the structure of cell membranes and the movement of molecules across a membrane.
6. Identify the substrates, products, and important chemical pathways in metabolism.
7. Identify the principles of inheritance and solve classical genetic problems.
8. Identify the chemical structures, synthesis, and regulation of nucleic acids and proteins.
9. Identify the basic properties of substances needed for life.
10. Explain the methods of inquiry used by scientists.
11. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
12. Describe the unity and diversity of life and the evidence for evolution through natural selection.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome	ICO
2, 5, 7, 9, 12	Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
1, 4, 3,	Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
6, 9, 8, 11	Empirical and Quantitative Skills - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4, 7, 5, 8,	Teamwork - to include the ability to consider different points of view

2	and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
	Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
	Social Responsibility - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Support Services and Technical Support

Blackboard Support

I can't log into my Blackboard Course, who do I contact?

Contact the Student Success Center: 432-335-6673 or online at

https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm. The SSC can provide you with your Blackboard login name. If you are not sure what your password is, they can reset your password.

I'm having a problem in my Blackboard Course, who do I contact?

For any problem that you have in your online course, always contact your Instructor first. Refer to the Instructor's Contact Information area of the Syllabus for their preferred method of contact and the expected response time.

Additional Blackboard Help Resources:

Service	Assistance Provided	Available
Blackboard Help for Students	Website with a searchable list of topics on how to navigate and use Blackboard for online courses.	Online Click here.
Blackboard On Demand Learning Center for Students	This website provides an extensive list of short	Online Click here.

	tutorial videos for student activities performed in Blackboard.	
Blackboard Collaborate: First Time Users	If you have never used Blackboard Collaborate before, this website provides a system requirements check, configuration instructions, and training and resources area.	Online Click here.
Blackboard Collaborate: Essentials for Participants	This website provides essential information for Participants of Collaborate sessions. Any Collaborate user, whether first-time or experienced, would benefit from reviewing the information here.	Online Click here.

Student E-mail Support

How do I set up, access, or update my Odessa College Student E-mail account?

Go to this website and follow the directions on the page: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>.

I can't access my student email! I forgot my password!

Contact the Student Success Center: 432-335-6673 or online at

https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm. They can provide you with assistance in

accessing your student email (created by OC) and can also assist with resetting your student email password. Make sure to have your student ID number available!

Your Blackboard login name is associated with your OC created student email account. All Correspondence for this course will be submitted using your Odessa College student email address.

Support for Students with Disabilities

How do I contact the Office of Special Populations?

Main Number	432-335-6861
Campus Location	SUB 204N in the Student Union Building
Email	Becky Rivera-Weiss - brivera@odessa.edu
Website	To find out more about services provided by the Special Populations office, please visit: http://www.odessa.edu/dept/counseling/disabilities/index.htm

Learning Resources Center (LRC; Library)

How do I contact the Learning Resource Center?

Main Number	432-335-6640
FAQ Service	LibAnswers: http://libanswers.odessa.edu
Contact a Specific OC Librarian	Pat Quintero at 432/335-6350 or pquintero@odessa.edu Donna Clark at 432/335-6645 or dclark@odessa.edu Carolyn Petersen at 432/335-6641 or cpetersen@odessa.edu

LRC Services and Guidelines Website	https://www.odessa.edu/dept/library/services/index.htm
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Equipment and Services Provided:

The Murry H. Fly Learning Resources Center (LRC) supports the college's curriculum resulting in a primary emphasis on each student's individual study and research needs. The faculty and staff work with the LRC's Technical Services and Public Services Departments in choosing materials to support all college programs. More than 59,000 books, 50,000 electronic books, 350 current periodicals, 6,700 media holdings, eight newspapers, and 60 databases are available to enhance the educational process.

Equipment/Services Available	Used For	Available
Books, videos, CDs	Research	On Campus and Online
Specialized databases not available online for free	Research	On Campus and Online
Magazines, newspapers, & scholarly journals	Research	On Campus and Online
Computers	Research & word processing	On Campus
Selected textbooks for short-term use	Course work	On Campus
Trained staff	Answer "where do I find?"	On Campus and Online
Tutorials	Tips for research strategies	On Campus and Online
Photocopiers, VHS/DVD players, FAX service	For course work	On Campus
Quiet study areas	For course work	On Campus

Student Success Center (SSC) / AVID Center

How do I contact the Student Success Center?

Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be served as soon as possible.

Main Number	432-335-6673
Campus Location	1st floor of the Library
Website with Additional Help and Information	http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/
Live Online Assistance / Chat	Click Here (If no one is currently available, please put your email and question(s) in the appropriate areas of the form and hit 'send.' Your question(s) will be addressed as soon as an SSC staff member becomes available.)

Equipment and Services Provided:

The purpose of the Odessa College Student Success Center is to provide assistance to students in meeting their academic and career goals. The SSC strives to continually provide new and updated resources that will empower all Odessa College students to succeed at OC and beyond.

Equipment/Services Available	Used For	Available
Tutoring by CRLA & Avid trained tutors	Understanding course work and motivation	On Campus and Online Click here for more information.
Student Information Seminars (SIS)	Demo email, Blackboard and SSC resources	On Campus and Online Click here for more information.
Study Skills	Tools needed to succeed	On Campus and Online Click here for more information.
Basic Technology	To navigate classes, email, etc.	On Campus and Online
Plato Web	Practice for TEAS test and basic math, science, etc.	On Campus and Online

		Click here for more information.
Project T.I.E.	Practice for GED/COMPASS	On Campus and Online Click here for more information.
Student Orientation/Tour	Show individual students where their classes will be. SIS presentation	On Campus
M.O.R.E. Mentoring Program	Networking, tips to navigate college life successfully	On Campus Click here for more information.
Smart thinking	Online tutoring service. Connect with an e-structor and interact with a live tutor.	Online Click here for more information.

Veterans Support

How do I contact the office for Veteran's Outreach?

Main Number	432-335-6833
Campus Location	204M (Help Center) in the Student Union Building
Email	Gloria Rangel - grangel@odessa.edu
Website	To find out more about services provided by the Veteran's Outreach office, please visit: http://www.odessa.edu/dept/counseling/veterans/index.htm