BIOL 1107: Principles of Biology I Fall Semester 2013

Lecture: Sections AB, C, D, E, F; Monday and Wednesday 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm, Room 1011 Bailey Science Center
Laboratory meet as scheduled per section

Instructor: Dr. John Elder
Office: BC 2088
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., or by appointment
Office Phone: (229) 333-5762
Email: jelder@valdosta.edu

Welcome to Principles of Biology I. This is the first course in a series designed to help you develop a strong foundation in the biological sciences to build on throughout your studies at VSU and beyond.

BIOL 1107 Course Description. An introduction to the principles of biology for science majors, with an emphasis on the cellular nature of life. Concepts covered include the origin and early evolution of cellular life; cell structure, function, metabolism, and reproduction; cell signaling; and gene regulation in bacteria and eukaryotes.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to stimulate student learning of these basic concepts and to encourage contemplation of the significance of each concept to the general field of biology.

Course Outcomes: Develop and test hypotheses, collect and analyze data, and present the results and conclusions. Exhibit an understanding of basic biological chemistry, describe the evolutionary processes responsible for biological diversity, explain the phylogenetic relationships among the major taxa of life, and provide examples. Demonstrate an understanding of the cellular basis of life.

Required Materials:
“Clickers”: Each student is required to obtain a Turning Technologies NXT clicker (available in the bookstore). All students are responsible for having their clickers with them in class. All points accumulated during lecture are generated by clickers. If you do not bring your clicker, no points will be recorded for your participation. Clicker info at: http://www.valdosta.edu/distance/clickers/index.shtml. Ms. Brenda Drew Hoke (BJ) is the current Turning Technologies Intern working in the eLearning office (back behind the Help Desk in the library) and may be available to address issues students are having with clickers.

Grade Assessment: Your final grade will be based on your performance on lecture examinations and the laboratory. Additional unannounced research and writing assignments may be assigned to count toward the final grade during the semester. Please read, sign and return provided description of grading for the course.

Calculate your overall grade as follows:
(Lab average grade X .25) + (4 lecture exams + 1 quiz average grade/5 X .75) = Overall percentage grade.
Overall letter grades will be assigned on a 10 point scale: 90-100% = A, 80-90% = B, 70-80% = C, 60-70% = D, and, 59% and below = F.

Lecture:
Exams. There will be three lecture exams followed by a final exam. Students are required to learn the lecture material and the readings from the text for all tests. Related information presented in the laboratory may also be included on tests. Test format will be specified by your instructor. Tests and the final exam will be worth 100 points each. The final exam will be taken during the allotted time published online and posted below. There are NO MAKEUP TESTS OR EXAMS, with the exception of those students with a University related excuse or an emergency. Otherwise, a missed exam will be equal to zero points.
Lecture quizzes: There will be intermittent short “clicker” quizzes on the readings and lecture. Overall quiz average grades will be worth the equivalent to 1 test. Note this does not mean one test grade is dropped.

Laboratory:
Students will be graded on their performance in laboratory based on attendance, quiz grades, group lab projects, selected homework assignments, and other assignments as specified by your lab instructor. Your lab instructor will turn in your lab grade to me to be averaged into your overall class score. Do not miss labs. There are NO MAKEUP LABS. If you miss labs you may not pass this course.

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Mid-term, or in-progress grades: The instructor is required to submit in-progress grades prior to mid-term as posted (9/30/2009). In theory, a mid-term grade is necessary for a student to assess how s/he is doing in class by midterm. In this course, students will have feedback on at least one major exam by midterm, several lab quizzes, lab assignments, and any homework or writing assignments. The instructor will, in general, assign an overall average grade at this point on the normal scale of A-F viewable on Banner. Students receiving a grade of “D” or lower should therefore carefully evaluate their option of dropping this course by midterm without academic penalty.

Privacy Act (FERPA): The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibit the public posting of grades by social security number or in any manner personally identifiable to the individual student. No grades can be given by email or over the telephone, as positive identification cannot be made by this manner.

Biology Tutoring: The Student Success Center (SSC) at Valdosta State University is located in Langdale Residence Hall above the Tech Shop and is available to all students. The SSC provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including biology, chemistry, math, writing, and foreign languages. The SSC also provides free academic advising and on-campus job information in one location. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or visit the website: www.valdosta.edu/ssc.

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone number is (229) 245-2498.

Important Dates:

August
   Monday, 12th  1st class:

September
   Monday, 2nd  Labor Day
   Wednesday, 4th  Test 1
   Monday, 30th  Test 2

October
   Thursday 3rd  Midterm: last day to drop without penalty
   Monday 28th  Test 3

November
   November 23rd – December 1st  Thanksgiving break

December
   Monday 2nd  Last Class:
   Tuesday 3rd  Study day
   Friday 6th (5-7 pm)  Final Exam

TENTATIVE COURSE LECTURE MATERIAL OUTLINE:

Introduction, What is science? What is Biology? Chapter 1
What is Biology: Unifying Principles of Life. Chapter 1
Characterization of Life, Evolution and Diversity. Chapter 1
Origin of Life. Chapter 2
Chemistry of Life; Organic molecules, Macromolecules and the origin of life. Chapters 3&4
Cell Structure & Function. Chapter 5
Origin of Eukaryotic cells.

Biological Membranes; Osmosis, Diffusion, Water Potential, and Transport mechanisms; Water, pH. Chapter 6

Cell Communication. Chapter 7
Basic Metabolism: Energy, Enzymes; Biochemistry. Chapter 8

Cellular Respiration. Chapter 9
Photosynthesis. Chapter 10

Cell Division Cycle, Mitosis, Meiosis, Sexual Life Histories. Chapter 11
DNA Structure and Replication; Protein Synthesis. Chapter 13&14

Recombinant DNA technology; Restriction Enzymes, Vectors, and Hosts. Chapter 18
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Fall 2013  Biology  1107 sections A,B,C,D,E &  F  General Class Policies regarding grades:

a. I understand that this is a science class and that my enrollment is voluntary. I am here to learn the science and I am free to drop the course if I do not wish to learn the material.
b. I understand that my grades are based solely upon my level of performance, not on what I may want or think I need.
c. I understand that the final grade I receive in this course is the grade I “EARNED”. The instructor does not “GIVE” me a grade.
d. I understand that it is the instructor’s responsibility to evaluate my performance and to assign a grade that certifies the level at which I KNOW and UNDERSTAND the course material.
e. I understand that earn my grade by demonstrating on assigned tests, quizzes and assignments that I KNOW and UNDERSTAND the course material.
f. I understand that it is my responsibility to master ALL course material to the level necessary to achieve the grade I want in this class.
g. I understand that the grade I receive is NOT based on the amount of work or effort I do. Effort is my responsibility.
h. I understand that late assignments will not be accepted and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
i. I understand that incomplete work will not be accepted and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
j. I understand that work that does not follow instructions in all respects will not be accepted and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
k. I understand that in the event of a personal emergency resulting in missed assignments it is my responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible. I also understand that any possible make up work is strictly at the instructor’s discretion on a case by case basis.
l. I understand that it is my responsibility to make sure I understand all assignment instructions and due dates. It is not the instructors fault if I fail to meet these expectations.
m. I understand that my grades are based only upon the assignments given. There are no opportunities for “extra credit” or “additional assignments”.

n. I understand that it is my responsibility to seek additional help from the instructor or campus tutorial services when needed.
o. I understand that the time to worry about my grades is all during the term. Grades are final after the class is over.
p. I understand that no late or additional assignments will be accepted for any reason after the course closes.
q. I understand that grades are not negotiable. Complaining or begging extra points after the fact are not appropriate behaviors.
r. I understand that my grade will be based on the criteria detailed earlier in this syllabus and that it is my responsibility to seek clarification if it is needed.
s. I understand that this course will assign grades on a 10 point scale and no curve is to be used in assigning those grades.
t. I understand that the instructor cannot and will not predict nor promise any grades before all scores for all assignments are done and the class is completed.
u. I understand that the instructor will only discuss my final grade for purposes of explanation or correction of a possible mistake. Discussions about disappointment with grades, complaints about grades, grade changes or general whining about poor performance will not be entertained.
v. I understand that note taking and reading are my responsibility. No phones, cameras or other electronics may be used to photograph notes or presentations. Any use of these items during the class will result in an immediate failing grade for the course.
w. I understand that that I am required to be active in class by reading, taking notes, interacting when necessary and routinely studying. No copies of class presentations or “study guides” will be provided or posted.
x. It is also understood that I must actively participate in all laboratory exercises and meet the expectations as assigned by the lab instructor in order to pass this course.
y. The instructor assumes no responsibility for a student’s eligibility to receive the Hope Scholarship. Students do not “lose Hope because of this class”. Students who lose their Hope Scholarship eligibility do so because of overall poor academic performance across all classes.

Sign, date and return this page to the instructor. By signing below you are acknowledging that these course rules were explained to you and that you understand and agree to abide by them as they pertain to this course.