

**Introductory Genetics**  
**BIOL 3200(5200), Section A (3 credit hours)**  
**Spring Semester 2015**

**Lecture (BC 3009): Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm**

**Instructor:** Dr. Cristina Calestani  
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**Office hours:**  
Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-3:00 pm  
Or by appointment (please send me an email to my valdosta.edu account with “appointment” in the subject line).

**Pre-Requisites:** MATH 1112 or MATH 1113, BIOL 1107 and BIOL 1108 with a grade of C or better or permission of instructor.

**Course Description (as stated in the Undergraduate Catalogue):**

A survey of modern genetics, including Mendelian modes of heredity, extensions and variations on Mendelian genetics, chromosomal inheritance and variation, molecular properties of genes, and basic quantification of genetic diversity at the population level.

**Textbook**

*Genetics Essentials*, 2nd edition, by Benjamin A. Pierce. Editor, W.H. Freeman & Company.

**Additional required material**

Response Card NXT Clicker (Turning Technologies).

**ASSESSMENTS**

**The course assessments will consist of four exams and in-class activities.**

Exams will be taken during class time and must be turned in by the scheduled end of class. The fourth exam will be a comprehensive final. In-class activities will be assessed by using Clickers.

Photo identification is required for all exams.

Exams grades will be posted on Blazeview.

- All exams are based on lecture material (powerpoints slides, in-class activities), assigned textbook readings, and the problem sheets posted on Blazeview.  
If you do not attend class on a regular basis and if you do not complete the problem sheets you will be at a significant disadvantage.
- Exams questions are multiple choice, true/false, matching and some short written answers.
- If you fail to attend one of the exams for any reason, you must provide documented evidence (e.g. from doctor, police, etc.) that circumstances beyond your control prevented you from taking the exam. Failure to provide reasonable evidence will result in a grade of 0 for the exam. Makeup exams will be administered at any time during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

- If you arrive late for an exam you will be allowed to take the exam. However, you must turn in the exam paper at the regular scheduled end of the class. You will not be allowed extra time unless a documentable emergency has occurred.
- The final exam grade (exam 4) can replace the lowest grade of exams 1, 2 or 3. This applies only to exam 4; no other exam can replace the lowest grade. If exam 4 is used to replace a lower grade for test 1, 2, or 3, the grade for exam 4 will count twice in the final grade calculation. Exam 4 cannot be used to replace a missed test.
- Exam 4 will always count in calculating the final grade.
- After each exam, students are strongly encouraged to review it. You can review an exam during office hours. Exams will not be returned to students.
- **Any student attempting to copy, take pictures or steal a hard-copy of a test, at any time during the semester, will receive an automatic F for the entire course and face disciplinary action for student misconduct.**

#### **Extra-credit up to a maximum of 25 points will be offered**

These points will be added to the student total points for the course before calculating the percentage grade. Extra-credit points can be earned by answering the in-class clicker questions and the weekly online timed quizzes posted on Blazeview.

**a) In-class activities (15 points max)** will consist of questions or problems presented during lecture. Students' answers will be recorded in class by using clickers and the grade will be posted on the Blazeview Gradebook. There will be a total of 60 clickers questions delivered by the end of the semester, meaning that each correct clicker answer will count as 0.25 points. Note that what is posted on Blazeview is the number of correct answers. In order to calculate your clicker grade, you need to multiply the number of correct answers by 0.25. There will be no make-ups for the in-class activities.

#### **b) Online quizzes (10 points max)**

- **A new quiz will be posted on Blazeview weekly, starting from Friday January 23.** Quizzes will be open at 1pm on Friday and will be closed at 11:59 pm on the following Friday. Each quiz will have questions on the material covered in class during that week (the two classes covered before the new quiz).
- There will NOT be new quizzes offered on each Friday following a test and during the last week of class. The Instructor will communicate to the class any change to the quiz schedule.
- You will have 3 attempts. Each quiz will have only one correct answer. The quiz questions and the order of the multiple answers will be randomized for each attempt, meaning that you might have different questions at each attempt. After you select your answer remember to click on SAVE. Note that opening a quiz window without answering will count as one attempt and will receive a grade of zero.
- If you miss a quiz you must provide documented evidence (e.g. from doctor, police, etc.) that circumstances beyond your control prevented you from taking a quiz during the time it was open. Malfunction of your home computer is NOT an acceptable excuse. You can take the quizzes from one of the many computers available to students in campus. Failure to provide reasonable evidence will result in a grade of 0 for the quiz. Makeup quizzes will be administered at any time during the semester at the discretion of the instructor.

## Grading

Test 1	100 points
Test 2	100 points
Test 3	100 points
Test 4	100 points
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Total	400 points

Extra-credit In-Class Clicker Questions 15 points  
Extra-credit Online Quizzes 10 points

Grade Distribution	
Letter	Percentage
A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	≤ 60%

**Final grade: (Test points + Extra-credit points)/400**

**NOTE:** Graduate students enrolled in BIOL 5200 will have additional assignments and adjusted grading scale in a supplementary syllabus.

### Classroom Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. For the VSU's Access Office contact information please see <http://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>

### Behavior in the Classroom

It is assumed that all students will act in a mature manner in the classroom, showing consideration for their peers and the instructor. Any student who consistently distracts other students or the instructor will be removed from the course. **Cell phones must be turned off or set to silent mode in the classroom.**

### Cheating or Plagiarism

Incidents of cheating or plagiarism will result in **an automatic F for the course and referral to The Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.** For VSU's Academic Integrity Code please see <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/>

For VSU's Academic Honesty policies and procedure please see

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/academic-honesty-policies-and-procedures.php>

### Learning Support

☐ **The Student Success Center:** The Student Success Center (SSC) provides free peer tutoring in core courses, the top four of which are math, writing, Spanish, and biology/chemistry. It also offers time management and study skills workshops as well as provides free professional academic advising and on-campus job information in one location: Langdale Residence Hall. Help is available to all VSU students. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or visit the website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/student-success-center/>

☐ **Odum Library** provides a variety of services to assist classroom instruction, including library instruction, course reserves, and interlibrary loan. Please see <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/> for further information.

**TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE:**

<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Textbook Reading</b>
1	Jan 13	<b>Introduction to the Course</b>	
2	Jan 15	<b>Introduction to Genetics</b>	Chapter 1; Chapter 2 pp.18-20
3	Jan 20	<b>Mitosis, Meiosis and The Development of Gametes</b>	Chapter 2 pp.20-35
4	Jan 22	<b>Mitosis, Meiosis and The Development of Gametes</b>	Chapter 2 pp.20-35
5	Jan 27	<b>Chromosome Variation</b>	Chapter 6
6	Jan 29	<b>Basic Principles of Heredity</b>	Chapter 3 pp.44-60
7	Feb 3	<b>Basic Principles of Heredity</b>	Chapter 3 pp.44-60
8	Feb 5	<b>Genetic Pedigrees</b>	Chapter 3 pp. 62-65
9	Feb 10	<b>Extensions and Modifications of Basic Principles</b>	Chapter 4 pp.73-83
10	Feb 12	<b>Extensions and Modifications of Basic Principles</b>	Chapter 4 pp.87-91
--	Feb 17	<b>Review Problem Sheets</b>	
--	Feb 19	<b>EXAM 1</b>	<b>Lecture 2-10</b>
11	Feb 24	<b>Extensions and Modifications of Basic Principles</b>	Chapter 4 pp.91-97
12	Feb 26	<b>Linkage Recombination and Eukaryotic Gene Mapping</b>	Chapter 5 pp.114-136
13	March 3	<b>Linkage Recombination and Eukaryotic Gene Mapping</b>	Chapter 5 pp.114-136
14	March 5	<b>Linkage Recombination and Eukaryotic Gene Mapping</b>	Chapter 5 pp.114-136
15	March 10	<b>Quantitative Genetics</b>	Chapter 17 pp. 437-450
16	March 12	<b>Population and Evolutionary Genetics</b>	Chapter 18 pp. 460-465
--	March 17	<b>Review Problem Sheets</b>	
--	March 19	<b>EXAM 2</b>	<b>Lecture 11-16</b>
--	March 24	<b>SPRING BREAK-NO CLASS</b>	
--	March 26	<b>SPRING BREAK-NO CLASS</b>	
17	March 31	<b>Population and Evolutionary Genetics</b>	Chapter 18 pp. 465-470
18	April 2	<b>DNA: the Chemical Nature of the Gene</b>	Chapter 8
19	April 7	<b>DNA Replication</b>	Chapter 9 pp. 234-250
20	April 9	<b>Transcription and RNA Processing</b>	Chapter 10 pp.258-274
21	Apr 14	<b>Translation: the Genetic Code</b>	Chapter 11 pp. 288-293
22	Apr 16	<b>Translation: the Process</b>	Chapter 11 pp.293-301
--	Apr 21	<b>Review Problem Sheets</b>	
--	Apr 23	<b>EXAM # 3</b>	<b>Lecture 17-22</b>
23	Apr 28	<b>Control of Gene Expression in Prokaryotes</b>	Chapter 12 pp. 305-319
24	April 30	<b>Control of Gene Expression in Eukaryotes</b>	Chapter 12 pp. 320-327
--	<b>Friday May 8</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM 10:15am-12:15pm</b>	<b>Lecture 2-24</b>