

ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY SYLLABUS - BIOL 1030 - Super Section A

Lecture: CRN 21229-Section A- (3 Cr)

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9:00-9:50 am

Room 1011 Bailey Science Center.

Co-requisite Laboratory: BIOL 1040L (1Cr) - Independently scheduled.

Instructor: Dr. John Elder

Office: BC 2088

Office hours: M, W, F 10-11am and by appointment

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An introduction to modern biology for the non-major with special emphasis on the processes involved in the development and maintenance of complex multicellular organisms.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course fulfills one portion of Area D of the Learning Outcomes for Valdosta State University's Core Curriculum: Students will demonstrate understanding of the physical universe and the nature of science, and they will use scientific methods and/or mathematical reasoning and concepts to solve problems.

(<http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/ProposedNewLearningOutcomes.shtml>)

Specifically, students will:

- Learn about the nature of science and how to build scientific knowledge;
- Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the cellular basis of life;
- Relate the structure and the function of DNA/RNA to the development of form and function of the organism and to heredity;
- Effectively organize, communicate and apply their knowledge of biology to their everyday lives.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook: Concepts of Biology from OpenStax College, ISBN 1-938168-11-9, <https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/concepts-of-biology>. Readings will be assigned from Concepts of Biology and are to be completed prior to coming to class. **The text is available free online, in a variety of formats, and a print version or mobile app are available to purchase.**

"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>. The current Turning Technologies Intern works in the eLearning office (back behind the Help Desk in the library) and may be available to address issues students are having with clickers.

GRADING: Final letter grades will be assigned on a **10 point scale** for your overall percentage score for the class: A: 90 – 100% B: 80 – 89% C: 70 – 79% D: 60 – 69% F: < 60%

Exams: There are **four** scheduled tests throughout the semester, each will cover the material from the previous exam through the current test. Test will cover **all reading and lecture material**, in detail. The lowest of the four test scores will be dropped and will not be included in your final grade calculation. **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP TESTS.** If you must miss a test for any reason, this will automatically be the lowest score and will not be included in your final grade. The final test is scheduled at the time and date formally assigned by the registrar. The test scores average will be worth 75% of your final grade (3 will be counted, each worth 25%).

In Class Quizzes: Expect that in-class **"clicker response"** quizzes will be given on a daily basis. The final quiz average will count as the remaining 25% of your final score, equivalent to one test. Quizzes will also be used to determine

attendance for financial aid purposes. The lowest quiz score will be dropped and not used in determining your final quiz average. Missed quiz scores cannot be made up and will be counted as a zero.

COMMUNICATION:

Email: Email is the simplest and primary way to contact me outside of class and is the quickest way for me to contact you as well. All email should be sent directly to jfelder@valdosta.edu. You are required to check and maintain your Valdosta State University email account. I will only communicate with you through this official email account. Do NOT email using the Blazeview system.

Blazeview: We will be using Blazeview throughout the semester as a tool for sharing information. I will post course tentative grades as well as any necessary class materials. Note that I use the Blazeview site grade sheet **only to report grades** to you. I do not use it to actually calculate grades. I use a separate spreadsheet. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend all scheduled course activities, and active participation is part of your course grade. Because of the nature and structure of the class, attendance is vital to your success in the course. We will strictly adhere to **VSU's policy** on attendance which states: "A student who **misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course**" (Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2012, p. 89). Also note that the instructor is required to file the last date of attendance for any student failing the course. This information is used by financial aid authorities to assess potential payback of aid funds.

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 professional 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.

MID-TERM, OR IN-PROGRESS GRADES: The instructor is required to submit in-progress grades prior to mid-term. 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) prohibits 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.

ACCESS STATEMENT: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The **Access Office is located in Farbar Hall**. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu.

TITLE IX STATEMENT: Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: **Maggie Viverette, Director of the Office of Social Equity**, titleix@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

Tentative Schedule Biology 1030 - B Spring 2017

Chapter Topic Important Dates

January

1 Introduction Monday, January 9 (first class)

2 The Chemistry of Life

3 A tour of the cell

4 The energy of life

Monday, January 16 (MLK Day)

*******TEST 1 ***** Friday, January 27, 2017**

February

4 Respiration

5 Photosynthesis

6 Mitosis and Cancer

March

Thursday, March 2 (midterm)

*******TEST 2 ***** Friday, March 3, 2013**

Thursday, March 9 (Last day to withdraw without penalty)

Saturday 11- Sunday 19 (Spring Break)

7 Cellular inheritance (Meiosis)

8 Genetics

9 DNA to Proteins

*******TEST 3 ***** Friday March 31, 2017**

April

16 Body's Systems

18 Animal Reproduction

17 Diseases

Open topics

May

Monday, May 1 (Last lecture day)

*******TEST 4***** Friday, May 5 (Last test-8:00 am – 10:00 am, Room 1011)**

UNDERSTANDING CLASS RULES, EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING FOR BIOLOGY 1030 SECTION B

- I.** **Disruptive behavior:** No disruptive behavior of any kind will be tolerated in this course.
- Students should restrict talking, questions and discussion to pertinent questions related to course material.
 - Entering a classroom late is discouraged.
 - Any student disrupting lectures will be required to leave the classroom.
 - Any disruptive student who refuses to leave on request will be removed by campus police.
 - I like a relaxed atmosphere, but respect for fellow students and instructors is required.
- II.** **Electronics: Use of cellular telephones, pagers, or any similar remote communication device is prohibited during scheduled lectures, quizzes, or examinations.**
- If it is essential to take an emergency, incoming call, then quietly step outside and conduct your business like an adult. Otherwise, students who bring cellular telephones or similar devices to lecture must switch them off prior to the beginning of the lecture period.
 - Phones may not be used as calculators on exams.
 - Lecture notes may not be photographed or recorded with phone or computer cameras.
 - The penalty for using a phone to record lecture notes or during an exam is failure of the course.
 - No electronic devices (including cell phones), books, or notebooks will be allowed during exams. Students using such items will be asked to leave and will receive a zero for the exam.
 - Laptop computers can be used for note taking during lecture; however, students using them must sit in the first four rows of the classroom. Anyone caught cruising the net instead of taking notes will receive a failing grade for the course.
- III.** **Cheating:** Students caught cheating will receive a grade of "F" for the assignment in question and possibly for the course. Cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students. See your Student handbook for what constitutes catalogue cheating and plagiarism.
- IV.** **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:** Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an quiz or exam, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own work. Students are responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with the VSU Student Code of Conduct, in Appendix A of the Student Handbook (<http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/handbook/>) If substantial evidence exists for a violation of this policy, the student(s) involved will receive a grade of 'F' for the course and an official record will be filed with following the Academic Integrity Response along with a letter to the Dean of Students. (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>).
- V.** **Procedure for exams and quizzes:**
- It is the student's responsibility to **obtain and properly license, register the required response "clicker"** in a timely manner. No quiz makeups will be allowed. Students who do not bring a clicker to class will receive a zero for any given quiz. No paper responses to quizzes will be accepted.
 - You must be on time. Students arriving more than 10 minute late may not take the exam and will receive a grade of zero.
 - No talking will be allowed during the exam, however students are welcome to come to the instructor's desk to ask questions about clarification of questions on the exam.
 - Each student will be given an exam to be completed and handed back to the instructor.
 - You must bring a #2 pencil and will take the exam during the stated lecture time only.

- f. No electronic devices or aids are allowed during exams. Use constitutes cheating and will result in dismissal and failure of the course.
- g. A student with **more than a single clicker in their possession during any lecture class or exam constitutes cheating** by the owners of the clickers and the person in possession of the clickers. This also constitutes cheating and will result in dismissal and failure of the course.
- h. No makeup exams are given except in documented emergency situations. Do not miss exams.
- i. Every student should bring their University ID.
- j. You will have the class time only to complete each lecture exam.
- k. During examinations, students may be asked to display their VSU student identification cards visibly on the desk top and to make them available for inspection by their instructor and/or assistants.

VI. General Class Policies:

- 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.