

Valdosta State University, BIOL 1107K, Sections A-F (4 Credit Hours)
Principles of Biology I – SPRING 2017
Syllabus & Course Policies

Lecture: BC 1011 – MWF, 12:00-12:50

Lecture Instructor: Dr. Emily Cantonwine (Dr. Cantonwine), Office: BC 2031, Phone: (229) 333-5337

Email: egcantonwine@valdosta.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-3:30, Thursdays 1:30-3:30, Fridays 1-2

Graduate Assistant (GA): Roderica K Flucas, (Keisha)

Embedded Tutors: TBA

Lab Sections: BC 1083

A Monday, 9-11:50, Dr. Ring

B Monday, 2-4:50, Dr. Cantonwine

C Tuesday, 9:30-12:20, Dr. Kang

D Tuesday, 2-4:50, Dr. Kang

E Wednesday, 9-11:50 Dr. Ring

F Wednesday, 2-4:50 Dr. Cantonwine

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. There are no prerequisites for this course. BIOL 1100 is a co-requisite for Freshman Biology majors that have not yet completed this course (offered Fall semesters only)

Required Resources:

- **Biology** by OpenStax College. See <https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/biology> for ways to get the book.
- Turning Technologies Clicker NXT
- R.H. Goddard. 2011. *Methods and Investigations in Basic Biology*. Sixth Edition. Hayden-McNeil Publishing, Plymouth, MI. (Lab manual)

Learning Goal

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.

Course Objectives and Outcomes (refer to Outcome section at end of syllabus for more information)

By the end of this course, students will be able to

- 1) answer questions that demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts of biology, including the scientific method and experimental design; cellular structure, function, metabolism, and reproduction; the nature of the gene and its action; and the mechanisms of evolution (GEO 5; BEO 1-4)
- 2) perform a variety of standard lab techniques used in biological research (GEO 5)
- 3) use critical thinking skills and written communication skills to present the results and conclusions of data collected in the lab in standard scientific writing format (GEO 4 & 7; BEO 1)

Assessments:

Lecture (75% of final grade)

Lecture grade	Points	SCALE
<i>7 of 8 - the lowest of these grades will be dropped</i>		A ≥ 90.0%
○ Unit Exams (5)	100 each	B ≥ 80.0%
○ Clicker Grade (1)	100	C ≥ 70.0%
○ Blazeview Quiz grade (1)	100	D ≥ 60.0%
○ Cumulative Final Exam (1)	100	F ≤ 59.99%

Total possible pts = 700 after lowest grade is dropped

Lab (25% of final grade)

- Refer to your lab syllabus for assessment details

Explanation of Lecture Assessments:

Unit Exams. A percentage score will be determined for each unit exam. There are no make-up exams, regardless of excuse. If you miss an exam, this will be the grade that is dropped. Students may not take exams early, with the exception of students with a university-related or religious excuse. The unit exams are not cumulative.

Clicker Grade. Beginning in the second week of class, lectures will include an assessment using clicker questions. Each correct answer will count 2 points, incorrect answers will count 1 point, and questions that are not answered will count 0 points. *Individual clicker assessments* will be posted to Blazeview following the lecture. At the end of the semester, your *Clicker Grade* will be calculated using the following equation:

$$\sum ((\text{individual clicker grades converted to a percentage}) - (\text{lowest individual clicker grade percentage} + \text{any clicker grades where the absence was excused and documented by TA})) / \# \text{ of individual clicker grades used.}$$

* *The lowest individual clicker grade is dropped from the pooled grade to allow for a forgotten clicker or malfunctioning clicker. Students are therefore allowed one pass for unintended errors. It is your responsibility to fix any clicker issues in a timely manner.*

* *It is your responsibility to get my approval for an excused absence and to make sure that the GA receives documentation of my approval.*

* *The Pooled Clicker Grade will be the lecture grade that is dropped if you allow someone to use your clicker in your absence, or if you use someone's clicker in his or her absence.*

Blazeview Quiz Grade. This grade will be an average of all quiz grades posted to Blazeview. In most cases, quizzes will open on Fridays and must be completed by 8 am on Mondays. Check Blazeview frequently for updates on quiz deadlines. You will get one attempt for vocabulary quizzes (VQ) and two attempts for practice quizzes (PQ). If you have any technical problems accessing or completing your quiz, contact Blazeview's 24 hour, 7 days/week hotline at 855-772-0423.

Final Exam. The final exam will be cumulative, and is weighed the same as the unit exams, the clicker grade, and the quiz grade. Students may choose to drop the final (i.e. not take it), if they are happy with their grade. Otherwise, the final exam grade will replace the lowest of the previous grades.

Monitoring and computing your grade

All lecture grades will be posted on the Blazeview page **Principles of Biology I Section X01 SPRING 2017 CO**. Your grade can be computed at any time using the following equation (see me during office hours if you would like help with this calculation):

$$\text{Final Grade} = [(\text{Exam 1} + \text{Exam 2} + \text{Exam 3} + \text{Exam 4} + \text{Exam 5} + \text{Pooled Clicker Grade} + \text{Average Quiz Grade} + \text{Final Exam} - \text{lowest of these grades})/7 \times 0.75] + (\text{average \% lab grade} \times 0.25)$$

Lab communications will be made using the section specific Blazeview page. For example, if you are in BIOL 1107K Section A, your Blazeview page for lab is **Principles of Biology I Section A Spring 2017 CO**.

General Rules:

Attendance Policy. Attendance is not required in lecture. The attendance policy in the laboratory is per the discretion of the laboratory instructor and may significantly impact your potential grade. Refer to the lab syllabus for details.

Assigned seats. Assigned seats will be used (beginning the second or third week of class) to keep track of student attendance for the purpose of monitoring clicker usage. **You are welcome to change seats (temporarily or permanently) during the semester, but it is your responsibility to inform the graduate assistant of this change prior to making the move; otherwise, your pooled clicker grade may be dropped if you are counted absent but your clicker is detected!**

Lecture Notes. Powerpoint slides with fill-in blanks will be provided for printing at least 24 hours before the lecture (beginning the second week of class). Students are expected to print the slides and fill in the blanks during lecture. If you miss a lecture, you may use the textbook to fill in the blanks yourself (recommended), or ask a fellow student or the embedded tutors.

Student conduct

- Arrive on time and have all the materials you need (including your clicker) when class begins.
- Your full attention should be on the course material. If this is not possible, please be respectful of your fellow students by not being disruptive.
- You do not need my permission to leave class early. Please do so in the least disruptive way.
- Disruptive students may be asked to leave the classroom. I consider listening to music, surfing the internet, obvious texting, and talking to your neighbor while material is being presented to be disruptive.

Food and Drink

- Drinks and snacks are allowed in the lecture hall as long as their consumption and storage are not a disturbance to yourself or other students. Each student must clean up after him or herself; otherwise, this privilege will be revoked. Drinks and snacks are not allowed in lab!

Electronic Devices

- Bring your clicker to lecture every day! Clickers will not be used in labs, unless otherwise stated by your lab instructor.
- Turn off your cell phone during class!
- Turn off your MP3 player and remove your earbuds/headphones during lecture.
- Laptops & related tools, including photographing slides, are not allowed for note taking without my permission.
- Recording devices are not permitted to be used without my permission.

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@valosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

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.

Academic Integrity: I follow the Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures of the University and the Department of Biology's Policy on Plagiarism. For more information, refer to www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml and www.valdosta.edu/biology/documents/biologyplagiarism.doc "Academic Integrity/ Honesty" means performing all academic work without plagiarism, cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, receiving unauthorized or illegitimate assistance from any other person, or using any source of information that is not common knowledge.

Important information:

- For Biology majors, a grade of C or higher is required to move on.
- March 2 is the last day to withdraw from the course.

Tentative Lecture Schedule, BIOL 1107K, Sections A-G, Spring 2017

Week of	Subject	Check BV Calendar for all Quiz Due Dates
Jan 9	What is Biology? The cell theory; Main types of cells & organisms	
Jan 16	Evolution; Cell Structure	
Jan 23	<i>MLK Jr. Day – no class (Monday, Jan. 23);</i> Cell Structure	
Jan 30	EXAM 1 (Monday, Jan 30) Structure and Function of Plasma Membranes; Biological Macromolecules - Lipids	
Feb 6	Biological Macromolecules – dehydration reactions, Proteins; The Chemical Foundation of Life	
Feb 13	Membrane transport	
Feb 20	Metabolism (Exam 3 material); Exam 2 (Friday, Feb 24)	
Feb 27	Carbohydrates; hydrolysis reactions, Cellular Respiration; (<i>March 2, Midterm</i>)	
March 6	Photosynthesis; Exam 3 (March 10)	
March 13	SPRING BREAK	
March 20	Biological Macromolecules – Nucleic acids; DNA Structure and Function;	
March 27	Genes and Proteins; Cell Reproduction	
April 3	Meiosis and Sexual Reproduction; Exam 4 (Friday, April 7)	
April 10	Mendel's Experiments and Heredity; Modern Understandings of Inheritance; Cell Communication	
April 17	Gene Expression; Biotechnology and Genomics	
April 24	Continued; Exam 5 (Friday, April 28)	
May 1	Review day Final Exam (Friday, May 5, 10:15-12:15)	