

**Lecture:** Monday through Thursday 9:35 am – 11:00 am, Room 2022 Bailey Science Center  
**Laboratory:** Tuesday and Thursday 11:20am – 2:00 pm, Room 1083 Bailey Science Center

**Instructor:** Dr. John Elder  
Office: BC 2088  
Office hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., or by appointment  
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**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:** At the end of this course students should be able to: 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, and to Demonstrate an understanding of the cellular basis of life.


**Required Materials:**

**Openstax Biology:** Lucky you! Your e-textbook is free and a print version is available at very low cost!

The book is available in a wide variety of free online formats via the website listed below. You can use the book in whichever format(s) you want; we recommend that you download the entire .pdf so that you always have access to your book.

Biology from OpenStax College, ISBN 1-938168-09-7, <https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/biology> Printed copies at a significantly reduced textbook rate are also for sale via your college bookstore or [www.openstaxcollege.org](http://www.openstaxcollege.org)

**Laboratory Manual:** Goddard, R.H. 2011. Methods and Investigations in Basic Biology, 6th ed. Hayden-McNeil Publishing, Plymouth, MI.

“Clickers”: Each student is required to obtain a Turning Technologies NXT clicker (available in the bookstore) or a Turning Technologies License and a Response Ware App from Google store. 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. **No quiz grade make ups are allowed or excused** 

Clicker info at: **Blazeview site for this class and** at <http://www.valdosta.edu/distance/clickers/index.shtml>. Help with the clickers and registration is available for Turning Technologies 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.

**Lecture:**

**Exams.** There will be **three lecture exams followed by a cumulative final.** Students are **required to learn the lecture material and the readings from the text** for all exams. Related information presented in the laboratory may also be included in exams. Exam

format will be specified by your instructor. The unit exams are not cumulative. Each of the unit exams and the cumulative 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 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 instructor. Each assignment will be of equal value. **There are NO MAKEUP LABS.**

1. **Lab Quizzes:** Quizzes may be given each week during the first 10 to 15-minutes of each laboratory. **DO NOT BE LATE.** You will not be allowed extra time if you are late. **If you miss the quiz completely, you will receive a zero** for the quiz. Some of the questions will cover the procedures and results of the previous week's exercises. Other questions will pertain to procedures for the upcoming lab.
2. **Lab Assignments:** Information for each assignment will be provided in lab.
3. **Group Microscope Project:** Each lab group will develop and complete an experiment and write a summary of the group lab results in standard scientific format. Further information will be provided in lab. All students are required to complete this assignment.
4. **Laboratory Notebook:** Each member of a lab group should actively participate in the lab work and should keep a well organized notebook of his or her lab work. More information will be provided in lab.

### **Grade Assessment:**

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.**

### 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](mailto: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 grade 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 tentative 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:titleix@valdosta.edu), 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

#### Important Dates:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> class: Wednesday, 7 June 2017
2. Exam 1: Thursday, 27 June, 2017
3. Midterm: last drop date Monday, 3, July 2017
4. 4th Holiday: Tuesday, 4, July, 4 2017
5. Exam 2: Monday, 10, July, 2017
6. Exam 3 & Last Class: Monday, July 24, 2017
7. Final Examination: Thursday, July 27, 2017. 10:15 am – 12:15 am, BC 2022

#### Tentative schedule of Topics

What is Biology?, The cell theory, Main types of cells & organisms, Evolution; The Chemical Foundation of Life, Biological Macromolecules, Cell Structure, Structure and Function of Plasma Membranes, Membrane transport - EXAM 1

Metabolism Cellular Respiration, Photosynthesis, Mendel's Experiments and Heredity, Modern Understandings of Inheritance; Gene Expression - Exam 2

Biological Macromolecules – Nucleic acids; DNA Structure and Function; Genes and Proteins; Cell Reproduction, Meiosis and Sexual Reproduction - Exam 3

Biotechnology and Genomics Cell Communication - Cumulative Exam 4

## Understanding Class Rules and Grading for Biology 1107, section A, Summer 2017, John Eder Instructor .

### Basic Class rules:

- 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, laboratories, 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 text, talk, 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. Procedure for exams and quizzes:**
- 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 pencil and will take the exam during the stated lecture time only.
  - No electronic devices or aids are allowed during exams. Use constitutes cheating and will result in dismissal and failure of the course.
  - 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.
  - No make up exams are given except in documented emergency situations. Do not miss exams.
  - Every student should bring their University ID.
  - You will have the class time only to complete each lecture exam.
  - 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.
- V. Attendance Policy:** Attendance in this course is highly recommended, unless you are sick. Students should be seated at the beginning of class. If you are late, your attendance may not be acknowledged. The student is responsible for all material missed regardless of the reason for absences. **ABSOLUTELY NO LECTURES OR LABORATORIES CAN BE "MADE UP."** Laboratories in particular are important not to miss as stated above. In the event that a student will miss a lab, s/he should notify the instructor in writing within 24 hours of the missed lab. It is the instructor's prerogative to accept the excuse or not. Attendance will be recorded for lab sessions using the lab quiz. **Students who miss two labs without an excuse or three labs total cannot receive a grade above a "D". You must receive a minimum grade of "C" to pass this class for graduation with a BA or BS degree.**

## 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.
  - i. Biology is a science – it is hard for many people.
  - ii. As is true for any scientific discipline, the study of biology requires a large body of highly detailed and technical information that must be mastered.
  - iii. Biology, as is true for any science, has a large amount of technical terminology that must be mastered.
  - iv. It is not sufficient to simply “memorize” the facts and terminology, but one must also understand the many concepts relevant to modern biology.
- b. I understand that my **grades are based solely upon my level of performance**, not on what I may want or think I need.
  - i. Students do not get a grade simply by attending.
  - ii. Students must work at achieving their desired grade.
  - iii. Work means putting in significant amounts of study time. Many hours repeatedly going over the material.
  - iv. Goofing off and poor attendance usually means failing the course.
- c. It is my responsibility to understand or seek out clarification for any assignments or requirements for this class. I did not understand is **NOT** an excuse.
  - i. That includes registering my response device in a proper and timely manner. No allowance will be made for not having a properly registered, active device.
  - ii. That includes being on time.
  - iii. That includes being responsible for ALL class materials.
  - iv. That includes routinely checking grades on Blazeview and reporting any possible errors in a timely fashion.
- d. I understand that the final grade I receive in this course is the grade I “**EARNED**”. The instructor does not “**GIVE**” me a grade.
- e. 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**.
- f. I understand that I **earn my grade by demonstrating** on assigned tests, quizzes and assignments that I **KNOW and UNDERSTAND** the course material.
- g. 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.
- h. I understand that the grade I receive is **NOT based** on the amount of work or effort I do. Effort is my responsibility.
- i. I understand that **late assignments will not be accepted** and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
- j. I understand that **incomplete work will not be accepted** and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
- k. I understand that **work that does not follow instructions in all respects will not be accepted** and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
- l. 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**.
- m. 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.
- n. I understand that my grades are based **only upon the assignments given**. There are **no opportunities** for “**extra credit**” or “**additional assignments**”.
- o. I understand that it is **my responsibility to seek additional help** from the instructor or campus tutorial services when needed.
- p. I understand that the time to worry about my grades is all **during the term**. Grades are final after the class is over.
- q. I understand that **no late or additional assignments will be accepted** for any reason after the course closes.
- r. I understand that **grades are not negotiable**. Complaining or begging extra points after the fact are not appropriate behaviors.
- s. 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.
- t. I understand that this course will assign grades on a **10 point scale and no curve** is to be used in assigning those grades.
- u. 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.
- v. 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.

**From the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs:**

**Examples of Disruptive Behaviors that Might Best Be Addressed by the Professor in the Classroom**

- Taking/making calls, texting, using smart phones for social media, etc.
- Students misuse of technology in the classroom. Sneaking text messages from beneath the desk or having a laptop open to Facebook™ or other social media site during a lecture.
- Frequent interruption of professor while talking and asking of non-relevant, off-topic questions.
- Crosstalk or carrying on side conversations while the professor is speaking.
- Poor personal hygiene that leads to a classroom disruption or lack of focus.
- Entitled or disrespectful talk to professor or other students.
- Eating or consuming beverages in class without permission (or against the class norms).
- Reading magazines, newspapers, books, or studying for other classes/doing other homework.

**Examples of Disruptive or Dangerous Behaviors that need to be Immediately Reported**

- Repetitive excessive behavior after classroom management techniques are tried and failed.
- Use of alcohol or other substances in class. Attending class while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- A fixation (not just expressed in a single discussion) on comments or thoughts that may be viewed as racially or sexually charged.
- Bullying behavior focused on students in the classroom.
- Direct communicated threat to professor or another student.
- Prolonged non-verbal passive aggressive behavior such as sitting with arms crossed, glaring or staring at professor, refusal to speak or respond to questions or directives.
- Self-injurious behavior such as cutting or burning self during class, or exposing previous self-injuries.
- Physical assault such as pushing, shoving or punching.
- Throwing objects or slamming doors.
- Storming out of the classroom when upset.
- Conversations intended to upset other students such as descriptions of weapons, killing or death.
- Psychotic, delusional or rambling speech.
- Arrogant or rude talk to professor or other students.
- Objectifying language that depersonalizes the professor or other students.

**Academic integrity** is the responsibility of all Valdosta State University employees and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the faculty members' syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold the highest standard of academic integrity. Any faculty member who has documentation and/or suspects that academic dishonesty has occurred shall (1) gather all pertinent information, and (2) meet with the student or students involved, and (3) inform the student or students of the academic response to an alleged violation of academic integrity, and (4) a faculty member should create a Report of Academic Dishonesty (RAD) to document the resolution of the matter. The faculty member should notify his/her department head and/or dean of these decisions and should submit a Report of Academic Dishonesty (RAD) along with all supporting documentation to the Student Conduct Office. An online Academic Integrity Reporting form can be found at [https://publicdocs.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ValdostaStateUniv&layout\\_id=1](https://publicdocs.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ValdostaStateUniv&layout_id=1).

Vincent A. Miller, Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs

**Carefully read this syllabus, print, 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.**

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Signature

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Date