

ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY - BIOL 1030

ONLINE COURSE INFORMATION:

Title: Introduction to Biology: Organismal Biology (BIOL 1030 Section P61 Spring 2018)

Instructor: Karen Stancil, Ph.D.

Contact Information: kistancil@valdosta.edu (preferred), 352-477-1160

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This is an online version of courses meeting core requirements as listed in the VSU student catalogue as described below:

BIOL 1030. Introduction to Biology: Organismal Biology. 3 Hours. Corequisite: BIOL 1040L. This course cannot be taken for credit toward the major in biology. 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.

BIOL 1040L. Organismal Biology Lab. 1 Hour. Corequisite: BIOL 1030. This course cannot be taken for credit toward the major in biology. A laboratory course to accompany Biology 1030, emphasizing the structure of multicellular organisms.

This course focusses on the chemical and cellular level of organization, genetics and organ systems of living things.

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/academics/general-education-council/ge-outcomes.php>)

Specifically, students will:

- a. Learn about the nature of science and how to build scientific knowledge;
- b. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the chemical and cellular basis of life;
- c. Relate the structure and the function of DNA/RNA to the development of form and function of the organism and to heredity;
- d. 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>

The text book for this course is available free online and as a download. Alternatively, you may purchase a hardcopy book directly online or from the VSU bookstore. Course content will be drawn from assigned readings in the Concepts of Biology text. The text is available free online, in a variety of formats, and a print version or mobile app are available to purchase.

Lab: The co-requisite Biology 1040L lab requires that you purchase a license to access online laboratory simulations provided by “Labster” tm Company (<https://www.labster.com/>). See the lab syllabus and instructions posted on the BIOL 1040L site for detailed instructions on registering for and using Labster.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Learning is not a passive activity in which you simply absorb and repeat back facts given by an instructor. Rather, learning requires you to take an active role. In fact, to truly understand science you must construct your own personal interpretation of the concepts and store them away in a form that is meaningful to you.

Students will be assigned reading material. Facts and vocabulary are important to any discipline, though I ask you to go beyond simple memorization of details and interconnect those facts to concepts, applications and problems; to ask meaningful questions; to test well developed hypotheses; to develop a range of intellectual abilities, including critical thinking, logical argument, appropriate uses of evidence and interpretation of varied kinds of information; and to communicate your understanding in writing and orally to multiple audiences.

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. 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. Instead, all email should be sent directly to kistancil@valdosta.edu using your VSU issued email account.

Blazeview: We will be using Blazeview throughout the semester as a tool for sharing information. I will post course announcements, grades, and any necessary class materials in Blazeview. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.

Notes on emailing your professor:

In order to get a reply to your emails, you must

- Include your course number and section in the subject line of any email (BIOL 1030 P).
- Communicate as you would at work and in a professional manner. This includes using proper grammar and spelling, a greeting and salutation, and be sure to include your full name at the end of all emails.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING PROCEDURES:

Exams: There are five scheduled online exams during the term. Each exam will be multiple choice and will cover the material from the previous exam through the current exam. Exams will cover all reading and posted lecture Powerpoint presentations in detail. The lowest of the five exam scores will be dropped and will not be included in your final grade calculation. The average of 4 exam scores will be worth 80% of your final total grade. **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.**

If you must miss an exam for any reason, this will automatically be the lowest score and will not be included in your final grade. Exams are closed book and will use the Respondus Lockdown Browser.

Quizzes: There are online vocabulary quizzes for each assigned text chapter. These are closed book, multiple choice and will require you to have learned the terms and definitions. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. The average of the quiz scores will be worth 10% of your final total grade. Quizzes will use the Respondus Lockdown Browser.

Discussion Board: There will be a weekly online discussion board. Participation is required. You must make at least one original contribution and respond to a least 2 other student postings for each weekly session. Grading of discussions will be based on the following rubric:

- Discussion Rubric: each discussion will be worth 100 points distributed:
- 50% Participation
 - 10 % Understanding of principles
 - 10% Terminology use
 - 15% Originality of contributions
 - 15% External source contribution

The lowest score for discussions will be dropped. The average of discussion participation sessions will be worth 10% of your final total grade.

Overall Grading: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following tables:

Course Component	% of Course Grade	Final Letter Grade
Exams	80%	A: 90-100%
Quizzes	10%	B: 80-89%
Discussion Board	10%	C: 70-79%
Total	100%	D: 60-69%
		F: below 60%

Special Note: The final grade depends solely on the student’s performance on class requirements during the scheduled class term. There is no “extra credit” during the term nor after it closes. The instructor will not entertain any discussions about grade changes unless there has been a calculation error either during the term or after it ends.

To calculate your grade at any given point multiply each average by the appropriate percentage and then add up the totals. For example:

- Test average x 0.80 = + _____
- Quiz average x 0.10 = + _____
- Discussion average x 0.10 = + _____
- Total class score = _____

Midterm or In-progress grades: The instructor will submit in-progress grades prior to the course mid-term. In theory, a mid-term grade is necessary for a student to assess how s/he is doing in class by midterm. 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.

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.

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 assignment 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 following the Academic Integrity Response along with a letter to the Dean of Students (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>).

ACCESS OFFICE: 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. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu.

FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT: It is illegal to release personal information about an individual to others. Therefore grades, averages, and other personal information about any person will not be released to another person or over email.

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 sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, 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: the Director of the Office of Social Equity, title@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER: 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.

Spring 2018 Schedule (3/5-4/30)

Spring Break 3/12-3/16

Topics and Reading Assignments

	Content/Assignments	Deadlines
Module 1 3/5 – 3/21	Ch1-Introduction to Biology Quiz 1	Tuesday, March 20 by 11pm
	Ch2- Chemistry of Life Quiz 2	Tuesday, March 20 by 11pm
	Ch3- Cell Structure & Function Quiz 3	Tuesday, March 20 by 11pm
	Discussion 1	Tuesday, March 20 by 11pm
	Exam 1	Available Tues, 3/20 - Wed, 3/21 11pm ONLY
	Module 2 3/22-3/30	Ch4- How Cells obtain Energy Quiz 4
Ch5- Photosynthesis Quiz 5		Thursday, March 29 by 11pm
Discussion 2		Thursday, March 29 by 11pm
Discussion 3		Thursday, March 29 by 11pm
Exam 2		Available Thurs, 3/29-Fri, 3/30 11pm ONLY
Module 3 3/31-4/11		Ch6- Reproduction at the Cellular Level Quiz 6
	Ch7- The Cellular Basis of Inheritance Quiz 7	Tuesday, April 10 at 11pm
	Ch8- Patterns of Inheritance Quiz8	Tuesday, April 10 at 11pm
	Discussion 4	Tuesday, April 10 at 11pm
	Exam 3	Available Tues, 4/10 - Wed, 4/11 11pm ONLY
	Module 4 4/4/12-4/20	Ch9- Molecular Biology Quiz 9
Ch10- Biotechnology Quiz 10		Thursday, April 19 at 11pm
Discussion 5		Thursday, April 19 at 11pm
Discussion 6		Thursday, April 19 at 11pm
Exam 4		Available Thurs, 4/19-Fri, 4/20 8:30pm ONLY
Module 5 4/21 – 4/30		Ch16- The Body's Systems Quiz 11
	Discussion 7	Sunday, April 29 at 11pm
	Discussion 8	Sunday, April 29 at 11pm
	Exam 5	Available Sun, 4/29-Mon 11pm ONLY