

**BIOL 1010 B: The Evolution & Diversity of Life
FALL 2019 SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICIES**

Lecture: MWF 11:00 am-11:50 am (BSC 1011)

Instructor: Dr. Mark Blackmore

Office: Bailey Science Center 2218

**Office Hours: MW 12-1:00 pm; Tue 2-3 pm; Thur 10-11,
or by appointment**

Contact information

Telephone: (229) 259-5114

email: mblackmo@valdosta.edu

Course description: BIOL 1010. Introduction to Biology: The Evolution and Diversity of Life. 3 Hours.

This course cannot be taken for credit toward the major in biology. An introduction to the diversity of life on Earth with a special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary processes and relationships.

Scope & Objectives: The principal objective of this course is to provide a general understanding of biological processes, organization and diversity for students not majoring in the sciences. Students will be introduced to scientific principles and the methods scientists use to enhance our understanding of the living world. This meets the Learning Outcome Goal for Area D of the 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." Mastery of this goal should enable students to interpret and evaluate biological issues that are relevant to their lives.

Required Text: *Campbell Biology: Concepts & Connections* by Reece *et al.* 2018. Custom edition (Modified MasteringBiology w/eText for Campbell Biology: Concepts & Connections for Valdosta State University -- Standalone Access Card, 1/e ISBN-13: 9781323766309; ISBN-10: 1323766308) Available at VSU Bookstore or purchase on-line during registration through BlazeVIEW D2L.

Course requirements & grading policy:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all scheduled lectures. Although attendance will not be recorded daily, roll will be taken periodically. Students present when the roll is called will receive 1 bonus point to be applied to their total for the class (15 points maximum). Regardless of attendance, each student is responsible for all material presented in class and other assigned work. The instructor is not obligated to provide lecture notes or other material to absentee students or to offer make-up examinations. Students with valid, documented excuses (eg. a death in the immediate family) may receive special consideration but must contact the instructor immediately and provide documentation if asked.

Homework, Quizzes and Examinations: Pre-class homework quizzes will be assigned from the *Mastering Biology* program that is included with the text. The values of individual assignments vary, but the percentage of points earned (sum of all quiz scores / total points possible x 100 points) will be counted as the equivalent of one exam. Five lecture examinations (75 points each) covering the lecture material and assigned reading will be administered during the semester. These exams will consist of some combination of multiple-choice and true-false questions. Diagrams and questions requiring matching also may be included. The lowest of these lecture exams will be dropped. A comprehensive **Final Exam will be administered at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, December 12.** The Final Exam will be weighted the same as one lecture exam (100 points = 20% of the final class grade).

Tentative dates for reading assignments and lecture exams are given below and students are expected to consider these dates when planning their study schedule for the semester. *There will be no make-up exams without prior consent of the instructor.* Students who miss an exam for legitimate, unavoidable reasons (eg. emergency hospitalization; death in the immediate family) should contact the instructor ***immediately*** and must document the reason for the absence. All exams and quizzes will be comprehensive but each test will emphasize the material most recently covered. *Students are expected to bring a no. 2 pencil to exams.*

Grading: Homework quiz scores are 20% of the course grade (100 points); lecture exams 60% (300 points) and the comprehensive final exam 20% (100 points). Final course grades will be based on the percentage of 500 points earned. Students earning 90-100% of the possible points (i.e., 450-500) will receive an A; 80-89% -B; 70-79% -C; 60-69% -D, and below 60% an F. Grades will not be posted and they will not be revealed via telephone under any circumstances. They will be available through the on-line grade book accessible through each student's *Mastering*

account. **Thursday, Oct. 17, is the last day to withdraw without penalty.** Students are advised to consult the VSU Undergraduate Bulletin for policies regarding withdrawals.

Tentative Schedule – Fall Semester 2019

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assigned Reading (Campbell et al.):</u>
1	Aug 19 – 23	Course overview; Biology as a Scientific Endeavor	<i>Chapter 1</i>
2	Aug 26 – 30	Organic Evolution	<i>Chapter 13</i>
3	Sept 2	Labor Day Holiday: No Class	
	Sept 4 – 6	Origin of Species; Speciation	<i>Chapter 14</i>
4	Sept 9* – 13	Tracing Evolutionary History	<i>Chapter 15</i>
5	Sept 16 – 20	Introduction to Biodiversity; Start Microbes	<i>Chapter 15 & 16</i>
6	Sept 23 – 27	Prokaryotic Organisms & Protists	<i>Chapter 16</i>
7	Sept 30** – Oct 4	Plant & Fungal Diversity	<i>Chapter 17</i>
8	Oct 7 – 8	Fall Break: No Class	
	Oct 9 – 11	Finish Fungi; Start Zoology	<i>Chapter 18</i>
9	Oct 14 – 18***	Continue Invertebrates	<i>Chapter 18</i>
10	Oct 21 – 25	Begin Vertebrate Animals	<i>Chapter 19</i>
11	Oct 28 – Nov 1	Primate biology; Begin Ecology	<i>Chapters 19 & 34</i>
12	Nov 4 – 8****	Introduction to the Biosphere	<i>Chapter 34</i>
13	Nov 11 – 15	Environmental Diversity & Population Ecology	<i>Chapter 36</i>
14	Nov 18 – 22	Community Ecology & Ecosystems	<i>Chapter 37</i>
15	Nov 25	Conservation Biology	<i>Chapter 38</i>
	Nov 27 – 29	Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class	
16	Dec 2 – 6*****	Continue Conservation & Climate change	<i>Chapter 38</i>
17	Dec 9	Last Class Day Final Exam (Thursday, December 12, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.)	

*Tentative Test Dates: *Exam 1- Sept.13; **Exam 2 Sept. 25; ***Exam 3- Oct. 18; ****Exam 4 Nov. 8; *****Exam 5 Dec. 6*

Special notes to students:

To protect the privacy of each student, grades will not be posted at any time nor will they be revealed over the telephone. This is university policy. Students are advised to consult the VSU web site for more information. Students are able to view their grades in the Gradebook of Pearson Mastering which may be accessed through BlazeVIEW D2L.

Policy on cell phone, smart phones, and other internet-enabled devices:

Students should NOT use these devices during lectures (turn them OFF) and they are prohibited during examinations. Use of any electronic device during examinations will result in automatic grade of 0 (zero) for that exam.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating, and plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are impermissible. This includes the use of electronic devices, unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam. 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. See also:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsuhp>

Special needs:

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.

Administration of online Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI):

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available on BANNER. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators. Instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the data until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at SOI Procedures and Timelines (located at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/> under "Information for Students - Directions for Accessing and Completing SOIs").

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 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: The Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.