

ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY - BIO 1030 Section A

Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION:

- a. **Title:** Organismal Biology (BIOL 1030 Section A)
- b. **Instructor:** Dr. Timothy Henkel (tphenkel@valdosta.edu)
- c. **Office:** Bailey Science Center 2212
- d. **Office Hours:** W 10-11 am and by appointment
- e. **Class Meets:** TTH 2:00 – 3:15, Bailey Science Center 1011
- f. **Grad Assistant:** Ellen Vedas (emvedas@valdosta.edu)

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.
-Co-requisite BIOL 1040L

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. (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vsu-core-curriculum.php>)

Specifically, students will:

- a. Learn about the nature of science and how to build scientific knowledge;
- b. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the 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>

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.

Additional readings will regularly be assigned and made available via Blazeview.

We will be using feedback and question service called Slido during class sessions this semester. The website (www.slido.com) is free for students to use, but does require an internet connected device (phone or laptop). Students must use their VSU email username to access the service. Alternative methods for submitting work will be accommodated on a case specific basis.

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. Although facts and vocabulary are important to any discipline, 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, all email should be sent directly to tphenkel@valdosta.edu.

Blazeview: We will be using Blazeview throughout the semester as a tool for sharing information. I will post course notes after each class to the website, as well as provide additional resources, readings, and homework assignments. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.

Notes on emailing your professor and graduate assistants:

In order to get a reply to your emails you **must** do the following in your email communication:

- Include your course number and section in the subject line of any email (BIOL 1010A).
- 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.

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 follow 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)

GRADING PROCEDURES: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following tables:

Course Component	% of Course Grade
Exams (best 3 of 4)	55%
Assignments	25%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Final Letter Grade

A: 90 – 100%
B: 80 – 89%
C: 70 – 79%
D: 60 – 69%
F: < 60%

Exams: There are four exams scheduled throughout the semester, each will cover the material from the previous exam through the current exam. **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.** The lowest of the four exams will not be included in your final grade calculation. 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. The **final exam** will be a cumulative exam comprising all of the material covered in class.

Assignments: Coursework will be regularly assigned to be completed either in-class or outside of class. It is your responsibility to get the assignment dates as they are announced in class. Homework must be completed by the due date. Remember, technology does not always work when we want it to. It is your responsibility to get assignments done on time, and you should not assume that the internet will be working an hour before the due date. Online assignments are due by 12 pm on the due date. The lowest two scores will be dropped and not counted towards your total score. If you miss an assignment, it will be counted as one of the lowest scores and automatically dropped from grade calculation.

There will be NO OTHER MAKE-UPS and NO EXTRA CREDIT!

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

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: A classroom policy will be developed by the course during the first class meeting and will be the standard for behavior in the class. The policy will be posted to Blazeview and enforced during class sessions. Violations with the policy will result in removal from the class session, and a repeated occurrence will result in a 10% grade reduction and possibly permanent removal from the course.

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, titleix@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER: [The Academic Support Center](#): The Academic Support Center (ASC) provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including, math, writing, sciences, social sciences, humanities, and foreign languages. The ASC also provides supplemental instruction (tutor-led study group sessions) for historically difficult courses like biology, chemistry, geosciences, psychology and sociology, as well as academic success workshops. New for fall 2018: 24/7 access to online tutoring through ThinkingStorm, which includes Writing Center where you can submit drafts for feedback and get help with core courses when the ASC is closed. Call 229-333-7570 to make an appointment, email us at asc@valdosta.edu, or visit our website www.valdosta.edu/asc. Located in Langdale Hall.

Tentative Topics and Reading Assignments

Topics

- How can cognitive psychology amplify learning?
- How is science a way of knowing?
- What is the chemical basis of life?
- What's in a cell?

Exam 1 – Feb 5

- From DNA to everyday living
- How do cells reproduce?
- How can DNA change?

Exam 2 – March 5

- How do living things get and use energy?
- How can cell division lead to individuality?

Exam 3 – April 2

- How do we inherit genetic information?
- What impacts expression of traits?
- Can we manipulate genetic information? Should we?

Exam 4 – April 23

Final Exam – May 8 @ 2:45 pm

**The above topics are tentative and may be changed.
Exam Dates are set and will NOT change.**