

ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY SYLLABUS - BIOL 1030 - Online – Fall 2020

Online Lecture: CRN 81945-Section A- (3 Cr)

Labs - BIOL 1040L (1Cr) - Independently scheduled

Instructor: Dr. John Elder

Office: BC 2088

Office hours: Live online Tues. & Thurs. 8:00 – 9:30 am and by appointment (via Class Blazeview Collaborate link).

Office Phone: (229) 333-5762

Email: jfelder@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.

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/gec/ProposedNewLearningOutcomes.shtml>)

Specifically, students will:

- Learn about the nature of science and how to build scientific knowledge;
- Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the cellular basis of life;
- Relate the structure and the function of DNA/RNA to the development of form and function of the organism and to heredity;
- Effectively organize, communicate and apply their knowledge of biology to their everyday lives.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Text: Marielle Hoefnagels *Biology: Concepts & Investigations 4th Ed.* (2018) Connect LearnSmart package, McGraw Hill . ISBN-13: 9780078024207

Available at: the VSU bookstore (or <https://connect.mheducation.com/class/j-elder-fall-2020---elderonline>)

OVERALL GRADING: Final letter grades will be assigned on a **100 point scale** for your overall average percentage score for the lecture portion of the class: A: 90 – 100% B: 80 – 89% C: 70 – 79% D: 60 – 69% F: < 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 0.70 = + _____
Quiz average x 0.15 = + _____
Discussion average x 0.15 = + _____
Overall class score = _____

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 70% 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 15% of your final total grade. Quizzes will use the Respondus Lockdown Browser.

Learnsmart assignments: Assignments from the Hoefnagels "Connect Learnsmart" practice exercises will comprise 15% of your final grade. You are required to go online to the posted web site and register by purchasing the electronic version of the textbook. This package is considerably cheaper than the hard copy. **The link to the Hoefnagels class registration site will be posted on Blazeview.**

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. 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 for all class work and business.** You must read all posted materials carefully and routinely check this site daily. I also use it as a tool for sharing class and grade information. I will post course **tentative grades** as well as any necessary **class materials and announcements**. It is the student's responsibility to routinely check Blazeview for posted announcements and to review grades as they are reported. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website. "I didn't know" will not be an accepted excuse for missing dates, deadlines or errors.

Note that I use the Blazeview site grade sheet **only to report tentative grades** to you. I do not use it to actually calculate final grades. I use a separate spreadsheet.

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.

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.

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

SOI Statement: 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 through SmartEvals. 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, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage.

Special Note: HB 280 – Concealed Carry – This class does have high school students dual enrolled. That means concealed carry is not allowed and is illegal in this class.

Tentative Schedule Biology 1030 - A Fall 2019

Important Dates Fall 2020:

Specific detailed test and assignment dates and deadlines will be posted on a Class Blazeview schedule page

Mon, Aug 17	First class
Mon, Sep 7	Labor Day Holiday
Thurs, Oct 8	Midterm
Tues, Nov 24	Last face to face class day
Wed-Fri, Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Holidays (no return to face to face class)
Mon, Dec 7	Last Class Day
Tues-Fri, Dec 8-11	Semester Final Examinations
Sat, Dec 12	Graduation

