

**BIOL 1107L: Principles of Biology Laboratory I (0-3-1)**  
**Valdosta State University, Biology Department, College of Science & Math**  
**Fall 2020: Hybrid Laboratory Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Dr. Brian C. Ring, Professor of Biology

**Office Hours (BC 2084):** M & W 4:00-5:00 p.m. **Phone:** 249-4841, Email: [bcring@valdosta.edu](mailto:bcring@valdosta.edu)  
Or online using Collaborate in BlazeView or Microsoft MyTeams (TBA)

**Laboratory Sections:** B (CRN # 83332): M / 9:00 -- 11:50 a.m. – BC 1085  
D (CRN # 83334): M / 1:00 – 3:50 p.m. – BC 1085  
I (CRN # 83339): T / 2:00. -- 4:50 p.m. – BC 1085

**Follow the instructions and schedule found on the lab course Blazeview as shown below:**

**Dr. Brian C. Ring, Professor of Biology**

Lab Section (letter): see above

CRN# see above

Biology Department

College of Science & Mathematics  
Valdosta State University

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Valdosta, GA 31698  
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E-mail address: [bcring@valdosta.edu](mailto:bcring@valdosta.edu)

**Office hours:**

**Monday & Wednesday, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM on course Collaborate Ultra Locker Room BlazeView (BV) site**

During office hours, you can find me in on [Collaborate Ultra Locker Room](#). You can also reach me during office hours at the above phone number.

**NOTICE:** Please use the internal course e-mail for general correspondence on BV. I provide my external e-mail address for emergencies only. I cannot answer questions, accept assignments, or discuss grades via external e-mail so please use it for emergencies only.

**Response Time:** Unless you are notified otherwise, I will work to respond to all student questions and emails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours during the weekend.

## Semester Dates

|  |  |
|--|--|
| First Class Day  | Monday, August 17, 2020                          |
| Labor Day Holiday  | Monday, September 7, 2020                        |
| Midterm  | Thursday, October 8, 2020                        |
| Last day to withdraw   | Thursday, October 15, 2020                       |
| Saturday Make-Up Day 1<br>(Monday, Wednesday, or Friday classes) | October 24, 2020                                 |
| Saturday Make-Up Day 2<br>(Tuesday or Thursday Classes)          | November 7, 2020                                 |
| Last On-Campus Class Day   | Tuesday, November 24, 2020                       |
| Thanksgiving Break   | Wednesday, November 25-Friday, November 27, 2020 |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Final Exam/Project Preparation and Virtual Review | Monday, November 30-Monday, December 7, 2020  |
| Final Exams                                       | Tuesday, December 8-Friday, December 11, 2020 |
| Fall Commencement                                 | Saturday, December 12, 2020                   |
| Final Grades Due                                  | Monday, December 14, 2020                     |

## Course Description

### Description of the course

A laboratory course to accompany BIOL 1107 lecture, with exercises dealing with the cellular nature of life.

### Course objectives

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

- Exhibit a broad perspective on the principles unifying various biological disciplines from evolution to molecular biology (DBEO 2 & 5);
- Understand basic biological chemistry from elements to organic compounds to macromolecules;
- Comprehend basic principles of biology at the cellular level to include structure, function, metabolism, communication, reproduction, molecular biology, and gene expression (DBEO 3 & 4);
- Perform, analyze, interpret, and report laboratory experiments (DBEO 1);
- Develop and test a hypothesis using experimental microscopy and quantitative skills acquired in the laboratory (DBEO 1 & 5).

These objectives support the Department of Biology Educational Outcomes # 1-5 listed above (DBEO 1-5) and the University General Educational Outcomes # 5 as listed in the VSU Undergraduate Catalogue

### Pre- or Corequisite

- BIOL 1107 Unifying Principles of Biology I. Note a grade of C or higher is required in both these lectures and labs.

## Course Texts & Materials

Required Laboratory Manual:

- R. H. Goddard. *Methods and Investigations in Basic Biology* (Custom VSU manual). 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- A dedicated lab notebook for recording results in lab

## Unit Breakdown

The following modules are covered in this course:

- Module 1: Scientific Method, Microscopy, & Independent Research Project
- Module 2: Cell Biology
- Module 3: Enzymology
- Module 4: Molecular Biology

# Attendance, Participation, and Time Commitment

"Attendance" and participation are required. You will be expected to participate in ongoing discussions of the lesson topics and to interact with other students and your instructor regularly. It is expected that you will demonstrate a positive attitude and courtesy toward other participants in the discussion and observe good discussion netiquette. Be sure to read and observe the following procedures:

- You are a guest in the instructor's classroom, so be sure to observe the class rules.
- Practice manners and civility, and be polite and respectful of your instructor and classmates in all your communication.
- Respect your instructor, and be on time in your work submissions.
- Keep your instructor informed of your status.
- Address your instructor as Professor or Doctor.
- Use correct grammar and punctuation in all your communication ('Dear Professor xxx' not 'Hey').
- Accept your instructor's feedback and learn from it.

In the hybrid/online environment, problems associated with power outages, networks being down, and ISP troubles inevitably result in legitimate reasons for delays, however, you should still be prepared to deliver your work by the stated deadlines. If you have a problem, let your instructor know as soon as possible. The student who repeatedly turns in late work will be subject to penalties.

## Time Commitment

Taking a hybrid/online course is not easier or faster. On the contrary, it will take as much time as taking a face-to-face class or more. If you normally go to class 3 hours per week per course, you will need to devote that same amount of time to your online course. In addition to online time, you should spend time studying and working with course materials several hours per week offline. It will be helpful to set aside regular study time when you can work uninterrupted. Offline time could be spent in composing messages to post online, reading, studying, and working homework problems.

The amount of time it will take you to complete the work for the course will depend on many factors, which will vary with each individual. Students can expect to spend anywhere from 8 - 15 hours per week on this course. Consult the course Calendar and your instructor to be sure you are on schedule, keeping up with the material and taking quizzes on time.

As a general rule, in this course you will be expected to:

- Log in regularly to check messages from your instructor and other students.
- Check the Calendar for announcements from your instructor.
- Study, read online materials, and work all assigned problems for each lesson.
- Complete all coursework and assignments in the time allowed.

## Conduct

You are expected to refrain from profanity, crudeness, and slurs of any kind. In other words, you are expected to behave and treat your fellow students and instructor fairly, just as you would in the traditional classroom.

Just as you would listen to others speak in the classroom, you are expected to read and respond politely and thoughtfully to others in the online course. You are expected to refrain from crude or unbecoming comments and be supportive to the class. Proper conduct applies to all forms of communication in the course.

## Late Policy

Late Assignments: **No make-ups. Follow the schedule. If not complete by due date, graded as zero credit.**

Late Quizzes: **No make-ups. Follow the schedule. If not complete by due date, graded as zero credit.**

Late Discussions: **TBD**

## Grading and Standards

### Grade Breakdown

| GRADED ACTIVITY                         | WEIGHT | DUE DATE(S)                               |
|---|--------|---|
| F2F/Online Lab Attendance & Performance | 10%    | 4 Labs, see schedule                      |
| Quizzes                                 | 45%    | Q1-12, 14 see schedule                    |
| Assignments                             | 40%    | Several Assignments, see schedule         |
| Midterm Exam                            | N/A    |   |
| Final Assessment                        | 5%     | During Flex week after Thanksgiving break |

### Grade Scale

Grades are based on student performance and capability. Simply turning in all the assignments does not guarantee that the student will receive a "good grade." To receive a higher grade, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the material. For different students, gaining that proficiency requires different levels of work, because not all students walk into the class with the same aptitude for the course content. The standards for the respective grades are as follows:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: 0-59%

**Grade Turnaround:** All assignments and assessments will be graded within one week's time. Instructor will provide comments along with grade as necessary for feedback.

### Expectations and Standards

**A** – To achieve this grade you must display superior performance in your course work. This includes demonstrating the ability to process and comprehend complex ideas, and to be able to convey those ideas to others in a clear, intelligent manner. An "A" student will go beyond simple requirements and seek to excel in his/her preparation for and presentation of assigned work. He/she will demonstrate excellence in communication skills and the ability to contextualize material.

**B** – To achieve this grade you need to display above average performance in your coursework, including demonstrating the ability to process and comprehend complex ideas, while being able to convey those ideas in a clear, intelligent manner. As a "B" student you will also go beyond minimum requirements in terms of

preparation and presentation of assigned work. You will demonstrate above average communication skills and ability to contextualize material.

**C** – For this grade, you must meet the minimum requirements for the course, displaying adequate performance in his/her course work, and adequately demonstrate the ability to comprehend complex ideas, while also being able to convey those ideas in a like manner. A "C" student demonstrates competence in terms of preparation and presentation of assigned work. You will demonstrate adequate communication skills and ability to contextualize materials.

**D** – A student receiving this grade is performing below the minimum requirements for the course. This could include failure to complete or turn in assignments on a timely basis, or failure to adequately demonstrate the ability to comprehend or convey complex ideas. A "D" indicates that your performance is below the average in terms of preparation and presentation of assigned work. You may not be demonstrating adequate communication skills or ability to contextualize materials.

**F** – If you receive an F, you have failed to meet the requirements of the course, including failure to complete or turn in assignments, or failure to demonstrate the ability to comprehend or convey complex ideas. An "F" student has not performed in a manner satisfactory to the standards of the class.

## Coronavirus Resources for Students

VSU cares about student success both on and offline, and a variety of resources are available to help students both academically and personally during the Fall 2020 semester.

One of the best resources is VSU's Coronavirus FAQ page located at <https://www.valdosta.edu/health-advisory/faq.php>. Information is available there about a variety of topics in VSU's return-to-campus plan. A website devoted to the health and wellness of VSU students can be seen at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/campus-wellness/student-resources.php>.

You can find information, including how you can access the Brightspace Pulse app that will allow you to view BlazeVIEW on your smartphone at <https://www.d2l.com/products/pulse/>. In BlazeVIEW, all VSU students have a course with guides for how to use tools in BlazeVIEW; search for "VSU BlazeVIEW Student Tutorial 2020."

## Face Coverings

As the Blazer Creed articulates, members of the VSU community are expected to live by the high standards of civility, integrity, and citizenship and embrace their responsibility as a member of the Blazer community. In recognition of this responsibility, and in response to the best available science and current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health, **every student must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth at all times while in any campus building, including in this classroom.** This requirement is intended to protect the health and safety of all VSU students, the instructor, and the entire university community. Anyone attending class without a face covering will be asked to put one on or leave. Students should also be sure they maintain a distance of at least six feet away from their fellow students and instructor and are seated in a seat that is designated to ensure that distance. (*Add other appropriate language specific to the class here.*) Students who refuse to wear face coverings appropriately or adhere to other stated requirements may face disciplinary action for Code of Conduct violations.

## Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Links

| <b>I need:</b>                                | <b>LINK</b>   |
|---|---|
| ADA Accommodations                            | <a href="#">Access Office</a>   |
| Technical Support                             | <a href="#">IT Help Desk</a>  |
| Proctored Exam                                | <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/forms/student-exam-proctoring-request-form.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/forms/student-exam-proctoring-request-form.php</a>             |
| To Report a Course Error                      | Email <a href="mailto:blazeview@valdosta.edu">blazeview@valdosta.edu</a> and describe the error.  |
| To Make a Student Complaint                   | <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/social-equity/filing-complaint.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/social-equity/filing-complaint.php</a>   |
| To Make a Grade Appeal                        | <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/grade-appeals.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/grade-appeals.php</a>   |
| To Withdraw from a Course                     | <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/business/student-advising-center/course-withdrawal.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/business/student-advising-center/course-withdrawal.php</a>                 |
| To Understand the VSU Academic Honesty Policy | <a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-policies-and-procedures.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-policies-and-procedures.php</a> |
| To Know the Campus Carry/HB 280 Policy        | <a href="https://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information">https://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information</a>   |