

Biology 1010: The Evolution & Diversity of Life Spring 2019

Department of Biology, College of Science & Mathematics, Valdosta State University

Instructor: Dr. Leslie S. Jones

Office: 1096 Bailey Sci Ctr - Go past the stuffed animals in the Atrium, at the Bison/Buffalo turn left

Phone: 229-219-1337

Graduate Teaching Assistants: Jodi Thomas, Marriage & Family Therapy Program, College of Education
Yasser Bajammal, MBA Program, College of Business

Supplemental Instructor: Mardi Haynes, Management, College of Business

1. Emails: Please Use Our Blazeview Emails for All Class Matters!!!

VSU email such as: *lesliesj@valdosta.edu* should only be used if it is urgent

To be safe, you need to check your Blazeview Email at least twice per week for updates

These are not text messages and are expected to be written coherently

2. Office Hours: Mon & Tues 11:00-12:00 or By Appointment. Please feel free to call the office or email in BV to schedule a more convenient time. Anytime I am in my office, you are welcome to stop in to ask questions. *I would like everyone in the class to visit my wild office, at least once during the semester. I will you check off on a list.*

3. Course Grading: 50% of Your Grade is Homework – You Can't Pass if You Do Not Do It

LearnSmarts 10%– Due before lecture to introduce topics & vocabulary

Attendance 10% – Taken every Class (see policy later in this document)

Essays 20% – Writing that will help you learn and remember the content

Practice Exercises 5% – Interactive online applications, 1 per unit, can be done 3X for the best grade

Unit PreTests 5% – Multiple Choice Questions – 50 questions each time, best of 3 grades counts

4. Supplemental Instruction [SI] – Since many people do not remember the Biology they had in high school; it might seem as if this course covers a great deal of information. If you would like to go over topics from any lecture in a discussion with your classmates and an SI, there will be regular sessions and exam reviews. In these sessions, Marti will explain anything that is unclear, does fun exercises such as Kahoot, and knows what is on the tests to help you prepare. People who attend these sessions average 2 letter grades higher than those who do not.

Anyone who does not average at least a C after the first unit will be required to attend these sessions.

5. Personal Responsibility – You must keep track of all assignment deadlines and late work will never be accepted!! Your grades will be posted in Blazeview all semester so that you will know where you stand. If that is not the grade you want at the end of the semester, come see Dr. Jones in her office. Reviewing your tests “after the fact” is the best way to understand what you need to do differently –

Most often students say they did not read the test questions carefully enough.

6. Access to eBook & Online Work – When you registered for this class a discounted price for the text was put on your University Bill. If you wanted to opt-out you should have responded to the email they sent you.

You MUST go through Blazeview to link the access to your grades.

7. Class Decorum – You will be expected to behave like an adult in class and I will not tolerate disturbances. Please read the class rules in this document so that you do not have to be embarrassed for violating them

BIOL 1010 - Tentative Course Schedule Fall 2019

Dates	Topics	Assignments
The Natural World		
1. Levels of Organization		
Jan 13	The Natural World	Alphabetical Applications
15	Hierarchy	
2. The Sciences		
20	HOLIDAY in Honor of MLK	LearnSmart [LS] Ch. 1
22	Disciplinary Approaches	
3. Nature & Nurture		
27	Sex and Gender	Essay: Nature & Nurture (Due 2/2)
29	Scientific Racism	
4. Investigating Life		
Feb 3	Emergent Properties	NW (Best of 3 Attempts Counts Due 3/7)
5	Characteristics of Life	
5. Unit Transition		
10	<i>Natural World Test</i>	NW (Best of 3 Attempts Due 3/9 Midnight)
12	Test Review	Essay: Personal Position on Human Origins (Due 2/14)
The Theory of Evolution		
6. History of Life		
17	Scientific Origins	LS Ch. 15
19	Evidence for Evolution	LS Ch. 13
7. Types of Selection		
24	Artificial	LS Ch. 12
26	Natural	
8. Change over Time		
Mar 2	Speciation	LS Ch. 14
4	Taxonomy	
9. Human Evolution		
9	Patterns of Migration	Essay: Biological Evolution (Due 3/10)
11	Inheritance of Skin Color	
March 16-20 SPRING BREAK		
10. Human Difference		
23	Evolution Creationism Controversy	Practice Due 3/22
25	<i>Evolution Test</i>	Pretest Due 3/24
Biological Diversity		
11. Microbes		
30	Prokaryotes	LS Ch. 17
Apr 1	Protists	LS Ch. 18
12. Producer Species		
6	Plants	LS Ch. 19
8	Distribution of Photosynthesis	LS Ch. 39
13. Heterotrophs		
13	Fungi	LS Ch. 20
15	Invertebrate Animals	LS Ch. 21A
14. Mammals		
20	Chordates	LS Ch. 21B
22	Primates & Hominins	Essay: Biodiversity Review (Due 4/3)
15. Humans		
27	Human Diversity Is Not Race	Practice Due 4/26
29	<i>Biodiversity Unit Test</i>	Pretest Due 4/28
16. Environmental Implications		
May 4	Climate Change	LS Ch. 40
		Essay: Your Opinion on Climate Change (Due- 5/5)

***COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM at Special Session – March 7th from (12:45-2:45)

Top Ten” Strategies for Success in Biology 1010

(You can even count up by reading from the bottom if you are a David Letterman fan)

If you want to earn an “A” and or do well in this course, you need to think about your own approach to studying. You will not even pass unless you work hard so (before you waste your time and someone’s tuition money) consider the following:

- #1. **Decide that You Plan to Succeed and Work Consistently for a Good Grade** – It is your choice! **Start Working Hard at the Beginning of the Semester** – Do not fool around and suddenly decide to work after you get behind and need to dig yourself out of a big hole.
- #2. **Pre-Read the Book & Do *LearnSmart* before the Lectures** – The *Connect* chapter assignments are due on specific days, before class when the lectures will begin covering the specific topic. Read the book so that you will come in knowing how to spell words and have some familiarity with key ideas.
- #3. **Attend Class and Take Detailed Notes** – The information in class sessions will not be identical to your book. The scientific topics will be explained differently and additional information will be covered. Think as we go along, and if you do not understand - ask questions. Clicker prompts are designed to get you thinking, so you can evaluate your own understanding of the subject. **Keep an Orderly Notebook** – If you use a spiral for class notes, have another folder where you can assemble all of your papers and outside information in preparation for studying for the tests.
- #4. **Reread Your Notes after Class** – Think about the information covered to be sure that you understand it all. If not, read up on the subject in your text or on the Web or come in for help on anything you do not understand. If you miss something in lecture, leave a space in your notes where you can look it up on the web or come to office hours for an explanation. By going over your notes to be sure they make sense and writing a paragraph in your own words, you will be way ahead when it is time for a test. **Re-Read the Text after Class Sessions** to be sure you have mastered the material. Find Websites on the topic for more information. If you know you need to work hard for good grades, take detailed study notes on the book modules to reinforce the concepts.
- #5. **Get to Know Someone in the Class** – Make contact with a student that sits next to you in class. This is so that you can quickly look over at their notes if you miss something during lecture. Get notes from them if you have to miss class, and check on the specifics of assignments by phone or email. You can also study together for the exams.
- #6. **Make a Vocabulary List of Important Terminology** – Construct a list of the terms you do not know and define them in your own words. As you go through *LearnSmart*, take note of concepts that are challenging. Drill yourself until you are sure you know these words. If any are particularly troublesome, try writing a sentence that uses the term. **You must understand the “language of biology”** and there is plenty of it!
- #7. **Use the Assignments to Be Certain You Know the Content** –*LearnSmart* will check your familiarity with the vocabulary. The *Blazeview* papers prompt you to think outside of the box and will reinforce the content. The *Connect* practice activities and pre-tests for each unit are interactive biology exercises that serve as a good way for you to determine whether or not you really know the information. Also, be sure to keep up with the assignments (which are not accepted if they are late).
- #8. **Get Additional Help** –My Office Hours are a time that I will be in my office to meet with students. I will be happy to make appointments at other times. If you do not ask, I can’t help you! We have a **SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTOR** for the class who will be supplementing lectures & doing test reviews. There are also Biology tutors in the Student Success Center who can help.
- #9. **Plan Ahead for Tests** – Write the dates in your calendar, then count back one week to remind yourself to start preparing. Spend at least a week studying gradually. Stop and rest your brain right before the test. Give the information time to sink in. **Do Not Pull “All-Nighters”** – These tests require you to think, so you will not do well if you are too tired to reason and figure out the answers.
- #10. **Attend the Regular Class Study Sessions** –Our embedded tutor will be holding regular discussions of the course material. Her whole focus is how to do well on the tests. You can practice answering the types of questions I will ask.

BIOL 1010 Class Protocol

A Very Important Message to Students: I am making a default assumption that you are in college to get an education. Becoming an educated person takes work, and I expect you to make a sincere effort to learn. The most important contribution to your success will be your personal work ethic because the grade will be based as much on the homework as the test scores. Every assignment has been developed to help you build a deeper understanding of the scientific content that is presented in the class sessions. Every examination will evaluate your conceptual knowledge, which requires far more depth than just memorizing factoids. I set the bar high in my courses because I want you to learn both the science content and the satisfaction of achieving something that took resolve. You need to take the time to read this document because it spells out important information about the course. If you do not read this, you are putting yourself behind everyone in the class who has done so because they will understand more than you about what to expect within the nontraditional format of the course...

Email: We are going to use the **Blazeview email** for class. There is a certain standard of etiquette in higher education that is very different from the way you interact with your friends while texting. My VSU email is for emergencies.

My title is **Dr. Jones** and start any email with that included in a greeting.

The first thing you should do is tell me **which of my classes you are in.**

The next sentence should contain the **reason for your message.**

After you explain yourself using **good grammar & spelling** – This is not a “text message”

Proofread – I do not expect garble from people who are working toward a college diploma

Close the message properly showing you know the **proper decorum to use with your professor**

Finally, if you are not polite, do not expect a response from me.

Class Sessions: Most students come to class to learn and I will not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning environment. Come to class prepared to concentrate & pay attention. Since some people may not know what is expected in a college classroom, the following rules should make this clear. If I must stop class and speak to you about a disruption, I may ask to see you after class, and if it happens more than once you will be told to leave. I will not hesitate to refer students to the Dean of Students for repeated offenses.

Class Rules:

1. Attend to your personal needs before class and refrain from getting up during class unless it is urgent.
2. Class will start promptly at 2:00, please have your notebooks open and be ready to pay attention and begin.
3. Once class begins, refrain from side conversations. If you are asking about a word in lecture, make it short & quiet.
4. If a classmate is being rude or distracting you, let them know or say “Shhhhhhhh” loud enough for me to hear.
5. The VSU rules are no eating or drinking in the lecture hall. Water bottles are fine.
6. You are welcome to have your laptops, pads, & phones in class to record lectures, look up terms, and photograph slides. However, this is not an invitation to skype, take calls, or read & send texts. If anyone is bothering you with such behavior report them to me after class or by email.
7. Class will end at 3:15, unless you see “THE END” on a slide before, so do not pack up & rustle your packs before this.

Required Technology Platforms:

LMS=Blazeview (BV): Learning Management System - Your VSU Account: This will be used for all class communication, writing assignments, and access to various resources. (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/blazeview-d2l.php>)

CMS=McGraw Hill (MH) Connect: Course Management System - This is a complete electronic version of the book and a versatile software product for the graded, adaptive pre-reading *LearnSmart*, practice assignments and pre-test quizzes.

Text: Marielle Hoefnagels -Biology: Concepts & Investigations 4th Ed. (2018) McGraw Hill in the *Connect* Platform (eBook & eLearning) Special arrangements have been made between the Bookstore and the publisher to get you a big discount on the price (\$68.00) which has been billed to your Blazer account. You need to register through BV to use the Connect program for your online grades to be sent directly to BV.

Assessment:

Attendance*	10%
Online Assignments	
Blazeview Personal Essays & Other Assignments	20%
LearnSmart	10%
Connect “Practice” – Interactives (Best scores of 3 tries)	5%
Connect “Pretest” - Multiple Choice Questions (Best scores of 3 tries)	5%
Tests	
3 Unit Tests (30%) & Comprehensive Final Exam (20%)	50%

***Attendance:** You are expected to attend all class meetings. A class list will be passed around every day for you to initial. Being tardy or leaving early 3 times is counted as an unexcused absence. If you arrive late for class, go up the stairs and enter the back of the room, sit in the back section on the right and be sure to contact the TA so that you are marked on his Tardy list. The TA will be in charge of Attendance and it is up to him to decide whether absences will be excused or not. If you do miss class for any reason, you are responsible for obtaining notes from another student. Make contact with a classmate and exchange phone numbers early in the semester. I will not give you the notes or tell you what you missed because there are too many students in the class. Anyone who misses more than 20% of the class sessions will receive a failing grade for the course. Here is how your grade will be calculated:

No Absences at ALL	125%
1 Absence	100%
2 Absences	75%
3 Absences	50%
4 Absences	25%
More than 4	0%
More than 6	Course Failure

NEVER sign anyone else in or have someone sign you in – Both parties will be penalized 10% = 1 letter grade

Examinations: Unit tests will be 100 question multiple choice tests that assess conceptual understanding of course content. Do NOT try to memorize the information because the test questions will probe your understanding of the concepts. I am not interested in whether you are good at rote learning. We will discuss the type of questions you can expect before the first exam and will go over part of the first exam during the following class session. **If you have an emergency and can't make the exam**, be sure to contact me within 24 hours by office phone or by email. Make-up exams will only be given for valid reasons with documented excuses and these will be essay tests that are much more difficult. The final examination will be comprehensive, consist of 150 - 200 multiple choice questions, and cover all accumulated course content. Your Test Scores will be available on *Blazeview* approximately 24 hours later.

Online Adaptive Learning Assignments:

We will use the *Connect* software program from McGraw Hill to give you designed practice working on the course content in LS (*LearnSmart*) which is an adaptive program that adjusts to every student's individual skills. If you pay attention and learn as much as you can in LS you will get far more out of the lectures. Your success in this course depends on your completion of these online assignments. These comprise 20% of your grade. They are very important because they help you learn the information and prepare for the tests. Effort on these assignments is directly correlated to the grades students receive. You waste the time you spend doing these activities, if you do not concentrate on learning as you do them.

The *LearnSmart (LS)* prompts are lower order questions that drill on vocabulary and basic concepts. Think about the questions when you read the prompts and what the answer is. Indicate how confident you really are. If you get the question wrong, ask yourself why you did not know it. That type of thinking is the best thing you can do to improve your learning. If you look back and it is right in the book, consider the fact that you might need to read more carefully. *LearnSmart* is an adaptive program. The number of points you get and the number of times you see a topic depends on getting the correct answer and how certain you are that you know the answer. Be sure to use the Confidence prompts carefully. You get the most points if you say you are "sure" and get the answer correct. You will also finish faster if you do that. However, if you say you are "sure" and get it wrong, you lose big points. If you get it wrong with one of the other prompts, the penalty is not as bad. You will get other questions on that topic or the same question until you master it. You can go back and drill on *LearnSmart* as often as you want after the deadlines.

You can start as early as you want for all of the chapters in each unit to be sure you get the chapters completed on time. Any online assignments on *Connect* must be done by the deadlines. Late submissions will not be accepted. No Exceptions! As you do *LS*, jot down words on questions you miss so that you can be sure to look for those explanations in lecture. If something is still unclear, be sure to ask. Do not expect questions like these on the test because those will be conceptual and require higher order thinking. So that you can prepare for the tests and exam, there will be a *Connect Practice* interactive activity toward the end of each unit. A *Connect Pretest* is due at midnight the night before the exam. Practices & Pretests will be higher order questions, so your grades on these should give you an idea if you are prepared for the unit assessment. You may do these unit assignments 3 times to get the most practice and only your best score will count. Find your Metacognitive score in the report section and compare it to the grade you want on a test because there is usually a high correlation between these and how people score on the tests.

McGraw Hill Customer Support: Call (800) 331-5094 If you have major problems with the program, first try another Browser. Then shut down your computer and restart it. Finally, YOU must call McGraw Hill for Customer Service – Do not tell me or the Teaching Assistant and think it will be an excuse for not doing your work. They are supposed to take care of any problem, but in case they do not, Get the Case Number when you contact them. If MH does not help you, then email me in *Blazeview* and be sure to send me the case number so I can try to do something about it.

Writing Assignments

Objectives: In order to encourage you to see the relevance of the topics covered in this course, there will be seven essays required as part of the course content. These assignments also have been designed to help you to learn, outside the classroom, through your own writing. Writing is an important way to learn because if you can construct sentences about something, it will organize your understanding in your mind or let you know that you need to seek more information about a subject. Papers are also an opportunity to display your knowledge through more than just exams. These assignments also allow you to pursue the connections between your own personal interests and what we cover in class, so you should take pride in them. **If you do not follow the following guidelines, your grade will be reduced.**

Focus: Well-crafted writing always has a specific purpose. Decide on a thesis for the assigned topic and a specific case you want to make before you start writing. Every composition should have a central idea. Your thesis should directly address the nature of the writing assignment. Write the thesis down and check throughout the writing process to be certain that the work supports it. Starting a paper can be the hardest step, so if you feel blocked, try brainstorming. Take a blank sheet of paper without lines, and just write down any ideas you have or do some reading to get ideas. Look over these thoughts for ideas that go together in the form of a thesis. Then create an original title.

Essay Topics:

Nature & Nurture – 2/2

Personal Position on Human Origins - 2/13

Biological Evolution Essay – 3/10

Biodiversity Review Essay – 4/3

Your Opinion on Climate Change - 5/5

Organization: Before you begin to write, think through how you plan to develop your thesis and use an outline to structure your thoughts with a sequence that makes sense. An Introduction and Conclusion will be the first and last paragraphs, but they can actually be written last. Start paper with something catchy in the first sentence to interest the reader. Make it perfectly clear, in the introductory statement or section, what your point or central idea will be. Support that concept throughout the body of your paper. Paragraphs in the middle will be the Body of your text. Quotations & Subheadings are not to be used in these short assignments; let the topic sentences of the paragraphs serve that purpose. Avoid using phrases such as “In this paper I will discuss...” since it is much more sophisticated to avoid this type of “crutch statement.”

Paragraphs: For these assignments, you should have 3 paragraphs, single-spaced on no more than one side of one page of paper. The first sentence of each paragraph is a topic sentence that shows what the paragraph covers. **ONE SENTENCE IS NEVER AN ENTIRE PARAGRAPH** because there should be at least 3 sentences elaborating any significant idea.

Format: Always have an original title on your paper, centered at the top of the page. Think of something that summarizes the unique slant you are taking because we have to read many of these. It should catch our interest. Your papers are to be typed using something comparable to 12-point Times New Roman type, single-spacing, and 1 inch margins. Other professors often expect double-spacing, but I prefer to read single-spacing and require your papers to be single-spaced. After a draft, if the paper is too long, go back through and shorten it up by taking out the less important aspects. If it is too short, go back and incorporate more support or add more detail to what you are saying. When I say 1-page that means substantial text or no less than 800 words.

Grading: These short papers will each be worth 10 points. Outstanding papers will receive an additional 2 points. Assignments will be described in class, so listen carefully and be sure that you know what is expected or ask about anything that is unclear. There will also be a description on the Dropbox in Blazeview. Focus on the objective of the assignment and address it clearly in thesis of your paper. You can dramatically improve your work if you critique your own rough draft and revise it at least once. Outside feedback by other people who write well or even a visit to the SSC can also make a difference. You do not need a science tutor to read these papers. Ask for an English or Writing tutor at the SSC. Proofread your own work to avoid careless errors. Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar do effect the quality of your work and your grade. These papers will be graded on Effort, Quality, Organization, Content, and whether or not you followed these directions. We will look specifically at your coverage of the topic and the clarity and thoughtfulness of your presentation. Do not complain about your grade because it is very unlikely that it will be changed. Instead, learn from the feedback and improve your next paper.

Automatic Grade Reductions:

Missing a clear thesis or title

Lack of Organization (Equal Introduction & Conclusion) Solid Body with logical flow

Poor paragraph structure - no topic sentences, uneven lengths, no transitions

Lack of focus, failure to compile a convincing argument, or make a good case

Inaccurate or deficient scientific content

Typographical Errors & Grammar, Spelling, & Punctuation (GSP) Mistakes

Not the assigned length which will be from ½ to 2 pages, but is usually limited to 1 page (which is no less than ¾)

Failure to follow these instructions

Requirements for Submission:

Submit your work on Blazeview in the designated assignment box as a PDF because this will ensure that the formatting will be preserved. The due date will be announced in class, is posted on the class schedule, and listed in Blazeview. If you fail to submit your work by the time the box closes, it will not be accepted FOR ANY REASON, so that is the reason to turn assignments in early. If you miss the final deadline, accept your penalty and do better next time!

BIOL 1010 Course Objectives & Requirements

Essential Questions:

What has made the natural sciences so effective at unraveling some of the mysteries of life & the universe?

How does the Theory of Evolution explain the History of Life, Biological Diversity, & the Interdependence of Living Organisms?

Learning Outcomes - Students will be expected to:

I. **Distinguish** the unique features of the natural sciences and the characteristics of living organisms.

II. **Describe** the evolutionary processes that have been influential throughout the history of life.

III. **Compare and Contrast** the basic characteristics, classification, & ecology of living organisms.

Proof of mastery for each will be demonstrated by the knowledge & skill shown in:

I. **Online *Connect* Assignments** – Completion of reading for *LearnSmart* before lectures and Practice & Pretests before tests

II. **Writing to Learn** – Short Essay Papers to solidify understanding that will be submitted and graded in Blazeview

III. **Unit Tests & Final Exam** - Based on Text, Lectures, Discussions, & Videos

Educational Outcomes: This class is designed to fulfill three of the eleven general education credit hours required in **Section DI (Science, Mathematics, and Technology)** of the VSU core curriculum as prescribed by the University System of Georgia. The course will address the VSU Learning Outcome that states: *"Students will demonstrate understanding of the physical universe and the nature of science, and they will use scientific methods and/or mathematical concepts and reasoning to solve problems."* According to the VSU Undergraduate Course Catalog, BIOL 1010 is "an introduction to the diversity of life on Earth with a special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary processes and relationships." The BIOL 1020 Biodiversity Lab is a co-requisite that complements this course by covering parallel material.

Instructional Design: Given that the student/instructor ratio is over 150/1 there will be certain constraints, but efforts will be made to make this more than a mundane lecture class. Since memorization will not be enough to succeed in this biology class, active learning will be promoted via online assignments in a *Connect* program associated with the eBook. These introduce you to lecture information before every class, and deadlines will be listed on the syllabus and the assignment page in *Connect*. You must keep track of the deadlines because these will not be reopened for any reason. This is so that we can use class for elaboration of important concepts, explanation of anything that was unclear, and learning activities that are more effective than just sitting and taking notes. There will be Essay assignments for each unit to provide an opportunity for thought and discussion of the relevance of each topic. You will also be assigned online interactive homework for each unit called a Practice assignment. These will give you 3 graded opportunities to apply the information and identify any areas that you need to study more extensively. Before each exam, you will have access to a Practice Test which contains a large pool of multiple choice questions from which you will have 3 graded chances to try 50 questions as preparation. On the Practice and Pretests, only your highest grade out of your 3 attempts will count.

Academic Honesty: Members of the class are expected to maintain high standards of integrity which specifically means doing your own homework. This course will use the VSU Handbook Code of Ethics as a basic standard as well as the Biology Department Plagiarism Policy posted at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts-sciences/biology/documents/resources/PlagiarismPolicy.pdf> Students are required to present a VSU ID card prior to any exam in the course. Evidence of dishonest conduct or cheating will result in no credit for the assignment and depending on the case, a grade of "F" for the course. Do not expect lenience for claims on the grounds of not knowing better. You will be reported to the Dean of Students and the incident will be on your record. Employers such as school systems do call that office at VSU to check on whether you have a record of such infractions.

Statement of Student Support: I support all students regardless of immigration status or country of origin. As a Dreamer Ally, I support Dreamer students and promote their sense of belonging and safety as they pursue their higher education goals. For more information and resources visit a website for another university until we have something this on our VSU website: https://international.uoregon.edu/immigration_faq. I commit to not sharing your status with anyone if you reveal it to me. I also remind you that **when interacting with faculty, staff, and offices around campus you are never required to reveal your immigration status.**

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.

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Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act: Grades cannot be posted by Name or Social Security Number. Scores and student work will not be given over the telephone, by email or to another student.