

Principles of Biology I Lab Syllabus (Spring 2020)
BIOL 1107L – Sections A: CRN 24667 and D:CRN 24670 – 1Credit

Laboratory Section: **A meets 10:00 – 12:50 Mondays, Room 1085 Bailey Science Center**
 D meets 10:00 – 12:50 Wednesdays, Room 1085 Bailey Science Center

Instructor: Dr. John Elder
 Office: BC 2088
 Office hours: Monday through Thursday: 8:00am – 9:00 am, or by appointment. I also have an
open-door policy so feel free to stop in any time you catch me in office.
 Office Phone: (229) 333-5762
 Email: jfelder@valdosta.edu

Course Description: Pre- or Corequisite: A laboratory course to accompany BIOL 1107, with exercises dealing with the cellular nature of life.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course is to stimulate student learning of these basic concepts and to encourage contemplation of the significance of each concept to the general field of biology.

Educational Outcomes:

- Develop and test hypotheses, collect and analyze data, and present the results and conclusions
- Exhibit an understanding of basic biological chemistry
- Describe the evolutionary processes responsible for biological diversity, explain the phylogenetic relationships among the major taxa of life, and provide examples
- Demonstrate an understanding of the cellular basis of life

Required Materials:

Methods and Investigations in Basic Biology, 6th Edition, R.H. Goddard, Hayden McNeil Publishing.

Grading: All exercises, quizzes and assignments will be equally weighted.

Laboratory: Students will be graded on their performance in laboratory based on attendance, quiz grades, group lab projects, selected homework assignments, and other assignments as specified by your instructor.

There are NO MAKEUP LABS.

Lab Quizzes: Quizzes are given during the first 10 to 15-minutes of each laboratory. DO NOT BE LATE. You will not be allowed extra time if you are late. If you miss the quiz completely, you will receive a zero for the quiz. Some of the questions will cover the procedures and results of the previous week's exercises. Other questions will pertain to procedures for the upcoming lab.

Lab Assignments: Information for each assignment will be provided in lab. No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments must be completed before coming to lab. Previous assignments completed during lab will not be accepted for a grade.

Group Microscope Project: Each lab group will develop and complete an experiment and write a summary of the group lab results in standard scientific format. Further information will be provided in lab. All students are required to complete this assignment.

Participation: Note that active participation is what lab class is all about. I reserve the right to penalize grades based on poor participation. Sitting around doing nothing, playing with phones, parasitizing the work of lab mates, all will result in reduced final grades.

Laboratory Notebook: Each member of a lab group should actively participate in the lab work and should keep an organized notebook of his or her lab work.

Overall 1107 Grade Assessment:

Your overall lab grade will be based on a 10-point scale: A: 90 – 100% B: 80 – 89% C: 70 – 79% D: 60 – 69% F: < 60%.

All lab projects, assignments and quizzes will be averaged together to generate your final points score. The group project will count 25% of your final score and quizzes and assignments will count 75% of your final score. There is absolutely no makeup or late work allowed.

Laboratories in particular are important not to miss as stated above. In the event that a student will miss a lab, s/he should notify the instructor in writing within 24 hours of the missed lab. It is the instructor's prerogative to accept

the excuse or not. Attendance will be recorded for lab sessions. **Students who miss two labs without an excuse or three labs total cannot receive a passing grade for lab.**

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 strictly adhere to 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). 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.

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 as a tool for sharing information. I will post course tentative grades as well as any necessary class announcement and materials. Note that I use the Blazeview site grade sheet **only to report grades** to you. I do not use it to calculate grades. I use a separate spreadsheet. **All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.**

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.

CHEATING: Students caught cheating will receive a grade of "F" for the assignment in question and possibly for the course. Cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students. From the VSU Student Handbook: "**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 a quiz 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>)."

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.

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 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.

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