

**BIOL 1010 B: The Evolution & Diversity of Life  
FALL 2021 SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICIES**

**Lecture: MWF 11:00 am-11:50 am (1204 Converse Hall)**

**Instructor: Dr. Mark Blackmore**

**Office: Bailey Science Center 2218**

**Office Hours: MWF 12-1; Thurs 10-11 or by appointment**

**Contact information**

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**Course description: BIOL 1010. Introduction to Biology: The Evolution and Diversity of Life. 3 Hours.**

This course cannot be taken for credit toward the major in biology. An introduction to the diversity of life on Earth with a special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary processes and relationships.

**Scope & Objectives:** The principal objective of this course is to provide a general understanding of biological processes, organization and diversity for students not majoring in the sciences. Students will be introduced to scientific principles and the methods scientists use to enhance our understanding of the living world. This meets the Learning Outcome Goal for Area D of the 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." Mastery of this goal should enable students to interpret and evaluate biological issues that are relevant to their lives.

**Required Text:** *Campbell Biology: Concepts & Connections* by Taylor *et al.* 2021.

BIOL 1010B is part of Valdosta State University's textbook program called Day 1. After enrolling in the course, you should have received an e-mail from the VSU Bookstore with instructions on how to access the course content. The purpose of Day 1 is to ensure that you have access to the digital course materials on or before the first day of class at a highly competitive rate. Everyone enrolled will automatically have access to the digital course materials through the Add/Drop date. Those who have not opted-out or dropped the class by the Add/Drop date will receive a charge from the bookstore on their student account. You have the ability to Opt-Out through the Add/Drop date via the link in the email sent to you by the VSU bookstore.

**If you decide to opt-out**, please carefully read these **required** specific steps once to purchase access to your materials: To gain access to these Day 1 course materials, you must contact to the campus bookstore and pay a **higher** price than the opt-in choice. Upon payment, your name and course information will be collected and added to Blazeview 24-48 hours after you complete this process. After this process is completed, you will then be able to access your course materials.

**\*\*Please be aware that any publisher access code for this Day 1 course purchased anywhere else outside of the process detailed above will not give you access to these specific course materials.\*\***

**Course requirements & grading policy:**

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all scheduled lectures. Regardless of attendance, each student is responsible for all material presented in class and other assigned work. The instructor is not obligated to provide lecture notes or other material to absentee students or to offer make-up examinations. Missed exams will be counted as zeros and dropped as indicated below. Students with valid, documented excuses (eg. a death in the immediate family) may receive special consideration but must contact the instructor immediately and provide documentation if asked.

**Homework Quizzes and Examinations:** Pre-class homework quizzes will be assigned from the *Mastering Biology* program that is included with the text. The values of individual assignments vary, but the percentage of points earned (sum of all quiz scores / total points possible x 100 points) will be counted

as the equivalent of one exam. Five lecture examinations (100 points each) covering the lecture material and assigned reading will be administered during the semester (dates listed below). These exams will consist of some combination of multiple-choice and true-false questions. Diagrams and questions requiring matching also may be included. The lowest of these lecture exams will be dropped. A comprehensive **Final Exam will be administered at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, December 8.** The Final Exam will be weighted the same as one lecture exam (100 points = 20% of the final class grade).

Tentative dates for reading assignments and lecture exams are given below and students are expected to consider these dates when planning their study schedule for the semester. *There will be no make-up exams without **prior** consent of the instructor.* Students who miss an exam for legitimate, unavoidable reasons (eg. emergency hospitalization; death in the immediate family) should contact the instructor **immediately** and must document the reason for the absence. All exams and quizzes will be comprehensive but each test will emphasize the material most recently covered.

**Grading:** Three types of assessments will be used to determine the final grade in this class: Homework Quizzes; Lecture Exams and an Optional Final Exam. Chapter Homework Quiz scores are 20% of the course grade (100 points) and **must** be counted toward the overall course grade. Lecture Exams are either 60% (300 points) or 80% (400 points) depending on whether the Final Exam is taken. There will be 5 Exams (each worth 100 points) and the lowest score will automatically be dropped. You may elect to drop 2 Exams, in which case the Final must be taken. The optional final exam is comprehensive, meaning that it will cover topics from throughout the course. If taken, it will be 20% (100 points). Final course grades will be based on the percentage of 500 points earned. Students earning 90-100% of the possible points (i.e., 450-500) will receive an A; 80-89% -B; 70-79% -C; 60-69% -D, and below 60% an F. Grades will only be posted in the on-line grade book in BlazeVIEW and they will not be revealed via telephone or email under any circumstances. **Thursday, Oct. 14, is the last day to withdraw without penalty.** Students are advised to consult the VSU Undergraduate Bulletin for policies regarding withdrawals.

#### Tentative Schedule – Fall Semester 2021

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assigned Reading (Campbell et al.):</u>
1	Aug 16 – 20	Course overview; Biology as a Scientific Endeavor	<i>Chapter</i> 1
2	Aug 23 – 27	Organic Evolution	<i>Chapter</i> 13
3	Aug 30 – Sept 3	Origin of Species; Speciation	<i>Chapter</i> 14
4	Sept 6	<b>Labor Day Holiday: No Class</b>	
	Sept 8 – 10	Tracing Evolutionary History	<i>Chapter</i> 15
5	Sept 13 – 17	Introduction to Biodiversity; Start Microbes	<i>Chapter</i> 15 & 16
6	Sept 20 – 24	Prokaryotic Organisms & Protists	<i>Chapter</i> 16
7	Sept 27 – Oct 1	Plant & Fungal Diversity	<i>Chapter</i> 17
8	Oct 4 – 8	Finish Fungi; Start Zoology	<i>Chapter</i> 18
9	Oct 11	<b>Fall Break: No Class</b>	
	Oct 13 – 15	Continue Invertebrates	<i>Chapter</i> 18
10	Oct 18– 22	Begin Vertebrate Animals	<i>Chapter</i> 19
11	Oct 25 – 29	Primate biology; Begin Ecology	<i>Chapters</i> 19 & 34
12	Nov 1 – 5	Introduction to the Biosphere	<i>Chapter</i> 34
13	Nov 8 – 12	Environmental Diversity & Population Ecology	<i>Chapter</i> 36
14	Nov 15 – 19	Community Ecology & Ecosystems	<i>Chapter</i> 37
15	Nov 22	Conservation Biology & Climate change	<i>Chapter</i> 38
	Nov 24 – 26	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class</b>	
16	Nov 29 – Dec 3	Continue Conservation Biology & Climate change	
17	Dec 9	<b>Final Exam</b> (Thursday, December 9, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm.)	

*Tentative Test Dates:* \*Exam 1- Sept.3; \*\*Exam 2 Sept. 24; \*\*\*Exam 3- Oct.18 ; \*\*\*\*Exam 4 Nov.8 ; \*\*\*\*\*Exam 5 Dec. 6

**Special notes to students:**

To protect the privacy of each student, grades will not be posted at any time nor will they be revealed over the telephone. This is university policy. Students are advised to consult the VSU web site for more information. Students are able to view their grades in the Gradebook of BlazeVIEW D2L.

**Policy on cell phone, smart phones, and other internet-enabled devices:**

**Students should NOT use these devices during lectures (turn them OFF) and they are prohibited during examinations. *Use of any electronic device during examinations will result in automatic grade of 0 (zero) for that exam.***

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating, and plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are impermissible. This includes the use of electronic devices, unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam. 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 following the Academic Integrity Response along with a letter to the Dean of Students. See also:

*<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>*

*<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsu.php>*

**Special needs:**

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](mailto:access@valdosta.edu).

**Administration of online Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI):**

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 on BANNER. 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. Instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the data until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at SOI Procedures and Timelines (located at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/> under "Information for Students - Directions for Accessing and Completing SOIs").

**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 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: The Director of the Office of Social Equity, [titleix@valdosta.edu](mailto:titleix@valdosta.edu), 1208 N. Patterson St., N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

### **Policy on 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 is strongly encouraged to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth at all times while in any campus building, including in this classroom. Students should also be sure to maintain a safe distance from their fellow students and instructor, wash their hands often and cover coughs and sneezes. The best protection from the SARS-CoV-2 virus (Covid-19) is vaccination. Vaccines are available at no cost at the Student Health Center.

### **Coronavirus Resources Available 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 2021 semester. One of the best resources is VSU's Coronavirus FAQ page located at <https://www.valdosta.edu/health-advisory/coronavirus.php>. Information is available there about a variety of topics in VSU's campus plan. A website devoted to the health and wellness of VSU students can be seen <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/covid-19-health.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.d21.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 2021."