

BIOL 1107K - Principles of Biology Lecture I Section B (CRN 83329) – 3 credits
Fall Semester 2021, M & W 2:00 – 3:15pm, Room 1011 Bailey Science Bldg.

Lecture Instructor: Dr. John Elder

Office: Bailey Science Center 2088

Office hours: M & W 10:30am - 1:30pm and by appointment

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This section of the BIOLOGY 1107 course will be administered through the class VSU Blazeview pages. All communications, assignments, announcements, schedules and testing will be posted there. It will be the student's responsibility to routinely and daily keep check on and read these pages to ensure that all work is completed. "I didn't know" will not be accepted as an excuse for any missed work.

Welcome to Principles of Biology I. This is the first course in a series designed to help you develop a strong foundation in the biological sciences to build on throughout your studies at VSU and beyond.

BIOL 1107 Course Description. An introduction to the principles of biology for science majors, with an emphasis on the cellular nature of life. Concepts covered include the origin and early evolution of cellular life; cell structure, function, metabolism, and reproduction; cell signaling; and gene regulation in bacteria and eukaryotes.

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.

Course Outcomes: At the end of this course students should be able to: 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 testples, and to Demonstrate an understanding of the cellular basis of life.

Required Materials: Note that the required online text and Achieve online software bundle for this course is purchased through the VSU Day One Program. This course is participating in the Day 1 Textbook Savings Program. You will receive instant access to your course material and save 30% or more off the retail price. If you choose not to participate in this program you must opt-out no later than the drop/add deadline. To opt-out or to learn more about the program, please visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/day1>. There is a GRADED component to this course using the interactive software bundled with the text via the publisher's Achieve web pages.

Text: Sadava, D., D.M. Hillis, H.C. Heller, and M.R Berenbaum. *Life: The Science of Biology*. 12th edition. Macmillan Learning - Sinauer Associates Inc., Sunderland, MA.

Grade Assessment: Your final grade will be based on your performance on lecture assignments, chapter quizzes and tests.

Tests. Required: Respondus Lockdown Browser for testing: Tests are administered online via Blazeview. Tests are closed book and will require the *Respondus Lockdown Browser*. *Respondus Lockdown Browser* is automatically downloaded onto your computer from Blazeview when you access the first test. It is an anti-cheating software that will prevent your computer from doing other things while testing. Once you log into a test *Respondus* will not allow you to leave it without permanently closing your access to the test. Unfortunately *Respondus Lockdown Browser cannot be loaded onto, nor does it function with, Chromebook computers. If you have a Chromebook you will have to access another computer to take the class tests. VSU library and computer lab computers, IT loaner laptops, or any other borrowed computer will work.*

There will be **five lecture tests**. Students are required to learn the lecture material and the readings from the text in detail for all tests. The unit tests are not cumulative. Each of the unit tests will be worth 100 points each. **There are NO MAKEUP TESTS.** Any possible exception is at the discretion of the instructor and will require a documented,

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significant excuse or emergency. Do not assume any exception will be allowed. Missed tests will be receive a grade of zero points. The overall **test average will be worth 80%** of your overall final grade.

Assignments and summary quizzes will be assigned for each chapter covered.

Achieve assignments: These assignments will have a deadline and must be completed before the deadline. No points will be given for assignments completed after assigned deadlines. The Achieve **assignment average will be worth 10%** of your overall final grade.

Quizzes: There will be many text chapter summative quizzes on the readings and lecture material. The **Quizzes average will be worth 10%** of your overall grade.

Overall Class Grade Assessment:

Calculate your overall grade as follows:

(5 lecture test grades/5 X .80) = _____
(Achieve assignment average x .10) = _____
(Quizzes average x .10) = _____
(Total Final average) = _____ + _____

Overall letter grades will be assigned on a 10-point scale: 90-100% = A, 80-90% = B, 70-80% = C, 60-70% = D, and, 59 % and below = F.

Special note: All assignments, quizzes and tests are required to be completed by the assigned due dates. Absolutely no unexcused late assignments or missed tests will be accepted. Any exception to this is entirely at the instructor's discretion. Do not assume that an excuse will be accepted. Late assignments or missed tests will receive a grade score of zero.

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**". **This also applies to missing 20% of the course assignments.** 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 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. I will use assignment due dates to document class participation dates. This information is used by financial aid

authorities to assess potential payback of aid funds. If students decide to leave the course, they are responsible for officially dropping the course through the Registrar's Office to avoid potential penalties.

BIOLOGY TUTORING: The Academic Support Center (ASC) at Valdosta State University is located in the VSU Odum Library and is available to all students. The ASC provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including biology, chemistry, math, writing, and foreign languages. The ASC 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 test 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.

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all Valdosta State University employees and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the faculty members' syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold the highest standard of academic integrity. Any faculty member who has documentation and/or suspects that academic dishonesty has occurred shall (1) gather all pertinent information, and (2) meet with the student or students involved, and (3) inform the student or students of the academic response to an alleged violation of academic integrity, and (4) a faculty member should create a Report of Academic Dishonesty (RAD) to document the resolution of the matter. The faculty member should notify his/her department head and/or dean of these decisions and should submit a Report of Academic Dishonesty (RAD) along with all supporting documentation to the Student Conduct Office. An online Academic Integrity Reporting form can be found at https://publicdocs.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ValdostaStateUniv&layout_id=1.

Tentative Test and Important Dates Fall 2021:

Detailed test and assignment dates and deadlines will be posted on Blazeview

August 16	First Class Day for fall 2021
August 19	Registration for fall 2021 ends (11:59pm)
August 23-27	Attendance Verification for VSU courses that began on Aug 16
August 27	Proof Rolls Verifications due at 9am
September 3-5	Test 1
September 6	Labor Day Holiday (university closed/no classes meet)
September 24-26	Test 2
October 7	Official Midterm for fall 2021
October 7	Students View Midterm Grades
October 11-12	Fall Break (university open/no classes meet)
October 14	Withdrawal Deadline for full-term VSU courses
October 15-17	Test 3
November 5-7	Test 4
November 24-26	Thanksgiving Holidays (No classes meet/university closed)
December 3-5	Test 5
December 6	Last class day for fall 2021
December 7-10	Final Exams
December 13	Students View Final Grades in Banner after 5pm
December 18-Jan 2	University Closed