

## ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY SYLLABUS - BIOL 1030 - Online –Spring Fall 2021

**Online Lecture: CRN 21938-Section IA- (3 Cr)**

**Labs - BIOL 1040L (1Cr) - Independently scheduled**

**Instructor: Dr. John Elder**

**Office: BC 2088 ( I am completely off campus for spring 2021) I can be reached routinely at [jfelder@valdosta.edu](mailto:jfelder@valdosta.edu) .**

**Office hours: Live online Mon. & Tues. 8:00 – 10:00 am and by appointment (via Class Blazeview Collaborate link).** I have an open access policy; I encourage students to contact me whenever they may need help with the course. Please understand however that I will need you to arrange an appointment by email ahead of time.

**Office Phone: (229) 333-5762**

**Email: [jfelder@valdosta.edu](mailto:jfelder@valdosta.edu)**

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to modern biology for the non-major with special emphasis on the processes involved in the development and maintenance of complex multicellular organisms.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course fulfills one portion of Area D of the Learning Outcomes for Valdosta State University's 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.

(<http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/ProposedNewLearningOutcomes.shtml>)

Specifically, students will:

- a. Learn about the nature of science and how to build scientific knowledge;
- b. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the cellular basis of life;
- c. Relate the structure and the function of DNA/RNA to the development of form and function of the organism and to heredity;
- d. Effectively organize, communicate and apply their knowledge of biology to their everyday lives.

### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

**Required Text:** Marielle Hoefnagels *-Biology: Concepts & Investigations 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.* (2018) Connect package, McGraw Hill . ISBN-13: 9780078024207

Available at: Purchase Connect access through your **Blazeview** account class page. Login to your school's **Blazeview** account, and enter your course, then click on the Connect link, which will take you to the Connect registration page where you can follow the prompts. At that time, you will need to do one of the following:

- Enter your access code (available at the VSU Bookstore).
- Purchase access online
- Begin your 14-day Temporary Access period

Please note: After you register, you will have the option to purchase a low-cost, binder-ready, loose-leaf, print-version of the text through Connect. This is optional. If you choose to purchase a copy, a full-color, loose-leaf version will be shipped to you.

**OVERALL GRADING:** Final letter grades will be assigned on a **100 point scale** for your overall average percentage score for the lecture portion of the class: A: 90 – 100% B: 80 – 89% C: 70 – 79% D: 60 – 69% F: < 60% .

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The final grade depends solely on the student's performance on class requirements during the scheduled class term. There is no "extra credit" during the term nor after it closes. The instructor will not entertain any discussions about grade changes unless there has been a calculation error either during the term or after it ends.

To calculate your grade at any given point multiply each average by the appropriate percentage and then add up the totals. For example:

Test average x 0.75 = + \_\_\_\_\_  
Connect Quiz average x 0.15 = + \_\_\_\_\_  
Connect assignment average x 0.10 = + \_\_\_\_\_  
Overall class score = + \_\_\_\_\_

**Exams:** There are 5 scheduled online exams during the term. Each exam will be multiple choice and will cover the material from the previous exam through the current exam. Exams will cover all reading and posted lecture Powerpoint presentations in detail. The **lowest of the five exam scores will be dropped** and will not be included in your final grade calculation. The average of 4 exam scores will be worth 75% of your final total grade. **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.**

If you must miss an exam for any reason, this will automatically be the lowest score and will not be included in your final grade. Exams are closed book and will use the **Respondus Lockdown Browser**.

**Quizzes:** There are online vocabulary quizzes for each assigned text chapter. These are closed book, multiple choice and will require you to have learned the terms and definitions. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. The average of the quiz scores will be worth 15% of your final total grade. Quizzes will use the Respondus Lockdown Browser.

**Chapter Homework assignments:** Assignments from the Hoefnagels "Connect Smartbook" practice exercises will comprise 10% of your final grade. You are required to go online to the posted web site and register by purchasing the electronic version of the textbook. This package is considerably cheaper than the hard copy. **The link to the Hoefnagels class registration site will be posted on Blazeview.**

#### **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](mailto: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 for all class work and business.** You must read all posted materials carefully and routinely check this site daily. I also use it 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. This information is used by financial aid authorities to assess potential payback of aid funds.**

**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](http://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 exam 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](mailto: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](mailto:titleix@valdosta.edu), 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31608, 229-333-5463.

**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.

**Special Note: HB 280 – Concealed Carry – This class is completely online so concealed weapons carry laws and policies do not apply.**

**Tentative Schedule                      Biology 1030 - IA                      Spring 2021**

**Important Dates: Specific detailed test and assignment dates and deadlines will be posted on a Class Blazeview schedule page**

**January 11 First Class Day for spring 2021**

**January 14 Registration for spring 2021 ends (11:59pm)**

**January 18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday (University Closed)**

**January 19-22 Attendance Verification for VSU courses that begin on January 11**

**January 22 Attendance Verifications due at 9am**

**January 29-31 Exam 1 (Accessible Friday through Sunday)**

**February 16 Wellness Day 1**

**February 17-Mar 3 In-progress Grade Entry for full-term VSU courses**

**February 19-21 Exam 2 (Accessible Friday through Sunday)**

**March 3 In-progress Grades Due at 5pm**

**March 4 Official Midterm for spring 2021**

**March 4 Students View In-progress Grades**

**March 12-14 – Exam 3 (Accessible Friday through Sunday)**

**March 11 Withdrawal Deadline for full-term VSU courses**

**March 17 Wellness Day 2**

**March 29 Registration Begins for fall 2021 (by classification)**

**April 9-11 – Exam 4 (Accessible Thursday through Sunday)**

**April 2 Wellness Day 3**

**April 15 Wellness Day 4**

**April 30-May 2 – Exam 5 (Accessible Friday through Sunday)**

**April 30 Last class day for spring 2021**

**May 3 Reading Day**

**May 3- May 10 Final Grade entry begins for spring 2021**

**May 4-7 Final Exams week**

**May 7 Graduate School Commencement Ceremony**

**May 8 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony**

**May 10 Final Grades for spring 2021 due (9am)**

**May 11 Students View Final Grades in Banner after 5pm**