

**BIOL 1010 B & BB: The Evolution & Diversity of Life
FALL 2022 SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICIES**

Lecture: MWF 9:00 am-9:50 am (1011 Bailey Science Center)

Instructor: Dr. Mark Blackmore

Office: Bailey Science Center 2218

Office Hours: MWF 1-2 p.m. 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 because the chapters have different lengths and different amounts of material. At the end of the course, the percentage of points earned from Homework Quizzes (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 Friday, December 9.** 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. 13, 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 2022

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Assigned Reading (Campbell et al.):</u>
1	Aug 15 – 19	Course overview; Biology as a Scientific Endeavor	<i>Chapter 1</i>
2	Aug 22 – 26	Organic Evolution	<i>Chapter 13</i>
3	Aug 29 – Sept 2	Origin of Species; Speciation	<i>Chapter 14</i>
4	Sept 5	Labor Day Holiday: No Class	
	Sept 7 – 9	Tracing Evolutionary History	<i>Chapter 15</i>
5	Sept 12 – 16	Introduction to Biodiversity; Start Microbes	<i>Chapter 15 & 16</i>
6	Sept 19 – 23	Prokaryotic Organisms & Protists	<i>Chapter 16</i>
7	Sept 28 – 30	Plant & Fungal Diversity	<i>Chapter 17</i>
8	Oct 3 – 7	Finish Fungi; Start Zoology	<i>Chapter 18</i>
9	Oct 10	Fall Break: No Class	
	Oct 12 – 14	Continue Invertebrates	<i>Chapter 18</i>
10	Oct 17– 21	Begin Vertebrate Animals	<i>Chapter 19</i>
11	Oct 24 – 28	Primate biology; Begin Ecology	<i>Chapters 19 & 34</i>
12	Oct 31 – Nov 4	Introduction to the Biosphere	<i>Chapter 34</i>
13	Nov 7 – 11	Environmental Diversity & Population Ecology	<i>Chapter 36</i>
14	Nov 14 – 18	Community Ecology & Ecosystems	<i>Chapter 37</i>
15	Nov 21	Conservation Biology & Climate Change	<i>Chapter 38</i>
	Nov 23 – 25	Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class	
16	Nov 28 – Dec 2	Continue Conservation Biology & Climate Change	
17	Dec 5 & 9	Last class & Final Exam (Friday, December 9, 10:15 am – 12:15 pm.)	

*Tentative Test Dates: *Exam 1- Sept.2; **Exam 2 Sept. 23; ***Exam 3- Oct.19; ****Exam 4 Nov.11; *****Exam 5 Dec. 2*

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-vsua.php>

Special needs:

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. 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. To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

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 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.

Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination

committed against others, including but not limited to: sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence by other employees, students or third parties and gender inequity or unfair treatment based on an individual's sex/gender. The designated Title IX Coordinator for VSU is Mr. Darius Thomas. To view the full policy or to report an incident visit:

<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

Regarding Coronavirus:

Blazers protect Blazers. As members of a community, we seek to protect others and ourselves. The first line of protection against COVID 19 is to be fully vaccinated, including a booster(s).

Vaccinations are strongly encouraged and are available free of charge through VSU Student Health Services and many local pharmacies. Information about scheduling an appointment at Student Health Services is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/>.

If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, use the testing available at the Student Health Center; you may also obtain a test at many other locations around town. To report an absence to the Dean of Students Office, complete the form at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/absentee-notification-form.php>. If you must self-isolate or quarantine, follow the directions provided by Student Health.

Offices Here to Help You on Campus:

Research (and experience!) shows that students are more successful when they seek out help and support when they face challenges. VSU offers a full range of services---tutoring, supplemental instruction, counseling, and more—which is available both in person and online.

List of Resources

For tutoring: Academic Support Center <https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/>

For library resources: Odum Library <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/>

For counseling: VSU's Counseling Center <https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-services/counseling-center/>

For career exploration and on-campus employment opportunities: Office of Career Opportunities <https://www.valdosta.edu/student/student-services/career-services/>

For academic advising: University Advising and Student Transitions <https://www.valdosta.edu/advising/>

For classroom accommodations: VSU's Access Office <https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>

For food and clothing assistance: VSU CARES <https://www.valdosta.edu/vsucares/>

For on-campus medical assistance: VSU Health Services

<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/>

For safety: University Police <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/police/>