

Biol 1010: Evolution & the Diversity of Life

Fall 2022 Course Syllabus for Section A

Department of Biology, College of Science & Mathematics, Valdosta State University

Dr. Leslie S. Jones

Please Use Blazeview for Class Communication

Office: 1096 Bailey Science Center Phone: 219-1337 Email: lesliesj@valdosta.edu

Student Hours for Instructional Support will be in Room 1043 BSC: MW 1:00-2:00
Personal Appointments will be scheduled by Blazeview email

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Hyun Jae Kang – hkang@valdosta.edu

PAL Facilitator: Jacob Bruch – jtbruch@valdosta.edu

What You Need to Know!!!

Your Grade Depends on Your Effort

Attendance – 10%
Smartbook Assignments – 10%
Practice & Pretests – 10%
KRITIK Writing Assignment Grade – 20%
3 Unit Tests – Multiple Choice - Each is 10% for 30% Total
Comprehensive Final Exam - 20%

Attendance Is Imperative!!! It will count as 10% of the final grade

You will not understand the course enough to pass unless you are present
Exchange contact information with 3 classmates – in case you need something you miss

The GTA is completely responsible for all attendance matters

Email him in BV if you have any issues – He decides if absences are excused
The GTA will scan your ID card, before class, outside the middle entrance on the West side
If you arrive after 9:30, you must go upstairs & enter the back of the room
Sit in the Tardy Section and you can sign in on the Tardy Sheet after class
(3 Tardies = 1 Absence)
NO exceptions for missing the computer check will be made later in the semester
If you need to leave early on any day, mention this before class to the GTA
Sit in the back of the room so you can leave easily without disturbing the class.

The Textbook is: Biology: Concepts & Investigations (5th Ed.) Marielle Hoefnagels (2021)

12 Smartbook assignments – listed on the Schedule & Posted in BV

These are to introduce/remind you of vocabulary that is important before lecture
For Tests, be sure to reread the parts of chapters on what was covered in class

3 Graded Unit Pretests allow you to check your preparation and need to study more

Students Grade Other Students' Written Papers through a Systematic, Anonymous Peer Evaluation

Writing is a way for you to learn the science and express your personal opinions
Papers are an alternative to tests as a way to show your effort and understanding
Every college graduate should be able to write effectively!!!
Each Unit will include 1-2 Peer-Reviewed Assignments to evaluate your knowledge
KRITIK is a new program that will help you write better by seeing what others do

3 Topical Units each culminate in a test (10% of the grade)

These are conceptual, multiple-choice tests with ~75 questions including some sequences

Test Dates will be: September 20th, October 25th, November 22nd

Scantron scores will be posted on Blazeview ASAP, but you will know how you did

The Comprehensive Final Exam will take place in the classroom Thurs, December 8th from 8-10 am

Everything we cover or discuss in class can be included in this final evaluation
You are expected to have a conceptual understanding of this information

Emails: Please Use My Blazeview (BV) Email for All Class Matters!!!

My VSU email: lesliesj@valdosta.edu should only be used if it is urgent
 To be safe, you need to **Check Your Blazeview Email OFTEN** (several times per week) for updates
 Class emails are not text messages and are expected to be written coherently.
 My title is **Dr. Jones** and you should start any email with that included in a greeting.
 The first thing you should do is tell me **which of my classes you are in** because I have several.
 The next sentence should contain the **reason for your message**.
 After you explain yourself, you should close the message properly.

Personal Responsibility

You must keep track of all assignment deadlines - late work will not be accepted!!
 SmartBook & Pretest assignments should be completed early because those deadlines are final
 If you miss a unit test for any reason, you must notify me within 24 hours
 Make-up tests will only be given for legitimate reasons & will be Essay Exams
 Your grades will be posted in Blazeview, so that you will know where you stand
 If that is not the grade you want for the semester, make more effort on the assignments!

Instructional Support

I am replacing the idea of "Office Hours" because Covid makes it hard to meet in my office
 I will be in the lab (1043) from 1:00 – 2:00 every Mon & Wed

Our class has an embedded PAL from the ASC – Jacob will hold regular sessions that will be announced
 The ASC – Academic Success center provides unlimited, in-person, free-tutoring. 229-333-7570
 email asc@valdosta.edu, or visit the website www.valdosta.edu/asc for more information
 VSU provides 10 hours of free tutoring via Tutor.com (Available 24/7)– Click the BV Link

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend all class meetings because the tests are based on the lectures
 Being tardy or leaving early will be recorded & more than 3 of these will be considered an absence
 If you do miss class for any reason, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from a classmate
 Anyone who misses more than 20% of the class sessions will receive a failing grade for the course

Here is how your attendance grade will be calculated:

No Absences at ALL	125%
1 Absence	100%
2 Absences	75%
3 Absences	50%
4 Absences	25%
More than 4	0%
More than 6	Course Failure

Required Technology Platforms:

LMS=Blazeview (BV): Learning Management System - Your VSU Account

This will be used for **ALL** class communication, writing assignments, and access to various resources
<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/blazeview-d2l.php>

KRITIK = A peer-grading platform designed for fair and accurate assessments

This uses evaluation through the collective intelligence of your classmates

Your participation as an evaluator will strengthen your content knowledge & writing skills

CMS=McGraw Hill (MH) Connect: Course Management System – **SmartBook & Pretests**

You can start early for all chapters in each unit – Missed Deadlines = 0% No Exceptions

The program contains a complete electronic version of the textbook – Click on the Book Cover on the right

SmartBook – Pre-reading will be assigned, allowing you to work until you reach 100%

This adaptive program adjusts to every student's individual skills and content knowledge

Prompts drill on vocabulary and basic concepts in preparation for class

Exercises take longer if you do not read the book – work as long as you want to get 100%

These are much "lower order" questions than you should expect on class tests

Pretests – consist of 50 questions, randomly selected from a large pool

These can be taken 3 times and only your best grade will be reported

McGraw Hill (MH) Customer Support: Call (800) 331-5094

If you have any problems with these programs, first try another Browser

Then, shut down your computer and restart it or try another computer

The MH people are supposed to take care of any problem, but in case they do not, get the Case Number

If MH does not help you, then email me in Blazeview and be sure to send me the Case Number

Biol 1010 – Fall 2022 - Tentative Weekly Outline

Topic	Smartbook	Assignments
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Unit 1: The Natural World

1. Our Less than Grand Opening – Sorry – Just say no to Covid!

8/16 – Levels of Organization – Dr. Blackmore

8/18 – Petals around the Rose – Brian Fitzgerald

2. Nature

8/23 – Patterns in Nature

8/25 – Levels of Organization Ch.1

Academic Challenges Paper Create (8/25)

3. Science

8/30 – Alphabetical Review & The Disciplines

Evaluation (8/29)

9/1 – Holism & Reductionism

Response (9/2)

4. Sex & Gender

9/6 – Biology of Sex Ch.35

9/8 – Cultural Construction of Gender

5. Life

9/13 – Characteristics of Life

Sex & Gender Paper (~9/14)

9/15 – Emergent Properties

Pretest Due 9/19

6. Transition between Unit 1 & Evolution

9/20 – Unit 1 Test – The Natural World

9/22 – Social Controversy Surrounding Evolution

7. History of Evolution

9/27 – Origins Ch.15

9/29 – Evidence Ch.13

Religion & Science Paper (~10/3)

8. Types of Selection

10/4 – Artificial

10/6 – Natural Ch.12

9. Change over Time

10/11 – XXXXXXXX – FALL BREAK

10/13 – Speciation Ch.14

10. Human Evolution

10/18 – Migrations

Evolution Paper (~10/17)

10/20 – Skin Colors

Pretest Due 10/24

11. Transition between Unit 2 & Biodiversity

10/25 – Unit 2 Test - Evolution

10/27 – Prokaryotes Ch.17

12. Microbes

11/1 – Protists Ch.18

11/3 – Fungi Ch.20

13. Flora

11/8 – Biomes Ch.39

11/10 – Plants Ch.19

14. Fauna

11/15 – Animals Ch.21

Biodiversity Paper (~11/16)

11/17 – Primates

Pretest Due 11/21

15. The End of Unit 3

11/22 – Unit 3 Test – Biodiversity

11/24 – XXXXXXXX – Thanksgiving

16. Culmination

11/29 – Social Significance of Science

12/1 – Human Diversity Is Not Race

Racism Not Race Paper (~12/5)

Comprehensive Final Exam – Thursday, December 8th - 8:00 am – 10:00 am in Lecture Hall

General Information

Everything That Must Be Stated for Everyone's Protection

Cheating Will Not Be Tolerated

Members of the class are expected to maintain high standards of integrity. This course will use the VSU Handbook Code of Ethics as a basic standard of behavior. Everyone in the class is expected to read the Biology Department Plagiarism Policy posted at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts-sciences/biology/documents/resources/PlagiarismPolicy.pdf> Evidence of dishonest conduct or cheating will result in no credit for the assignment and depending on the case, a grade of "F" for the course. Do not expect leniency for claims on the grounds of not knowing better. By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of Turnitin at VSU see [Turnitin for Students](#). You will be reported to the Dean of Students and letter of concern documenting the problem will be sent to the College of Education. Be aware that employers such as school systems do call that office at VSU to check on whether you have a record of infractions.

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act

Grades cannot be posted by Name or Social Security Number. Scores and student work will not be given over the telephone, by email or to another student. Faculty members can't speak to parents without a the student signing a consent form that is filed in the registrar's office.

Statement of Social Justice Commitment & Student Support

As an educator, I have a strong personal commitment to teaching the principles of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) to all of my students. For me this is the most important part of being an American and is not a political issue. When I see examples of discrimination, it breaks my heart because it is so unfair. Therefore, as part of the course content, there will be relevant lessons on Sex & Gender to clarify the complexity of LGBTQ+ issues and the Evolution of Human Skin Color to demonstrate how "Race" was invented to justify racism.

I support all students regardless of immigration status or country of origin. As a Dreamer Ally, I support Dreamer students and promote their sense of belonging and safety as they pursue their higher education goals. A helpful site is: https://international.uoregon.edu/immigration_faq. I commit to not sharing your status with anyone if you reveal it to me. I also remind you that **when interacting with faculty, staff, and offices around campus you are never required to reveal your immigration status.**

Non-Discrimination and 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 policy or to report an incident visit: <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/title-ix/>

Accommodations Statement:

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. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary. 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, please contact the Christina Kidd 333-5941 Mental Health services are available and treatment does work. You can learn more about confidential mental health services available on campus at <https://www.valdosta.edu/hopeconnect>.

If you, or someone you know, needs support, is distressed, or exhibits concerning behavior, help by making a referral to the BIT Team. <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/bit.php>;