

ISCI 2001: Exploring Our Ecosphere

Life & Earth Science for Early Childhood Education

Fall 2022 Course Syllabus

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

What You Need to Know!!!

1. This is not going to be a typical Science Class

Every class will begin at 2:00 with a lab/activity relating to the Topic of the Day

The point of these will be to model Inquiry-Oriented, Activity-Based instruction

The second hour will be a presentation of scientific information to explain the phenomenon

This is a 3-credit hour class for education majors so there will be emphasis on **Pedagogy**

You are responsible for keeping notes on both lab & lecture in preparation for the Tests

Use your Cellphone to capture any images that will help you remember what we did

2. Your Grade Depends Strictly on Your Own Effort

You control your destiny!!!

Attendance & Participation – 20%

KRITIK Writing Assignment Grade – 20%

Smartbook Assignments – 20%

2 Unit Tests – Multiple Choice - Each is 10% for 20% Total

Comprehensive Final Exam – 20%

Attendance Is Imperative!!! It will count as 15% 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

Absences will only be excused for good reasons and you must write a Make-up paper

Labs begin at 2:00, Tardiness will count against your Attendance/Participation Grade

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

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

The Textbook is: Integrated Science (8th Ed) Tillery, Enger, & Ross

There will be **Smartbook** assignments – listed on the Schedule & Posted in BV

These are to introduce you to vocabulary that is important

For Tests, be sure to reread the parts of chapters on what was covered in class

The 2 Units each culminate in a test (10% of the grade) on the subject being covered

These are multiple-choice tests that start at the beginning of class

There are ~50 questions on labs and lectures – some involve 5-point sequences

When you finish, you can submit your test & scantron – take a break until 3:15

At that time, return to class so that we can go over the correct answers right away

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 Tuesday, December 6th from 2:45-4:45 pm

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 assignments should be completed early because those deadlines are final

If you miss a test for any reason, you must notify me within 24 hours

Make-up tests will only be given for legitimate reasons

These are essays since the class will already have gone over the tests

Tentative Scheduled Test dates are: 9/14 & 11/7

The Final Exam is Friday, December 6th from 2:45-4:45 pm- No Exceptions

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) before this class from 1:00 - 2:00 every Mon & Wed

VSU provides 10 hours of free tutoring via Tutor.com (Available 24/7)- Click the BV Link

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

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend all class meetings because this is a participatory class

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**

This contains a complete electronic version of the textbook - Click on the Book Cover on the right

Pre-reading will be assigned and graded in *SmartBook* - a versatile software product

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

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

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

ISCI 2001 – Fall 2022 - Tentative Weekly Outline

Topic	Lab	Smartbook & Papers
1. Opening Week – My Covid Quarantine		
8/15 – Levels of Organization	Cards	
8/17 – Patterns in Nature	Images	
2. The Natural World		
8/22 – Course Introduction	Alphabetical Review	
8/24 – Classification	Beanie Babies	
3. Science		
8/29 – Reasoning	Fish Lab	
8/31 – The Disciplines	Processes	Ch 1
4. The Realms		
9/5 - XXXXXXXX - Labor Day		
9/7 – Holism & Reductionism		Nature & Science Paper Creation (9/8)
5. Epistemology		Evaluations (9/10)
9/12 – Recurring Themes		Responses (9/12)
9/14 – Test #1 Nature & Science		
6. Space		
9/19 – Universe	Parallax	Ch 12
9/21 – Solar Systems	Phases of the Moon	Ch 14
7. Earth		
9/26 – Plate Tectonics	Maps	Ch 15
9/28 – Atmos & Hydrosphere	Climate Regions	Ch 17
Midterm – 10/6		
8. Habitats		
10/3 – Biomes	Soils	Ch 23
10/5 – Georgia Ecosystems	Rock & Minerals	
9. Macro & Micro		
10/10 - XXXXXXXX – FALL BREAK		
10/12 - Microbes	Microscopy Lab	Ch 20
10. Life		
10/17 – Cells	Metaphor	Ch 10
10/19 – Biodiversity & Symbiosis	Good Buddies	
11. Matter		
10/24 – Biogeochemical Cycles	BGCs	Ch 3
10/26 – Natural Resources	Phases of Water Lab	
12. Energy		
10/31 – EM Spectrum	Forms of Energy	Realms Paper Creation (10/28)
11/2 – Energy Flow	Photosynthesis	Evaluations (11/1)
		Responses (11/3)
13. Unit Transition		
11/7 – Test #2 – The Realms		
11/9 – Changes over Time	Atrium Windows	Ch 21
14. Human History		
11/14 – Human Evolution	Skulls	Ch 22
11/16 – Inheritance of Skin Color	Selection	
15. Our Current Conditions		
11/21 – Climate Change	GHGs	Race & Racism Creation (11/17)
11/23 - XXXXXXXX – Thanksgiving		Evaluations (11/19)
		Responses (11/21)
16. Sex & Gender		
11/28 – Biological Sex	Genetics	Ch 25
11/30 – Cultural Gender	Mosaic	
17. Culmination		
12/5 – Exam Review	Review Stations	

Comprehensive Final Exam Tuesday, Dec 6th 2:45 pm – 4:45 pm

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>;