

# ISCI 3103: Natural History for Middle Grades Fall 2022 Course Syllabus

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

**Dr. Leslie S. Jones**

**Please Use Blazeview for Class Communication**

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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 9:00 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 4-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 – 10%

3 Unit Tests – Multiple Choice – Each is 10% for 30% 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 9:00, 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: Essentials of Biology (6<sup>th</sup> Ed) Mader & Windelspecht**

There will be 12 **Smartbook** assignments – listed on the Schedule & Posted in BV

These are to introduce/remind you of vocabulary that is important

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

**3 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 ~75 questions on labs and lectures – some involve 5-point sequences

When you finish, you can submit your test & scantron – take a break until 10:30

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 Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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: **September 7th, October 12<sup>th</sup>, and December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**The Final Exam is Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 10am – 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 my other ISCI 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](mailto:asc@valdosta.edu), or visit the website [www.valdosta.edu/asc](http://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:

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>No Absences at ALL</b> | <b>125%</b>           |
| 1 Absence                 | 100%                  |
| 2 Absences                | 75%                   |
| 3 Absences                | 50%                   |
| 4 Absences                | 25%                   |
| More than 4               | 0%                    |
| <b>More than 6</b>        | <b>Course Failure</b> |

## 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 3103 – Fall 2022 - Tentative Weekly Outline

| Topic                                       | Lab                | Smartbook | Papers                                      |
|---|--------------------|-----------|---|
| <b>1. Nature</b>                            |                    |           |   |
| 8/15 – Levels of Organization               | Cards              |           |   |
| 8/17 – Patterns in Nature                   | Images             |           |   |
| <b>2. Science</b>                           |                    |           |   |
| 8/22 – Course Introduction                  | Alphabetical Drill |           |   |
| 8/24 – The Disciplines                      | Processes          | Ch. 1     | <b>Nature of Science Paper Ceation(9/1)</b> |
| <b>3. Sex &amp; Gender</b>                  |                    |           | <b>Evaluations (9/6)</b>                    |
| 8/29 – Reasoning                            |                    |           | <b>Responses (9/9)</b>                      |
| 8/31 – Sex & Cultural Gender                | Mosaic             | Ch. 29    |   |
| <b>4. Nature &amp; Science</b>              |                    |           |   |
| 9/5 - XXXXXXXX – Labor Day                  |                    |           |   |
| 9/7 – Test #1 – Nature & Science            |                    |           |   |
| <b>5. Life</b>                              |                    |           |   |
| 9/12 – Life                                 | Mircrobes          |           |   |
| 9/14 – Emergent Properties                  | Water Lab          | Ch. 2.2   |   |
| <b>6. Cells</b>                             |                    |           |   |
| 9/19 – Cells                                | Metaphor           | Ch 4      |   |
| 9/21 – Pro & Eukaryotes                     | Microscopy         | Ch 17     |   |
| <b>7. Energy</b>                            |                    |           |   |
| 9/26 – Photosynthesis                       | Munsell Colors     | Ch. 6     |   |
| 9/28 – Plants                               | Leaf Types         | Ch 18     |   |
| <b>Midterm – 10/6</b>                       |                    |           |   |
| <b>8. Earth</b>                             |                    |           |   |
| 10/3 – Climate & Biomes                     | Climatic Zones     | Ch 32     | <b>Life Paper Creation (10/2)</b>           |
| 10/5 – Natural Resources                    | Soils              |           | <b>Evaluations (10/4)</b>                   |
|   |                    |           | <b>Responses (10/6)</b>                     |
| <b>9. Characteristics of Life</b>           |                    |           |   |
| 10/10 - XXXXXXXX – FALL BREAK               |                    |           |   |
| 10/12 - Test #2: Life                       |                    |           |   |
| <b>10. Evolution</b>                        |                    |           |   |
| 10/17 – Origins                             | Darwin Did Not     |           |   |
| 10/19 – Change over Time                    | Fossils            | Ch 14     |   |
| <b>11. Selection</b>                        |                    |           |   |
| 10/24 - Artificial                          | Oral Reports       |           |   |
| 10/26 – Natural                             | Bird Traits        | Ch 15     |   |
| <b>12. History</b>                          |                    |           |   |
| 10/31 Speciation                            | Hybridization      | Ch 16     |   |
| 11/2 – Biodiversity                         |                    |           |   |
| <b>13. Ecology</b>                          |                    |           |   |
| 11/7 – Visit to Grand Bay                   |                    | Ch 31     |   |
| 11/9 – Comm & Ecosystems                    | Critter Art        |           |   |
| <b>14. Energy Flow &amp; Matter Cycling</b> |                    |           |   |
| 11/14– Functional Roles                     | Chromatography     |           |   |
| 11/16 – Recycling Matter                    | Rocks & Minerals   |           |   |
| <b>15. Human History</b>                    |                    |           |   |
| 11/21 – Human Evolution                     | Skulls             | Ch 19.6   | <b>Human Evolution Creation (11/28)</b>     |
| 11/23 - XXXXXXXX – Thanksgiving             |                    |           | <b>Evaluations (11/30)</b>                  |
|   |                    |           | <b>Responses (12/2)</b>                     |
| <b>16. Modern Humanity</b>                  |                    |           |   |
| 11/28 – Human Diversity Is Not Race         | Cards              |           |   |
| 11/30 – Population Dynamics                 |                    | Ch 30     |   |
| <b>17. Conclusion</b>                       |                    |           |   |
| 12/5 – Test #3: Natural History             |                    |           |   |

**Comprehensive Final Exam – Friday, December 9th 8:00 am – 10:00 am**

# 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](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](mailto: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>;