

Organismal Biology syllabus – BIOL 1030 – Spring 2022

Department of Biology, College of Science and Math, Valdosta State University

Instructor: Mr. Joshua Brown

Course info:

Biology 1030 Section B (CRN: 25628)

Mon/Wed 2:00 – 3:15 PM Room 1023 BSC

Contact:

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Email: Joshuabrown@valdosta.edu

Office Hours: Mon/Thurs 12:30 – 2:00 PM or by appointment

Course 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 5th Ed.* (2018) Connect package, McGraw Hill . ISBN-13: 9780078024207

This course is participating in the **Day 1 Textbook Savings Program**. You will receive instant access to your course material and save 30% or more off the retail price. If you choose not to participate in this program you must opt-out no later than the drop/add deadline. To opt-out or to learn more about the program, please visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/day1>.

- Day 1 program – Click on the “registration” link on the class Blazeview page.
- Then click on “access now” - Begin your 14-day Temporary Access period. All students begin as temporary status on the program. The status will change unless you “opt out”. Your student account will be billed so you do not “purchase” anything at this site.

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 if you desire a **hardcopy text. 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: **All assignments, quizzes and tests are required to be completed by the assigned due dates. Absolutely no unexcused late assignments or missed tests will be accepted. Any exception to this is entirely at the instructor’s discretion. Do not assume that an excuse will be accepted. Late assignments or missed tests will receive a grade score of zero.**

The final grade depends solely on the student’s performance on class requirements during the scheduled class term. The instructor will not alter final grades unless there was a proven error in grade calculation.

ATTENDANCE and GRADE POLICY: You are expected to attend all scheduled course activities, and active participation is part of your course grade. Because of the nature and structure of the class, attendance is vital to your success in the course.

To calculate your overall 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 =	+ _____

Tests: There will be **five lecture tests**. Students are required to learn the lecture material and the readings from the text in detail for all tests. The unit tests are not cumulative. Each of the unit tests will be worth 100 points each. **There are NO MAKEUP TESTS. Any** possible exception is at the discretion of the instructor and will require a documented, significant excuse or emergency. Do not assume any exception will be allowed. Missed tests will be receive a grade of zero points. Your overall **test average will be worth 75%** of your overall final grade.

Required: *Respondus Lockdown Browser* for testing: Tests are administered online via Blazeview. Tests are closed book and will require the *Respondus Lockdown Browser*. *Respondus Lockdown Browser* is automatically downloaded onto your computer from Blazeview when you access the first test. It is an anti-cheating software that will prevent your computer from doing other things while testing. Once you log into a test *Respondus* will not allow you to leave it without permanently closing your access to the test.

Unfortunately *Respondus Lockdown Browser* cannot be loaded onto, nor does it function with, Chromebook computers. If you have a Chromebook you will have to access another computer to take the class tests. VSU library and computer lab computers, IT loaner laptops, or any other borrowed computer will work.

Quizzes: There are online chapter quizzes for each assigned text chapter. These are closed book, and will require you to have mastered the chapter content, concepts, terms and definitions. The lowest one

of your quiz scores will be dropped. The average of the quiz scores will be worth 15% of your final total grade.

Chapter Homework assignments: Assignments from the Hoefnagels “Connect” practice exercises will comprise 10% of your final grade. You are required to go online to the posted web site and register for 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 the class Blazeview page.**

Communication:

Email: The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is through the school email. That is where I will be sending out all information for this class so I highly recommend you check it regularly. My email is joshuabrown@valdosta.edu, “I did not see your email” is not an acceptable excuse. BlazeVIEW is unreliable when it comes to communication so if you want a prompt response from me then I do not recommend you try to contact me through it.

Please be courteous/respectful when communicating with the instructor and your classmates. I will not respond to rude emails. Everyone in this class is an adult and I will treat them as such. I would never outright disrespect you and I expect the same in return.

BlazeVIEW will mostly be used to post all class materials and tentative grades. 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. If at any point you have an issue with something on BlazeVIEW, tell me right away. Do not wait until the end of the semester when final grades have been submitted to dispute a grade.

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.

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.

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 they are 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.

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, 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.

Tentative Test and Important Dates Fall 2021:

Detailed test and assignment dates and deadlines will be posted on Blazeview

January 10	First Class Day for spring 2022
January 13	Registration for spring 2022 ends (11:59pm)
January 17	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday (University Closed)
January 28-30	Exam 1
February 18-20	Exam 2
March 2	In-progress Grades Due at 5pm
March 3	Official Midterm for spring 2022
March 3	Students View In-progress Grades
March 10	Withdrawal Deadline for full-term VSU courses
March 11-13	Exam 3
March 14-18	Spring Break (university open/no classes meet)
April 8-10	Exam 4
April 29-May 1	Exam 5
May 2	Last class day for spring 2022
May 3-6	Final Exams
May 9	Students View Final Grades in Banner after 5pm

This is a tentative syllabus and is subject to change.