

**BIOL 1200 HISTORY OF THE LIFE SCIENCES Spring 2022
SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICIES**

Lecture: TR 11:00-12:15 (2022 Bailey Science Center)

Instructor: Dr. Mark Blackmore

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Office Hours: Mon 11-12; Wed 11-12; Thursday 9:30-10 or by appointment

Course description: An introduction to the history and philosophy of biology and related sciences. The development and evolution of major theories and techniques, and interactions between science and culture will be emphasized.

Scope & Objectives: By the end of the course students are expected to be able to describe the development of the life sciences as a form of inquiry including major paradigm shifts and their consequences. Students will also explain how technological developments have affected human understanding of the living world and recognize the impact advances in biological knowledge have had on society and human culture. This corresponds to Educational Outcome 1 (Develop and test hypotheses, collect and analyze data, and present the results and conclusions in both written and oral formats used in peer-reviewed journals and at scientific meetings.) for the Department of Biology as listed in the current VSU catalogue. **3 credit hours.**

Prerequisite: None.

Text: *A History of the Life Sciences, Third Edition, Revised and Expanded* by Lois N. Magner 2002.

Alignment of Course Objectives with VSU General Education Outcomes: The course objectives and expectations described above align with VSU General Education Outcomes 2, 3, and 4.

(2.) Students will demonstrate cross-cultural perspectives and knowledge of other societies. They will possess sufficient knowledge of various aspects of another culture, including the language, social and religious customs, aesthetic expression, geography, and intellectual and political history, to enable them to interact with individuals within that society from an informed perspective. They will possess an international viewpoint that will allow them to examine critically the culture of their own nation and to participate in global society.

(3.) Students will use computer and information technology when appropriate. They will demonstrate knowledge of computer concepts and terminology. They will possess basic working knowledge of a computer operating system. They will be able to use at least two software tools, such as word processors, spreadsheets, database management systems, or statistical packages. They will be able to find information using computer searching tools.

(4.) Students will express themselves clearly, logically, and precisely in writing and in speaking, and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening. They will display the ability to write coherently in standard English; to speak well; to read, to understand, and to interpret the content of written materials in various disciplines; and to listen effectively and to understand different modes of communication.

Student proficiency in meeting these outcomes will be assessed by exams, writing assignments and oral presentations as described below.

Course requirements & grading policy: Students are expected to attend all scheduled lectures and participate in discussions in class. Attendance at lectures may not be recorded daily after the Drop/Add period but students are expected to attend all lectures and up to 10 extra credit points may be awarded for attendance. Regardless of attendance, each student is responsible for all material presented in class and must attend when tests are given and when assigned work is due. The instructor is not obligated to provide lecture notes or other material to absentee students or to offer make-up examinations. 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. COVID-specific policies that relate to attendance are described in a separate section below.

Assessment will consist of:

Exams (4 exams, 100 points each)	Grade Scale: A 90-100%
Short reading/writing assignments, quizzes or homework (50 points)	B 80-89%
Final Examination (100 points)	C 70-79%
Total: 550 points	D 60-69%
	F < 60%

Exams will include some combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank or matching questions. Short writing assignments will require discussion of literature associated with topics covered in class. In addition, students may be required to research assigned topics, discuss them in class or prepare a PowerPoint presentation to be given to the entire class. **The comprehensive final exam will be given Wednesday, May 4 at 10:15 in BSC 2022.**

Tentative Schedule – Spring Semester 2022

Week	Dates	Topics	Assigned Reading (Magner):
1	Jan 11 – 13	Origins and definitions; Biology & Ancient Civilizations	<i>Chapters</i> 1-2
2	Jan 18 – 20	Greek Natural Philosophers, Scientists & The Greek Legacy	2
3	Jan 25 – 27	The Greek Legacy; The Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution	2-3
4	Feb 1 – 3*	The Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution; Exam 1	3-4
5	Feb 8 – 10	Scientific Societies; Microscopy	4
6	Feb 15 – 17	Problems in Generation	5
7	Feb 22 – 24	Organisms, Embryos and Cells; Physiology	5-6
8	Mar 1 – 3	Microbiology, Virology, and Immunology	7
9	Mar 8** – 10	Exam 2 ; Begin Evolution	8
10	Mar 15 – 17	Spring Break - class does not meet	
11	Mar 22 – 24	Darwinism and Society;	8
12	Mar 29 – 31	Genetics	9
13	Apr 5*** – 7	Genetics & Molecular Biology	9 – 10
14	Apr 12 -14	Exam 3 ; Conservation Biology & Environmentalism	TBA
15	Apr 19 – 21	Conservation topics cont.; Science and Society	TBA
16	Apr 26 – 28****	Concluding remarks; Exam 4	
Exam Week		Final Exam (Wednesday, May 4 10:15-12:15)	

*Tentative Test Dates: *Exam 1- February 3; **Exam 2- March 8; ***Exam 3- April 5**** Exam 4- April 28*

Academic Integrity:

Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own work. In this particular course, removing or altering collection information associated with specimens is considered a violation of the Academic Honesty Policy and will be treated in the same manner as any other violation.

Students are responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with the VSU Student Code of Conduct, in Appendix A of the Student Handbook (<http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/handbook/>) 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-vsuhp>

Special needs:

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. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu.

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 on BANNER. 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. Instructors will be able to view only a summary of all responses after they have submitted final grades. While instructors will not be able to view individual responses or to access any of the data until after final grade submission, they will be able to see which students have or have not completed their SOIs. These compliance and non-compliance reports will not be available once instructors are able to access the results. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey and a timetable for this term is available at SOI Procedures and Timelines (located at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/> under “Information for Students - Directions for Accessing and Completing SOIs”).

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 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: The Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance and participation are essential for success in class. Therefore, students are expected to attend class as scheduled and must complete assignments as outlined in the syllabus. If students are absent, they should follow the course's attendance policy. If students must be absent due to a quarantine or isolation requirement for COVID-19, they must report this situation via the COVID Self Reporting Link in MyVSU and through the [Dean of Students Office](#) to report any other absences as well. Instructors will not alter the schedule for individual students unless arrangements have been made in advance.

Spring 2022 COVID-19 Notes:**Face Coverings and Other COVID Precautions**

The USG and VSU continue to strongly encourage masks in all campus buildings. Hand sanitizer remains readily available. The Student Health Center is still conducting COVID-19 testing for all students during normal business hours with no appointment needed, and vaccinations are available by appointment there as well for all students, employees, alumni, retirees, friends, and family. With the many variants, we urge you to get vaccinated if you have not already. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others. If it has been more than 6 months since your second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, you will be considered as unvaccinated in the event of an exposure. If it has been more than 2 months since your J&J vaccine, you will be considered as unvaccinated in the event of an exposure.

Isolation Changes

Recently, the CDC updated its guidance regarding isolation, and the USG is following that recommendation. For those who test positive, they should isolate for 5 days, and if the symptoms are

improving and they've been fever-free for 24 hours and haven't used a fever-reducing medication, they can leave isolation after 5 days, but they should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional 5 days to minimize potential transmission.

Quarantine Changes

The USG is also following the CDC's updated guidance regarding quarantine. Those exposed who are unvaccinated or are vaccinated but not fully boosted should quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days. Those who have received their booster shot or completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months or completed the primary series of the J&J vaccine within the last two months DO NOT need to quarantine following an exposure, but they should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. For anyone exposed, the CDC says best practice would also include getting tested at day 5 after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately remain at home until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19. You can read more about the updated CDC guidance here: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

Reporting Cases

VSU will resume the posting of positive COVID numbers once the Spring 2022 semester begins and an accurate total is available. Students and employees should continue to self-report COVID+ diagnosis and close contact with persons diagnosed positive through MyVSU.