

Organismal Biology syllabus – BIOL 1030 – Fall 2023
Department of Biology, College of Science and Math, Valdosta State University

Instructor: Mr. Joshua Brown

Course info:

Biology 1030

MWF 12-12:50 Room 1011 BSC

Contact:

Office: Bailey Science Center, room 2209

Phone: (229) 219 – 3615

Email: Joshuabrown@valdosta.edu

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 1:00 – 3:00 PM and Th 12:00 – 1:00 PM or by appointment

Graduate assistant*:.....

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

I strongly recommend you read the appropriate chapters as we move along in the class.

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 <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/finance-admin/auxiliary-services/bookstore-program/opt-out-instructions-.php>

- 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 class meetings, however, you will not be graded on attendance. 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 0.60 = + _____

Connect Quiz average x 0.25 = + _____

Connect assignment average x 0.15 = + _____

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 “module” tests will be worth 100 points each. I will drop the lowest test grade, for this reason **there will be no makeup exams**. 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 60%** of your final grade.

CHEATING OF ANYKIND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!

There will be ZERO talking during test days when they are handed out, NO looking at each other’s papers, NO switching test, NO cellphones, NO notes. If caught, you will receive a zero and possibly be reported to the office of student affairs.

Quizzes: There are online chapter quizzes for each assigned text chapter. These are designed to get you prepared for upcoming tests which will require you to have mastered the chapter content, concepts, terms, and definitions. Quizzes are worth 25% of your final grade. You will only have two attempts. Once the due date has passed and both attempts have been used, your grade will be locked in.

Chapter Homework assignments: Assignments from the Hoefnagels “Connect” practice exercises will comprise 15% of your final grade. These assignments will require you to read parts of the textbook and master concepts needed to do well.

Attendance verification/syllabus quiz: There will be a quiz on Blazeview that will serve as attendance verification and confirmation that you understand the syllabus. Failure to complete the quiz before the

deadline could result in you being dropped from the course. If completed before the deadline, you will receive 3 points of extra credit to 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.**

The class is broken into five modules each dealing with a set of chapters. The quizzes and HW will open at the start of a module and close at the end of it. There is no makeup because there is plenty of time to complete everything for a module. For example, If we are in module three, I will not open an assignment from module two. See schedule below for specific open/close dates.

Communication:

Email: The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is through the school email. That is where I will be sending out most information for this class, so I highly recommend you check it regularly. My email is joshuabrown@valdosta.edu,

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.

Emails after 8:00 pm will not be answered until the next business day.

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.

Academic support center: The [Academic Support Center \(ASC\)](#) provides **unlimited, in-person, free peer tutoring** in core courses such as math, English/writing, sciences, social sciences, and languages. We also offer **8 hours of free online tutoring via Tutor.com** (8 hours per student, available 24/7). Click the Free Tutoring link in any Blazeview course to make appointments. Please drop by our space in Odum Library, 2nd floor, or call 229-333-7570, email asc@valdosta.edu, or visit the website www.valdosta.edu/asc for more information.

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.

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 Ms. Selenseia Holmes. To view the full 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. 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, contact Ms. Myia Miller, Title IX Compliance Officer, at maburden@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

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 course/test schedule

Module 1: Aug 14th – Sep 1st

Chapter 1: Introduction/Studying life

Chapter 2: Chemistry of life

Chapter 3: Cells

Test 1: Friday September 1st

Module 2: Sep 6th – Sep 25th

Chapter 4: Energy of life

Chapter 5: Photosynthesis

Chapter 6: Respiration & Fermentation

Test 2: Monday September 25th

Module 3: Sep 27th – Oct 18

Chapter 7: DNA structure/function

Chapter 8: DNA replication

Chapter 9: Sexual reproduction

Test 3: Wednesday October 18th

Module 4: Oct 20th – Nov 8th

Chapter 10: Inheritance

Chapter 11: DNA technology

Chapter 12: Forces of evolution

Test 4: Wednesday November 8th

Module 5: Nov 10th – Dec 4th

Chapter 13: Evidence of evolution

Chapter 14: Speciation and extinction

Chapter 15: Origin and history of life

Test 5: Monday December 4th

Important Fall 2023 dates

August 14	First class day
August 17	Registration ends
September 4	Labor Day – No class
October 5	Midterm
October 12	Withdrawal deadline
November 22-24	Thanksgiving – No class
December 4	Last class day
December 5-8	Final exams

**This is a tentative
syllabus and is subject
to change**