Valdosta State University, BIOL 1107, Section B (3 credit hr)
Principles of Biology I – Fall 2023
Syllabus & Course Policies

For College of Science and Math, and some Health Science Majors

Lecture: TR 3:30-4:45 in BC1011
Lecture Instructor: Dr. Emily Cantonwine (Dr. Cantonwine or Dr. C)
Office: BC2218
Phone: 229-333-5337
Email: egcantonwine@valdosta.edu
Office hours: BC2218, WR 12:30-3:00; You are welcome to stop by my office at other times too. If I have time to meet, we can do so. If not, we will make an appointment.
Graduate Assistant (GA): Stewart Lambing – sjlambing@valdosta.edu - manages grade entry, participation data & excused absences.
Peer Alliance Learning (PAL) Facilitator: TBA

Welcome to Principles of Biology I. This is the first course in a series of courses at VSU designed to develop a strong foundation in the biological sciences.

BIOL 1107 Course Description. An introduction to the principles of biology for science majors, with an emphasis on the cellular nature of life. Concepts covered include the origin and early evolution of cellular life; cell structure, function, metabolism, and reproduction; cell signaling; and gene regulation in bacteria and eukaryotes. There are no prerequisites for this course. BIOL 1107 lab is a co-requisite for students who have not already completed that course and BIOL 1100 is a co-requisite for Freshman Biology majors (offered Fall semesters only)

REQUIRED RESOURCES

OpenStax Biology – Free – Integrated into Achieve and available online at www.openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e

Macmillan Achieve with iClicker – DayOne Access – You have already paid, you just need to opt-in though Blazeview to access.

Course Objectives and Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to

- demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts of biology, including
  - cellular structure, function, metabolism, and reproduction
  - the nature of the gene and its action
  - the mechanisms of evolution

- apply academic skills critical to success in upper-division science courses and intended careers, such as
  - accurate interpretation of graphs and diagrams
  - fluent use of scientific terminology
  - effective study skills

ASSESSMENTS

Assessments	***Possible Points***	***Percentage***	***SCALE***
Achieve HW (10 of 13)	150 (15pt each)	20.0%	A ≥ 90%
Lecture Assessment	100	13.333%	B ≥ 80%
Unit Exams (4)	400 (100pt each)	53.333% (13.333% each)	C ≥ 70%
Final Exam*	100	13.333%	D ≥ 60%
TOTAL	750	100%	F < 60%
Extra credit	50	+6.66%	

Estimate your grade using this equation:

Monitoring and computing your grade. All grades will be posted to Blazeview. Your grade can be computed at any time [**Grade = points earned/possible points x 100]** using details above and below, or **[Grade = (average unit exam grade x 0.53333) + (final exam x 0.13333) + (lecture assessment percentage x 0.13333) + (Achieve HW percentage grade x 0.2) + (extra credit percentage grade x 0.0666)]** using the category percentage grades in the BV gradebook.

ACHIEVE GRADED WORK (HOMEWORK) - There will be thirteen graded HW assignments conducted through Achieve, a supplemental learning system. Most will be available on Mondays with Friday due dates, or Fridays with Wednesday due dates. See the Tentative Schedule for Due Dates. The 3 lowest scores will be dropped from the gradebook at the end of the semester. HW is worth 150 points and cannot be completed late for a grade. Achieve HWs will be reopened after the due date for student practice/reference. Be aware that there are other helpful resources within Achieve that you may find helpful.

LECTURE ASSESSMENTS (Clicker) – Beginning the third week of class, your attendance and understanding of lecture material will be assessed during class using iClicker. The number of clicker questions will vary by lecture, but each lecture will be weighted the same. **At the end of the semester, the lowest 10 iClicker grades will be dropped from the gradebook.** These dropped grades will account for illness, mental health days, excused absences, absences that are not excused, and user-error during lecture. **IMPORTANT: If the number of responses exceed the number of students in the room, I will take photos of the room to compare to the responses received. Students who answer a question but are not in my photo can earn no more than a 70% on the final lecture assessment grade. This will be adjusted at the end of the semester. FYI, you can miss every first or last question of the semester and do better than a 70%. So please take me seriously when I say that it is not in your best interest to answer questions if you are not in the room.**

UNIT EXAMS AND FINAL EXAM – All examinations are required, including the final. All examinations must be taken in-person. If you miss an exam, you have 24hr to set-up a make-up exam. If you fail to contact me within this timeframe, or if you have already completed one make-up test, you forfeit the opportunity to take the original exam as a make-up. The alternative make-up exam will include fewer multiple-choice questions and more short answer questions. *Exams will not be passed back, but there will be opportunities to review your exam the week after the exam date. Exam reviews can occur any time after this date during office hours.*

EXTRA CREDIT (BONUS)- There are five extra credit (bonus) assignments worth 50pt total that will be provided throughout the semester. All will be assessed through BV Quizzes. See tentative schedule. On the last day of class, an *in-lecture only* opportunity will be provided for students to make-up or replace one bonus quiz. Students cannot earn more than 50 bonus points. Do not miss these opportunities!

CURVE – Final grades are automatically curved to the nearest 10^{th} of a percent, meaning 89.5 = 90. I will curve more if the number of A grades do not meet my target number. If this happens, all students will receive the same curve. I will not know if a curve is needed until after the final exam.

Course Policies, Procedures, & Expectations:

Expectations.

- Attend class regularly, arrive on time & stay the entire class period.
- **Do not complete Lecture Assessment (iClicker) questions unless you are in the classroom.**
- Pay attention (avoid distractions). The skill of attention and self-discipline is yours to develop, not mine to police. I wish you all good fortune with these skills!
- **If you miss a lecture, watch the recording in Kaltura before the next lecture period.**
- It is your responsibility to take notes – I do not share my PowerPoint slides.
- I may lecture faster than you can take notes. Write down as much as you can while still being able to follow the lecture. Then use the lecture recording in Kaltura Media Gallery to fill in the rest of your notes after class. **If your notes are complete before the next lecture period, you have met my expectations.**
- If you arrive late or must leave early, use the second-floor doors to reduce distractions. THANK YOU!

Laptop/Tablet policy. Off-task laptop/tablet use is distracting to others in the class, so these devices may be used for notetaking ONLY. One violation is enough for me to ban your laptop or tablet.

Cell phone/Smart device policy. I encourage cellphone use for the iClicker app and recommend that you only use your cellphone for this purpose while class is in session. You run the risk of missing iClicker questions when you leave the app.

Earbuds/Headphones. Earbuds/headphones are not allowed during lecture.

Food and drink policy. Drinks and snacks are allowed if they can be consumed quietly and without distracting others. **Breakfast is not acceptable!**

Office hours and emails. The best time to come to my office (BC2087) is during office hours. Just show up. If my office hours do not work for you, please come by at your convenience to see if I am free to meet. I can usually find time for you! But if not, we will set-up an appointment. **I prefer not to set-up appointments via email. Please just show up!**

Concealed Carry: Firearms are not permitted in BIOL 1107 lecture because the course includes some students who are minors.

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 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 Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at chkidd@valdosta.edu. Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

Academic Integrity: I follow the Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures of the University and the Department of Biology's Policy on Plagiarism. For more information, refer to www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml and www.valdosta.edu/biology/documents/biologyplagiarism.doc "Academic Integrity/ Honesty" means performing all academic work without plagiarism, cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, receiving unauthorized or illegitimate assistance from any other person, or using any source of information that is not common knowledge.

Important information: A grade of C or higher may be necessary for your major.

NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Reach out to the Center for eLearning to received personalized technical support from Instructional Designers and Technologists:

- Call 229-245-6490
- Email blazeview@valdosta.edu

When you can't reach the Center for eLearning, contact GeorgiaVIEW for technical support. They are available 24/7, 365 days a year! Call 1-888-772-0423

Tentative Lecture Schedule, BIOL 1107, Section B, FALL 2023

Dates	Subject	Chapters	**HW** due by 11:59pm
UNIT 1: WHAT ARE THE TWO MAIN TYPES OF CELLS? HOW ARE THEY RELATED? WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?			
Aug 15 Aug 17	Introduction to cellular biology Cellular diversity	Introduction Ch 1	F - Extra Credit 1 due
Aug 22 Aug 24	Evolution of cells Cell structures & function	Ch 22.1 & 23.1 Ch 4	F - Achieve HW 1 due
Aug 29 Aug 31	Cell structure & function Membrane structure & basic chemistry	Ch 4 & 5.1 Ch 5.1 & 2	F - Achieve HW 2 due
Sept 5 Sept 7	Basic chemistry & Macromolecules part 1 Macromolecules part 2	Ch 2 & 3 Ch 3	M - Achieve HW 3 due F - Achieve HW 4 due
Sept 12 Sept 14	Catch-up or Review **EXAM 1 (Unit 1 material)**	Catch-up or Review **EXAM 1**	 R - EXAM
UNIT 2 – HOW DO CELLS DO THEIR JOBS & STAY ALIVE?			
Sept 19 Sept 21	Transport – Passive, Active, Bulk Enzymes, & Metabolism	Ch 5.2-5.4 Ch 6	F - Achieve HW 5 and Extra Credit 2 due
Sept 26 Sept 28	Cellular respiration Cellular respiration & photosynthesis	Ch 7 Ch 7 & Ch 8	F - Achieve HW 6 due
Oct 3 Oct 5	Photosynthesis Catch-up or Review	Ch 8	M - Achieve HW 7 due F – Achieve HW 8 due
Oct 10 Oct 12	FALL BREAK – No Class **EXAM 2 (Unit 2 material)**	----- **EXAM 2**	 R - EXAM
UNIT 3 – WHAT ARE GENES AND WHY ARE THEY SO IMPORTANT?			
Oct 17 Oct 19	Genes and Proteins Gene Expression	Ch 15 Ch 16	F - Achieve HW 9 & Extra Credit 3 due
Oct 24 Oct 26	The cell cycle – mitosis & cytokinesis Sexual life cycle – meiosis	Ch 10 Ch 14	F - Achieve HW 10
Oct 31 Nov 2	DNA replication Catch-up or Review	Ch 11 Catch-up or Review	W - Achieve HW 11
Nov 7 ----	**EXAM 3 (Unit 3 material)** -----	**EXAM 3** -----	T - EXAM
UNIT 4 – HOW DO GENES AFFECT ORGANISMAL STRUCTURE AND PHYSIOLOGY? HOW DO GENES EVOLVE? HOW DO CELLS SENSE THEIR ENVIRONMENT? HOW DO CELLS BECOME DISEASED?			
---- Nov 9	----- Mendelian Genetics	----- Ch 12	F - Achieve HW 12 due
Nov 14 Nov 16	Mutations Cell to cell communication	Ch 14 Ch 9	F - Achieve HW 13 & Extra Credit 4 due
Nov 21 Nov 23	Cancer THANKSGIVING BREAK	Ch 10 -----	M - Extra Credit 5 due
Nov 28 Nov 30	Catch-up or Review **EXAM 4 (Vocab & Notes from Nov 9-Nov 30)**	 **EXAM 4**	 R - EXAM
Finals Week	**Final Exam - Friday, Dec 8, 2:45-4:45 (Lectures Aug 15-Nov 28)**	**F - FINAL EXAM**	