

EVOLUTION AND DIVERSITY OF LIFE – BIOL 1010 ONLINE

Valdosta State University – College of Science and Mathematics – Biology Department

COURSE INFORMATION:

Title: Evolution and Diversity of Life [BIOL 1010 Section 02P, CRN 53618]
Instructor: Dr. J. Richard Carter [rcarter@valdosta.edu]
Office: Bailey Science Center 1040, Valdosta State University
Phone: 229-333-5338

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the diversity of life on Earth with special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary processes and relationships. **Co-requisite BIOL 1020L ONLINE:** The online lab is specifically designed to complement your understanding of the concepts covered in the course through simulations and discussions. Students taking the online 1010 should also be taking the online 1020 Lab.

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/academics/general-education-council/ge-outcomes.php>)

Specifically, students will:

- a. Learn about the nature of science and how to build scientific knowledge;
- b. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of evolution and how it relates to biodiversity;
- c. Effectively organize, communicate and apply their knowledge of biology to their everyday lives.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook: *Concepts of Biology* from OpenStax College, ISBN 1-938168-11-9,
<https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/concepts-of-biology>

Readings will be assigned from *Concepts of Biology*. The text is available free online, in a variety of formats, and a print version or mobile app is available to purchase.

Additional readings and videos will regularly be assigned and made available via Blazeview.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Learning is not a passive activity in which you simply absorb and repeat back facts given by an instructor. Rather, learning requires you to take an active role. In fact, to truly understand science you must construct your own personal interpretation of the concepts and store them away in a form that is meaningful to you.

Students will be assigned reading material. Facts and vocabulary are important to any discipline, though I ask you to go beyond simple memorization of details and to interconnect those facts to concepts, applications and problems; to ask meaningful questions; to test well developed hypotheses; to develop a range of intellectual abilities, including critical thinking, logical argument, appropriate uses of evidence and interpretation of varied kinds of information; and to communicate your understanding in writing and orally to multiple audiences.

COMMUNICATION:

Email: Email is the simplest and primary way to contact me outside of class and is the quickest way for me to contact you as well. You are required to check and maintain your Valdosta State University email account. **You may try the Blazeview email system first**, but all email should be sent directly to rcarter@valdosta.edu using your VSU issued email account, if a response is required within 24 hours.

Blazeview: We will use Blazeview throughout the semester as a tool for sharing information. All official course information is located on Blazeview, and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website. In addition, your instructor will post ANNOUNCEMENTS in Blazeview with updates, etc.

Notes on emailing your professor:

In order to get a reply to your emails you must do the following in your email communication:

- Include your course number and section in the subject line of any email (BIOL 1010 P).
- Communicate as you would at work and in a professional manner. This includes using proper grammar and spelling, a greeting and salutation, and be sure to include your fullname at the end of all emails.

GRADING PROCEDURES: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following tables:

Course Component	% of Course Grade	Final Letter Grade
Exams	65%	A: 90 – 100%
Participation	20%	B: 80 – 89%
Quizzes	15%	C: 70 – 79%
Total	100%	D: 60 – 69%
		F: < 60%

Exams: There are three regular exams scheduled throughout the semester, each will cover the material for the specific module. While exams will not be explicitly cumulative, you will be expected to carry over the knowledge from one module to the next.

Quizzes: Quizzes must be completed by the due date. Remember, technology does not always work when we want it to. It is your responsibility to get assignments done on time, and you should not assume that the internet will be working an hour before the due date. Quizzes will focus primarily on vocabulary and concepts covered in the readings and videos.

Participation: Participation will be scored based on your response and engagement in online discussion boards. Participation will be scored for two types of online discussions: **Individual Response Discussion** and **Open Content Discussion**. Each type of discussion board will make up 10% of your final grade for a total of 20% coming from your online participation. Your responses will be scored based on the Discussion Board Rubrics provided on Blazeview. Additional discussion boards are provided to allow for general questions about course logistics and general conversation.

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. 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 (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>).

ACCESS OFFICE:

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.

FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT:

It is illegal to release personal information about an individual to others. Therefore grades, averages, and other personal information about any person will not be released to another person over email.

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, 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., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER:

The Academic Success Center (ASC) at Valdosta State University is located on the first floor of the Odum Library and is available to all VSU 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.