

BIOL 1030 - ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY SYLLABUS Summer 2023 – Online Section P60 (CRN 50695)

Access to the class via VSU Blazeview begins June 7th, 2023

Lecture: BIOL 1030 - 3 Credits

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This is an online version of courses meeting core requirements as listed in the VSU student catalogue as described below:

BIOL 1030. Introduction to Biology: Organismal Biology. 3 Hours.

Corequisite: **BIOL 1040L**. This course cannot be taken for credit toward the major in biology. 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.

This course focusses on the chemical and cellular level of organization along with genetics of living things.

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 chemical and 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:

Textbook: The textbook for this course is available free online and as a download. Alternatively, you may purchase a hardcopy book directly online or from the VSU bookstore. The text is: Concepts of Biology from OpenStax College, ISBN 1-938168-11-9, and can be accessed at <https://openstax.org/details/books/concepts-biology> Course content will be drawn from assigned readings in the Concepts of Biology text. **The text is available free online, in a variety of formats, and a print version or mobile app are available to purchase.**

Lab: The co-requisite Biology 1040 ONLINE lab requires that you purchase a license to access online laboratory simulations provided by "Labster"™ Company (<https://www.labster.com/>). See the lab syllabus and instructions posted on Blazeview.

Exams: There are **five** scheduled online exams during the term.

- Exams and quizzes are online and done on the class Blazeview site.
- Exams must be taken using a computer or iPad. **Chromebooks will not work for exams on Blazeview.**
- There will be one exam for each module of course content.
- The exams will be available for 48 hours from when they first open.
 - Students may access the exam only once and only one attempt is allowed.
 - If a student leaves the exam before completion, the exam will lock.
- Each exam will be multiple choice and will cover the material from the previous exam through the current exam. Exams will cover all reading and posted lecture Powerpoint presentations in detail.
- The lowest of the five exam scores will be dropped and will not be included in your final grade calculation.
- The average of 4 exam scores will be worth 60% of your final total grade.
- **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.** If you must miss an exam for any reason, this will automatically be the lowest score and will not be included in your final grade.
- Some exam questions are a little more difficult than others and require you to think a little harder.

Quizzes: There are online vocabulary quizzes for each assigned text chapter. These **quizzes are not a reflection of test questions.** They are designed to simply make sure you understand the vocabulary necessary to do well on the exams. The average of the quiz scores will be worth 25% of your final total grade.

Discussion/response: For each module students will be required to research a topic of interest and find a scientific discovery/breakthrough that is related to what topic you choose and write a discussion post describing what the discovery was and how it relates to the subject you chose.

For example: If you found the chapter on DNA interesting, you could talk about anything from the discovery of its structure by Rosalind Franklin or even the human genome project. You can discuss anything as long as it is related to something in the module we are in. If we are in module 3, do not discuss a topic in module 1.

As a part of your grade, you will also have to respond to at least one other student with how the discovery they chose might have helped your discovery or how your discovery topic might have helped theirs. This will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Syllabus quiz/intro discussion: There will be a syllabus quiz open at the beginning of class that will count as attendance verification. If completed before the due date, then you will receive an extra 2.5 points on top of your final grade. There will also be an intro discussion post that will also give you an extra 2.5 points on top of your final grade if completed before the due date.

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: The final grade depends solely on the student’s performance on class requirements during the scheduled class term. There is no “extra credit” during the term nor after it closes. The instructor will not entertain any discussions about grade changes unless there has been a calculation error either during the term or after it ends.

To calculate your 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 = + _____
Quiz average x 0.25 = + _____

Discussion/resp. x 0.15 = + _____

Overall class score = _____

Office Hours & 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. All email should be sent directly to joshuabrown@valdosta.edu You are required to check and maintain your Valdosta State University email account regularly. I do not recommend you use Blazeview to contact me, there is a chance I will not see your message for an extended period of time.

Blazeview: We will be using Blazeview throughout the semester as a tool for sharing grade information. I will post course tentative grades as well as any necessary class materials. Note that I use the Blazeview site grade sheet **only to report grades** to you as they come in. I do not use it to actually calculate grades. I use a separate spreadsheet. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.

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.

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.