

EVOLUTION AND DIVERSITY OF LIFE- BIO 1010 Section A

Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION:

- a. **Title:** Evolution and Diversity of Life(BIOL 1010 Section A)
- b. **Instructor:** Dr. Timothy Henkel (tphenkel@valdosta.edu)
- c. **Office:** Biology Annex, 210 W Moore Street
- d. **Office Hours:** M-F: 11:00-12:00 pm and by appointment
- e. **Class Meets:** M-F 8:00 – 11:50, Bailey Science Center 1023

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the diversity of life on Earth with a special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary processes and relationship
-Co-requisite BIOL 1020L

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 evolution and how it relates to biodiversity;
- c. Effectively organize, communicate and apply their knowledge of biology to their everyday lives.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook: Biology: Concepts and Investigations, Mariëlle Hoefnagels – 2nd ed. (includes access to Connect Website)

You are required to have access to the course textbook in order to complete assigned readings. Readings are to be completed before class in order to be able to participate in class activities. Homework and exam questions will be based on material covered in class as well as readings from the text. A copy of the textbook is placed in the course reserves at Odum Library.

In addition, students are required to access to the Connect website. Access to the site is included with the textbook package available at the VSU bookstore or can be purchased separately from the Connect website.

You can register for a **free, three week trial** of the electronic textbook and the Connect website using your email address. Directions for this are available in the BIOL 1010 Blazeview website.

We will be using personal response system in class. Each student should have their own individual ResponseCard clicker in order to actively participate in class.

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 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 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. I will only communicate with you through this official email account.

Blazeview: We will be using Blazeview throughout the course as a tool for sharing information. I will post course notes after each class to the website, as well as provide additional resources, readings, and homework assignments. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.

Notes on emailing your professor:

In order to get a timely 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.
- 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 full name at the end of all emails.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend all scheduled course activities, and participate in class discussions and activities. Because of the nature and structure of the class, attendance is vital to your success in the course. Attendance will be monitored based on daily quizzes and scheduled exams.

We will strictly adhere to VSU's policy on attendance which states: "A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes (3 days of class) of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course" (Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2012, p. 89).

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

Course Component	% of Course Grade
Exams (best 4 of 5)	80%
Homework	10%
In Class Quizzes	10%
Total	100%

Final Letter Grade

A: 90 – 100%
B: 80 – 89%
C: 70 – 79%
D: 60 – 69%
F: < 60%

Exams: There are five exams scheduled throughout the course, each will cover the material from the end of the previous exam through the current exam. Exams will be given during the first 50 minutes of a class period.

The lowest exam score of the five exams will not be included in your final grade calculation. The fifth exam is scheduled during the final exam period of the course (June 1) and 50% of the questions on the exam will be cumulative from the all of the material covered in the course.

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. **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.**

Homework: Out of class coursework will be regularly assigned. Homework must be completed before the start of class on the due date.

Quizzes: Ten in class quizzes will be at any point during all class sessions, excluding exam days, starting May 11. Quizzes will cover material from the previous day and the current day in class. If you are not in class at the time of the quiz, you will not get credit for completing it.

There will be NO MAKE-UPS on quizzes or homework and NO EXTRA CREDIT!

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, homework, 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>).

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: A classroom policy will be developed by the course during the first class meeting and will be the standard for behavior in the class. The policy will be posted to Blazevue and enforced during class sessions. Violations with the policy will result in removal from the class session, and repeated occurrences may result in grade reduction or permanent removal from the course.

ACCESS OFFICE: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).

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 or over email.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER: The Student Success Center (SSC) at Valdosta State University is located in Langdale Residence Hall above the Tech Shop and is available to all students. The SSC provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including biology, chemistry, math, writing, and foreign languages. The SSC 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.

Tentative Topics and Reading Assignments

Date	Topic	Chapters
10-May	How is science a way of knowing?	1
11-May	Why are there different environments?	38
14-May	What is a population?	36
15-May	Exam 1. What is a community and how do they change?	37
16-May	How do matter and energy move through ecosystems?	37
17-May	What makes organisms different? Why do populations evolve?	7 11
18-May	Exam 2. How do populations evolve?	11
21-May	What is a species? What is the evidence for evolution?	13,12
22-May	How can we classify organisms?	12
23-May	Exam 3. Prokaryotes	16
24-May	Protists and Fungi	17,19
25-May	Plants	18
28-May	<i>Memorial Day - No class</i>	
29-May	Exam 4. Animals	20
30-May	Where have all the organisms gone?	39
31-May	Bringing it all together	
1-Jun	Exam 5	

Exam Dates are Set. The schedule of topics is tentative and may be changed.