

BIOL 4000 Topics in Biology I: Climate Change Biology
SECTION A
Maymester 2011
DEPT. OF BIOLOGY;
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES;
VALDOSTA STATE UNIV.
CREDIT HOURS: 3

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Matthew Waters

OFFICE: BSC 1106

OFFICE HOURS –

PHONE – 333-5760 (229-328-6007)

EMAIL: mwaters@valdosta.edu

LECTURE HOURS: MTWRF 2-4:50 PM, Bailey 1024

REQUIRED TEXT: Climate Change Biology by Lee Hannah, Academic Press
ISBN: 0123741820

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An overview of climate change, how biological organisms are used to study past climate change, and how climate change affects biological organisms in recent time periods. Prerequisites: BIOL 1107 and BIOL 1108 OR either BIOL 1107/1108 and GEOG 3150 OR permission of the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

Valdosta State University (VSU) Department of Biology educational outcomes for this course include: numbers 1, 2, 3 (in part), and 5. University (VSU) educational outcomes for this course include: numbers 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

COURSE POLICIES

You are expected to attend all lectures. If a lecture is missed, **you** are responsible for obtaining any notes and handouts given that day. Reading of the appropriate lecture chapters and any lab materials should be completed to coming to class.

Assigned text material may be on the lecture exams; I will inform you during lecture as to the specific topics, tables, figures, and/or text pages for which you will be responsible.

Midterm: May 21 is the last day to drop the class with a passing grade (WP) regardless of your point total. You cannot drop the class after midterm unless

LECTURE EXAMS:

Lecture exams will be essay, short answer, and vocabulary definitions. Exams are not strictly comprehensive, although you will need to know the previous material to answer some questions on the future exam(s). Later topics and concepts build on previously discussed material; thus, the course is much like a story that builds on previous chapters.

Final grades are determined as a percentage of total points possible (400):

360 and above (90-100%) =A

320-359 (80-89%) =B

280-319 (70-79%) =C

240-279 (60-69%) =D

239 and below (below 60%) =F

Extra Credit: I DO NOT give extra credit. Please do not ask!

GRADING POLICIES/ASSESSMENT

Lecture:

A. Three (3) lecture exams will be given during the semester, including the final exam. The final exam will **not** be strictly comprehensive (as noted earlier). Each exam is worth 100 points **Make-up exams are not an automatic right;** you must notify me within **24** hours of the missed exam, and provide a **valid reason**, or you will forfeit your opportunity for a make-up. The profe

Excessive cell phone usage or computer usage not used for the class will be considered a lack of participation in the class. In addition, failure to attend class without a valid excuse is also considered poor participation. Anyone accessing these electronic devices DURING AN EXAM will be given a zero for that exam grade. The student may be subject to further discipline, up to and including, permanent dismissal and failure of the class.

Cheating: Cheating is not permitted. Any student caught cheating on a lecture or lab exam will receive a failing grade (**F**) for the course, and will be reported to the Dean of Student Affairs. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: possessing written information on paper, body parts, clothes, etc. pertaining to the exam; accessing cell phones, pagers, or other electronic communication devices; unauthorized entry to the lab after a practical has been set up; as well as other means not specifically listed above.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA; also known as the Buckley Amendment): *By law*, it is not legal to release personal information about an individual to others. This means that grades, averages, test scores, and other information can only be released to that individual; thus, **exam scores, point totals, or final grades will not be issued in any unsecure manner, such as being posted, given verbally via telephone, or emailed. This is to ensure your privacy.**

Students with Disabilities: Students requiring special classroom accommodations or modifications because of **documented** disabilities should discuss these needs with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Disabled students not registered with the Access Office for Students with Disabilities should contact the program officer. Phone numbers are listed in the Campus Directory.