

EVOLUTION AND DIVERSITY OF LIFE BIOL 1010 Section A

Spring 2014 Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION:

- a. **Title:** Evolution and Diversity of Life (BIOL 1010 Section A)
- b. **Instructor:** Dr. Timothy Henkel (

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

Do NOT email using the Blazeview system, all email should be sent directly to tphenkel@valdosta.edu.

Blazeview: We will be using Blazeview throughout the semester 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 and graduate assistants

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 1010A).

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 during your registered section. Because of the nature and structure of the class, attendance is vital to your success in the

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

Course Component	% of Course Grade
Exams (best 3 of 4)	55%
Homework	15%
In Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Final Letter Grade

A: 90 t 100%
B: 80 t 89%
C: 70 t 79%
D: 60 t 69%
E: < 60%

Exams: There are four regular exams scheduled throughout the semester, each will cover the material from the end of the previous exam through the current exam. The lowest exam score of the four exams will not be included in your final grade calculation. The final exam is scheduled during the final exam period of the course and will include new material as well as cumulative material covered in the course.

All exams will use the ResponseCard clicker to submit your responses. It is your responsibility to have your clicker on exam day, ensure it is in working condition, and that you know how to use it.

If you must miss a regularly scheduled 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. It is your responsibility to get the assignment dates as they are announced in class. Homework 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. Online assignments are typically due

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Tentative Topics and Reading Assignments

Date	Topic	Chapter Reading	
Jan	14	How will this course work?	
	16	How is science a way of knowing?	1
	21-23	Why are there different environments?	38
	28	What is a population?	36
	30	How do populations grow?	36
Feb	4	Exam 1	
	6	What is a community?	37
	11	How do trophic interactions alter community structure?	37
	13-20	How do matter and energy move through ecosystems?	37
Mar	25	Exam 2	
	27-4	What make6	