

(You can even count up by reading from the bottom if you are a David Letterman fan)

If you want to earn an "A" and/or do well in this course, you need to think about your own approach to studying. You will not even pass unless you work hard so (before you waste your time and someone's tuition money) consider the following:

choice! It is your
behind and need to dig yourself out of a big hole. – Do not fool around and suddenly decide to work after you get

– The *Connect* chapter assignments are due on specific days, before class when the lectures will begin covering the specific topic. Read the book so that you will come in knowing how to spell words and have some familiarity with key ideas.

– The information in class sessions will not be identical to your book. The scientific topics will be explained differently and additional information will be covered. Think as we go along, and if you do not understand - ask questions. Clicker prompts are designed to get you thinking, so you can evaluate your own understanding of the subject.
– If you use a spiral for class notes, have another folder where you can assemble all of your papers and outside information in preparation for studying for the tests.

Think about the information covered to be sure that you understand it all. If not, read up on the subject in your text or on the Web or come in for help on anything you do not understand. If you miss something in lecture, leave a space in your notes where you can look it up on the web or come to office hours for an explanation. By going over your notes to be sure they make sense and writing a paragraph in your own words, you will be way ahead when it is time for a test. to be sure you have mastered the material. Find Websites on the topic for more information. If you know you need to work hard for good grades, take detailed study notes on the book modules to reinforce the concepts.

– Make contact with a student that sits next to you in class. This is so that you can quickly look over at their notes if you miss something during lecture. Get notes from them if you have to miss class, and check on the specifics of assignments by phone or email. You can also study together for the exams.

– Construct a list of the terms you do not know and define them in your own words. As you go through LearnSmart, take note of concepts that are challenging. Drill yourself until you are sure you know these words. If any are particularly troublesome, try writing a sentence that uses the term. and there is plenty of it!

I am making a default assumption that you are in college to get an education. Becoming an educated person takes work, and I expect you to make a sincere effort to learn. The most important contribution to your success will be your personal work ethic because the grade will be based as much on the homework as the test scores. Every assignment has been developed to help you build a deeper understanding of the scientific content that is presented in the class sessions. Every examination will evaluate your conceptual knowledge, which requires far more depth than just memorizing factoids. I set the bar high in my courses because I want you to learn both the science content and the satisfaction of achieving something that took resolve. You need to take the time to read this document because it spells out important information about the course. If you do not read this, you are putting yourself behind everyone in the class who has done so because they will understand more than you about what to expect within the nontraditional format of the course...

We are going to use the _____ for class. There is a certain standard of etiquette in higher education that is very different from the way you interact with your friends while texting. My VSU email is for emergencies.

My title is _____ and start any email with that included in a greeting.

The first thing you should do is tell me _____

The next sentence should contain the _____

After you explain yourself using _____ & spelling – This is not a "text message"

– I do not expect garble from people who are working toward a college diploma

Close the message properly showing you know the _____

Most students come to class to learn and I will not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning environment. Come to class prepared to concentrate & pay attention. Since some people may not know what is expected in a college classroom, the following rules should make this clear. If I must stop class and speak to you about a disruption, I may ask to see you after class, and if it happens more than once you will be told to leave. I will not hesitate to refer students to the Dean of Students for repeated offenses.

1. Attend to your personal needs before class and refrain from getting up during class unless it is urgent.
2. Class will start promptly at 2:00, please have your notebooks open and be ready to pay attention and begin.
3. Once class begins, refrain from side conversations. If you are asking about a word in lecture, make it short & quiet.
4. If a classmate is being rude or distracting you, let them know or say "Shhhhhhhh" loud enough for me to hear.
5. The VSU rules are no eating or drinking in the lecture hall. Water bottles are fine.
6. You are welcome to have your laptops, pads, & phones in class to record lectures, look up terms, and photograph slides. However, this is not an invitation to skype, take calls, or read & send texts. If anyone is bothering you with such behavior report them to me after class or by email.
7. Class will end at 3:15, unless you see "THE END" on a slide before, so do not pack up & rustle your packs before this.

Learning Management System - Your VSU Account: This will be used for all class communication, writing assignments, and access to various resources. (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/blazeview-d2l.php>)

Course Management System - This is a complete electronic version of the book and a versatile software product for the graded, adaptive pre-reading *LearnSmart*, practice assignments and pre-test quizzes.

Marielle Hoefnagels -Biology: Concepts & Investigations 4th Ed. (2018) McGraw Hill in the *Connect* Platform (eBook & eLearning) Special arrangements have been made between the Bookstore and the publisher to get you a big discount on the price (\$68.00) which has been billed to your Blazer account. You need to register through BV to use the Connect program for your online grades to be sent directly to BV.

Attendance*	10%
Online Assignments	
Blazeview Personal Essays & Other Assignments	20%
LearnSmart	10%
Connect "Practice" – Interactives (Best scores of 3 tries)	5%
Connect "Pretest" - Multiple Choice Questions (Best scores of 3 tries)	5%
Tests	
3 Unit Tests (30%) & Comprehensive Final Exam (20%)	50%

You are expected to attend all class meetings. A class list will be passed around every day for you to initial. Being tardy or leaving early 3 times is counted as an unexcused absence. If you arrive late for class, go up the stairs and enter the back of the room, sit in the back section on the right and be sure to contact the TA so that you are marked on his Tardy list. The TA will be in charge of Attendance and it is up to him to decide whether absences will be excused or not. If you do miss class for any reason, you are responsible for obtaining notes from another student. Make contact with a classmate and exchange phone numbers early in the

What has made the natural sciences so effective at unraveling some of the mysteries of life & the universe?
How does the Theory of Evolution explain the History of Life, Biological Diversity, & the Interdependence of Living Organisms?

the unique features of the natural sciences and the characteristics of living organisms.
the evolutionary processes that have been influential throughout the history of life.
the basic characteristics, classification