

Spring 2021 Course Syllabus
Biology 1010: The Evolution & Diversity of Life

Department of Biology, College of Science & Mathematics, Valdosta State University

Face -to Face Meetings in the Student Union Ballrooms on Tuesday & Thursday from 2:00-3:15

Synchronous Projection on *Collaborate* in Blazevue & Lectures Will Be Recorded

Late Arrival to Either Presentation, after a 10 Minute Grace Period, Will be Considered an Absence

BIOL 1010A: Course Schedule & Assignments

Week	Topic	LearnSmart Due Dates	Other Assignments
The Natural World			
Jan 12	Levels of Organization		Readings in Blazeview
14	Realms & Sciences	Ch 1	Alphabetical Exercise
Patterns in Nature			
19	Colors, Shapes, Form & Function		Academic Integrity & Student Info Forms
21	Causes & Effects, Balance for Equilibrium		Comments on Reading Modules In BV
Opening Test Jan 22-25			
The Nature of Science			
26	History		
28	Reasoning		Essay on Science as a Human Activity
Sex & Gender			
Feb 2	Reproduction	Ch 35	
4	Cultural Constructs		
The Ecosphere			
9	Earth - Cycles & Timing	Ch 39	Essay on Sex & Gender
11			

BIOL 1010A: Assessment Plan

Grade Distribution:

Attendance* (& Participation in PAL Sessions - if Required)		10%
Course Introduction		10%
LearnSmart & Attend a PAL Learning Session		20%
Alphabetical Exercise, Student Information & Academic Integrity Forms	30%	
Opening Test	1/22-25	50%
Coursework		30%
16 LearnSmart Chapter Assignments		10%
3 Pretest Practice Activities		10%
6 Essays & Several BV Assignments		10%
Unit Tests		30%
I: Nature of Science	2/19-22	10%
II: Evolution	3/25-29	10%
III: Biodiversity	4/22-26	10%
Cumulative Final Exam	5/4-8	20%

*Attendance: You are expected to attend all class meetings either in person or synchronously on *Collaborate*. Being tardy or leaving early is counted as an unexcused absence. The TAs will be in charge of Attendance. If you do miss class for any reason, you are responsible for viewing the recording on *Collaborate*. Anyone who misses more than 20% of the class sessions will receive a failing grade for the course. Here is how your grade will be calculated:

No Absences at ALL	125%
1 Absence	100%
2 Absences	75%
3 Absences	50%
4 Absences	25%
More than 4	0%
More than 6	Course Failure

Text: Marielle Hoefnagels -Biology: Concepts & Investigations 4th Ed. (2018) McGraw Hill in the *Connect* Platform

There will be a direct link in Blazeview and your grades will be in BV as well. Special arrangements have been made between the VSU Bookstore and the publisher to get you a big discount on the price (Cost ~\$70.00 rather than ~\$150) of this which has been billed to your Blazer account. You automatically were enrolled for the electronic version of the book.

Required Technology Platforms:

LMS=*Blazeview* (BV): 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>)

CMS=McGraw Hill (MH) *Connect*: Course Management System - This is a complete electronic version of the book and a versatile software product for the graded, adaptive pre-reading *LearnSmart*, Pretest Practice assignments.

Online Adaptive Learning Assignments: We will use the *Connect* software program from McGraw Hill to provide reading and questions in LS (*LearnSmart*) which is an adaptive program that adjusts to every student's individual skills. If you pay attention and learn as much as you can in LS you will get far more out of the lectures. These also comprise 10% of your grade. There are also Pretest Practice assignments that give you designed preparation by working on the course content. They are very important because they help you learn the information and prepare for the tests. Your success in this course depends on your completion of both types of these online assignments. Effort on these tasks is directly correlated to the grades students receive. You waste the time you spend doing these activities if you do not concentrate on learning as you do them.

The *LearnSmart* (LS) prompts are lower order questions that drill on vocabulary and basic concepts. Think about the questions when you read the prompts and what the answer is. Indicate how confident you really are. If you get the question wrong, ask yourself why you did not know it. That type of thinking is the best thing you can do to improve your learning. If you look back and it is right in the book, consider the fact that you might need to read more carefully. *LearnSmart* is an adaptive program. The number of points you get and the number of times you see a topic depends on getting the correct answer and how certain you are that you know the answer. Be sure to use the Confidence prompts carefully. You get the most points if you say you are "sure" and get the answer correct. You will also finish faster if you do that. However, if you say you are "sure" and get it wrong, you lose big points. If you get it wrong with one of the other prompts, the penalty is not as bad. You will get other questions on that topic or the same question until you master it. You can go back and drill on *LearnSmart* as often as you want after the deadlines.

You can start as early as you want for all of the chapters in each unit to be sure you get the chapters completed on time. Any online assignments on *Connect* must be done by the deadlines which are the day we cover the topic in class. The dates are listed on the second page of this syllabus and will be posted as the due date in McGraw Hill. You can do these up until 1:00 pm before class. Late submissions will not be accepted. No Exceptions! As you do LS, jot down words on questions you miss so that you can be sure to look for those explanations in lecture. If something is still unclear, be sure to ask. Do not expect questions like these on the test because those will be conceptual and require higher order thinking. So that you can prepare for the tests and exam, there will be a *Connect Practice* interactive activity toward the end of each unit with higher order questions, so your grades on these should give you an idea whether you are prepared for the unit assessment. You may do these unit assignments 3 times to get the most practice and only your best

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BIOL 1010A: Course Objectives & Requirements

Essential Questions:

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 and Biological Diversity including *Homo sapiens*?

Learning Outcomes = Students will be expected to:

I. Distinguish the unique features of the natural sciences and the characteristics of living organisms.

II. Describe the evolutionary processes that have been influential throughout the history of life.

III. Compare and Contrast the basic characteristics, classification, & ecology of living organisms.

Proof of mastery will be demonstrated through:

I. Satisfactory completion of assigned coursework that includes adaptive learning exercises associated with text chapters

II. Competent written essays on selected course topics

III. Passing Scores on 4 multiple choice tests and a Cumulative Final Exam

Educational Outcomes: This class is designed to fulfill three of the eleven general education credit hours required in Section D1 (Science, Mathematics, and Technology) of the VSU core curriculum as prescribed by the University System of Georgia. The course will address the VSU Learning Outcome that states: "*Students will demonstrate understanding of the*

Expectations of Academic Integrity

