

**BIOL 1010 B & BB: The Evolution & Diversity of Life  
FALL 2022 SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICIES**

**Lecture: MWF 9:00 am-9:50 am (1011 Bailey Science Center)**

**Instructor: Dr. Mark Blackmore**

**Office: Bailey Science Center 2218**

**Office Hours: MWF 1-2 p.m. or by appointment**

**Contact information**

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**Course description: BIOL 1010. Introduction to Biology: The Evolution and Diversity of Life. 3 Hours.**

This course cannot be taken for credit toward the major in biology. An introduction to the diversity of life on Earth with a special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary processes and relationships.

**Scope & Objectives:** The principal objective of this course is to provide a general understanding of biological processes, organization and diversity for students not majoring in the sciences. Students will be introduced to scientific principles and the methods scientists use to enhance our understanding of the living world. This meets the Learning Outcome 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. Mastery of this goal should enable students to interpret and evaluate biological issues that are relevant to their lives.

**Required**

100 points) will be counted as the equivalent of one exam. Five lecture examinations (100 points each) covering the lecture material and assigned reading will be administered during the semester (dates listed below). These exams will consist of some combination of multiple-choice and true-false questions. Diagrams and questions requiring matching also may be included. The lowest of these lecture exams will be dropped. A comprehensive **Final Exam will be administered at 10:15 a.m. on Friday, December 9.** The Final Exam will be weighted the same as one lecture exam (100 points = 20% of the final class grade).

Tentative dates for reading assignments and lecture exams are given below and students are expected to consider these dates when planning their study schedule for the semester. *There will be no make-up exams without prior consent of the instructor.* Students who miss an exam for legitimate, unavoidable reasons (eg. emergency hospitalization; death in the immediate family) should contact the instructor ***immediately*** and must document the reason for the absence. All exams and quizzes will be comprehensive but each test will emphasize the material most recently covered.

**Grading:** Three types of assessments will be used to determine the final grade in this class: Homework Quizzes; Lecture Exams and an Optional Final Exam. Chapter Homework Quiz scores are 20% of the course grade (100 points) and ***must*** be counted toward the overall course grade. Lecture Exams are either 60% (300 points) or 80% (400 points) depending on whether the Final Exam is taken. There will be 5 Exams (each worth 100 points) and the lowest score will automatically be dropped. You may elect to drop 2 Exams, in which case the Final must be taken. The optional final exam is comprehensive, meaning that it will cover topics from throughout the course. If taken, it will be 20% (100 points). Final course grades will be based on the percentage of 500 points earned. Students earning 90-100% of the possible points (*i.e.*, 450-500) will receive an A; 80-89% -B; 70-79% -C; 60-69% -D, and below 60% an F. Grades will only be poG{D}50123 Tm0 G{onl}-4(0912 0 6128(f)-3(r98eW\*nBT/F2 111 439.87 659.14 Tm0 g0 G{F}-8(r)9(i)J{ET}Qq0.

**Special notes to students:**

To protect the privacy of each student, grades will not be posted at any time nor will they be revealed over the telephone. This is university policy. Students are advised to consult the VSU web site for more information. Students are able to view their grades in the Gradebook of BlazeVIEW D2L.

**Policy on cell phone, smart phones, and other internet-enabled devices:**

**Students should NOT use these devices during lectures (turn them OFF) and they are prohibited during examinations. *Use of any electronic device during examinations will result in automatic grade of 0 (zero) for that exam.***

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating, and plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are impermissible. This includes the use of electronic devices, unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam. 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. See also:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>

<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsua.php>

**Special needs:**

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit or email: [access@valdosta.edu](mailto:access@valdosta.edu). To request reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and childbirth, contact Christina Kidd, Student Conduct Coordinator at [chkidd@valdosta.edu](mailto:chkidd@valdosta.edu). Please note, you will be required to provide documentation from an appropriately licensed medical professional indicating the requested accommodations are medically necessary.

**Administration of online Student Opinion of Instruction (SOI):**

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage.

**Title IX Statement:** Valdosta State University (VSU) upholds all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, political affiliation, or disability. The University prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal funding. VSU considers sex discrimination in any form to be a serious offense. Title IX refers to all forms of sex discrimination

