

# Spring 2022 Course Syllabus

## Biology 1010: The Evolution & Diversity of Life

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

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Office: 1096 Bailey Science Center

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Student Hours:

Monday 1:00-2:00 in 1043 BSC

Tuesday 3:30-4:30 in 1043 BSC

Grad TAs: Attendance = David J. Davis – [djdavis@valdosta.edu](mailto:djdavis@valdosta.edu) Essays = Emily Bishop – [embishop@valdosta.edu](mailto:embishop@valdosta.edu)

PAL Facilitator: Jacob Bruch – [jtbruch@valdosta.edu](mailto:jtbruch@valdosta.edu) (Room 1043 BSC: Mon & Thurs 5:00-6:00 & Fri 12-1:00)

ASC Designated Tutors: Located in the Library on the Main Floor – Turn Right at the Front Desk

Juliannie Hoare (Bio Major) [jahoare@valdosta.edu](mailto:jahoare@valdosta.edu) (Sunday 3 pm - 7 pm, Tuesday 9 am - 10 am, Thursday 9 am - 10 am, Friday 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm)

Alejandro Otero (Former 1010 student) [ajotero@valdosta.edu](mailto:ajotero@valdosta.edu) (Mon & Wed: 12-3 and Tues & Thurs: 11-1:30)

**1. Course Description:** This is a large lecture class with over 200 students. There will be three Units (I. Biological Science, II. Evolution, III. Biodiversity) that each end with a midterm/unit test. The scientific content is all interrelated and will be covered on a comprehensive final exam. There are several topics that will relate aspects of the natural sciences to socially significant issues. These subjects will be an integral part of the co



## BIOL 1010A: Assessment Plan

### Grade Distribution:

Attendance*		10%
Coursework		40%
In Class Exercises	5%	
Essays	10%	
14 SmartBook Chapter Assignments	15%	
3 Pretest Practice Activities	10%	
Unit Tests		30%
I: Biological Science	10%	
II: Evolution	10%	
III: Biodiversity	10%	
Cumulative Final Exam		20%
Extra Credit: Attendance & Participation at 5 PAL Sessions = 2 points on your Final Grade (Every 5 = 2 points)		

**\*Attendance:** You are expected to attend all class meetings. Being tardy or leaving early is counted as an unexcused absence. The GTA will be in charge of Attendance. If you do miss class for any reason, YOU are responsible for obtaining the notes from a classmate. Anyone who misses more than 20% of the class sessions will receive a failing grade for the course. Here is how your attendance 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 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. (2021) 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 ~\$74.50 rather than ~\$150) of this which has been billed to your Blazer account. You automatically were enrolled for the electronic version of the book through the Day1 plan.

### 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 *SmartBook*, Pretest Practice assignments.

**Online Adaptive Learning Assignments:** We will use the *Connect* software program from McGraw Hill to provide reading and questions in SB (*SmartBook*) 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 SB you will get far more out of the lectures. These also comprise 15% of your grade. There are also Pretest Practice assignments worth another 15% 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 *SmartBook* (SB) 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. *SmartBook* 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 *SmartBook* 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 night before we cover the topic in class. The dates are listed on the course calendar 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 SB, 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 Pretest 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 score will count. Find your Metacognitive score in the report section and compare it to the grade you want on a test because there is usually a high correlation between these and how people score on the tests.

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# BIOL 1010A: Course Objectives & Requirements

# Expectations of Academic Integrity

Academic Honesty:

# Top Ten" Strategies for Success in Biology 1010

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

## # 1. Decide that You Plan to Succeed & Work Consistently for a Good Grade

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

## # 2. Pre-Read the Chapters & Do *SmartBook Exercises*

Prepare yourself for class by reviewing the specific topic. These chapters will help to know how to spell words and have some familiarity with key ideas.

## #3. Attend Class in Person and Take Detailed Notes

The information in class sessions will not be identical to your textbook. The scientific topics will be explained differently, and additional information will be covered. If you do not understand something - ask questions. Keep an Orderly Notebook – If you use a spiral for class notes, have another folder where you can assemble any papers and outside information.

## #4. Reread Your Notes after Class

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 attend help sessions for an explanation. Find Websites on the topic for more information. Watch the class recordings over if you need to reinforce the concepts.

## #5. Get to Know Someone in the Class

Make contact with at least one other student in class. This is so that you can ask them if you do not understand assignments and check on the specifics by phone or email.

## #6. Make a Vocabulary List of Important Terminology

Construct a list of the terms you do not know, define them in your own words, and use them in the essays if you can. If any are particularly troublesome, try writing a sentence that uses the term. You must understand the "language of biology" and there is plenty of it!

## #7. Use the Assignments to Be Certain You Know the Content

The *Blazeview* papers prompt you to think outside of the box and will reinforce the content. Also, be sure to keep up with the assignments (which are not accepted if they are late).

## #8. Get Additional Help