

Quizzes and in-class assignments will be given throughout the semester, which is why attendance is required. Generally, quizzes or in-class assignments in lecture cannot be made up if lecture is missed. If you miss the lecture and I approved your absence the total number of points possible to you will be reduced. If you miss quizzes and/or in-class lecture assignments and I did not approve the absence a zero will be given for that particular assignment, quiz, etc.

Labs cannot be made up; therefore, do not miss a lab. I also reserve the right to determine what constitutes an excused absence from lab. If you miss 2 labs (excused or unexcused) you will not be able to earn higher than a C for your final grade. If you miss 3 labs, you cannot earn higher than a D. If you miss more than 3 labs you will earn an F for the course.

If students must be absent due to a quarantine or isolation requirement for COVID-19, they must report this situation via the COVID Self Reporting Link in MyVSU and through the Dean of Students Office to report any other absences as well.

- The final exam is optional and it can replace the lowest grade of exams 1, 2, 3 or 4. This applies only to the final exam; no other exam can replace the lowest grade. If the final exam is used to replace the lowest grade for tests 1, 2, 3, or 4, the final exam grade will count only once in the course grade calculation. The final exam cannot be used to replace a missed test.
- After each exam, students are strongly encouraged to review it. You can review an exam during office hours. Exam papers will not be returned to students.
- **Any student found attempting to COPY, take PICTURES or STEAL a hard-copy of a test, at any time during the semester, will receive an automatic F for the entire course and face disciplinary action for student.**
- During the test, all smart devices must be stowed away. It is your responsibility to take care of your items.

Laboratory

- Lab exercises will be handed out in lab. Short quizzes will be given during the lab and will be collected ~10 minutes later. If you arrive late you will have a shorter amount of time to finish the quiz, and if you arrive after the quiz is collected you will receive a zero (0) for that quiz. **As mentioned previously, a student will not be able to make up a lab or the missed quizzes as the experiments cannot be repeated due to time and limitation of material.**
- The laboratory assessments consist of one practical exam and tasks related to the QPCR Labs. Students are required to maintain a laboratory notebook. The practical exam will be taken in the laboratory during the scheduled time. The practical exam questions may include microscope slides, organisms and instrumentation used in the laboratory and a written component.

Why maintain a good lab report?

<https://research.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/RCT%20content/ReaDI%20Program/tu>

- Incidents of cheating or plagiarism will result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.
- For more information, visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/>
- For more information, visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/academic-honesty-policies-and-procedures.php>

COVID-19 related policy

As the Blazer Creed articulates, members of the VSU community are expected to live by the high standards of civility, integrity, and citizenship and embrace their responsibility as a member of the Blazer community. In recognition of this responsibility, and in response to the best available science and current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health, while face coverings are no longer required, individuals are strongly encouraged to continue wearing a face covering indoors. **Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Vaccines remain available at no cost for all members of the university community by appointment at Student Health Services.**

Learning Support

- **Access Office:** Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1111 (VVY). For more information, visit access@valdosta.edu.
- **The Academic Support Center:** The Academic Support Center provides free peer tutoring for most core courses and some upper-division courses. It also offers time management and study skills workshops as well as other learning support services. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or visit the website: <https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/>
- **Odum Library** provides a variety of services to assist classroom instruction, including library instruction, course reserves, and interlibrary loan. Please see <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/> for further information.
- **Title IX Statement:** Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the Office of Student Affairs.

| Grade calculation* | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Assessment | Max Points |

| Grade distribution | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Letter | Percentage |
| A | 90-100% |
| B | 80-89% |
| C | 70-79% |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 60% |

*Final grade calculation: (Lecture exam + Laboratory)/700

NOTE: Graduate students enrolled in BIOL 6500 are required to complete the following assignments in addition to the above. Graduate student failing to complete any of these assignments will automatically receive a grade F in this course.

1. Teach any one lecture topic for exam 2-4. Instructor will provide the presentation slides. Evaluation by the students and instructor.

2. Compile detailed and step-by-step protocols for all the lab exercises. Rubrics should be discussed with the instructor for feedback. 50 lab participation points from the Grade calculation region is assigned here.

Tentative Lab Schedule:

| Lab | Date | Topic |
|------------|--------------------|---|
| ----- | Jan 11 week | NO LAB |
| 1 | Jan 18 week | Visualizing cells/ Re-introduction to microscopy- Stomata |
| 2 | Jan 25 week | |

Learning contract | Dr. Ansul Lokdarshi

- 1) **I care** . I teach because I want to contribute to your successful career. You must also promise to make the effort to rise to expectations worthy of your own future goals.