

EVOLUTION AND DIVERSITY OF LIFE- BIO 1010 Section A

Fall 2014 Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION:

- a. **Title:** Evolution and Diversity of Life (BIOL 1010 Section A)
- b. **Instructor:** Dr. Timothy Henkel (tphenkel@valdosta.edu)
- c. **Office:** Bailey Science Center 2212
- d. **Office Hours:** TTH: 11:00 am-12:00pm and by appointment
- e. **Class Meets:** TTH 8:00 – 9:15 am, Bailey Science Center 1011

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the diversity of life on Earth with a special emphasis on ecological and evolutionary processes and relationship
-Co-requisite BIOL 1020L

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course fulfills one portion of Area D of the Learning Outcomes for Valdosta State University's Core Curriculum: Students will 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. (<http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/ProposedNewLearningOutcomes.shtml>)

Specifically, students will:

- a. Learn about the nature of science and how to build scientific knowledge;
- b. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of evolution and how it relates to biodiversity;
- c. Effectively organize, communicate and apply their knowledge of biology to their everyday lives.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook: Concepts of Biology from OpenStax College, ISBN 1-938168-11-9,
<https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/concepts-of-biology>

Personal Response System ("Clickers"): ResponseCard NXT

Readings will be assigned from Concepts of Biology and are to be completed prior to coming to class. The text is available free online, in a variety of formats, and a print version or mobile app are available to purchase.

Additional readings will regularly be assigned and made available via Blazeview.

Each student must also have their own individual ResponseCard NXT clicker in order to actively participate in class. In addition, all exams will be conducted using the ResponseCard clicker. Please note that any other model of clicker will not be supported.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Learning is not a passive activity in which you simply absorb and repeat back facts given by an instructor. Rather, learning requires you to take an active role. In fact, to truly understand science you must construct your own personal interpretation of the concepts and store them away in a form that is meaningful to you.

Students will be assigned reading material. Facts and vocabulary are important to any discipline, though I ask you to go beyond simple memorization of details and interconnect those facts to concepts, applications and problems; to ask meaningful questions; to test well developed hypotheses; to develop a range of intellectual abilities, including critical thinking, logical argument, appropriate uses of evidence and interpretation of varied kinds of information; and to communicate your understanding in writing and orally to multiple audiences.

COMMUNICATION:

Email: Email is the simplest and primary way to contact me outside of class and is the quickest way for me to contact you as well. You are required to check and maintain your Valdosta State University email account. I will only communicate with you through this official email account.

Do NOT email using the Blazeview system, all email should be sent directly to tphenkel@valdosta.edu.

Blazeview: We will be using Blazeview throughout the semester as a tool for sharing information. I will post course notes after each class to the website, as well as provide additional resources, readings, and homework assignments. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.

Notes on emailing your professor and graduate assistants:

In order to get a reply to your emails you **must** do the following in your email communication:

- Include your course number and section in the subject line of any email (BIOL 1010A).
- Communicate as you would at work and in a professional manner. This includes using proper grammar and spelling, a greeting and salutation, and be sure to include your full name at the end of all emails.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: You are expected to attend all scheduled course activities during your registered section. Because of the nature and structure of the class, attendance is vital to your success in the course. In addition to attending class, active participation is part of your course grade.

As per VSU's policy on attendance: "A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course" (Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2012, p. 89).

GRADING PROCEDURES: Letter grades will be assigned based on the following tables:

Course Component	% of Course Grade
Exams (best 3 of 4)	55%
Homework	15%
In Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Final Letter Grade

A: 90 – 100%
B: 80 – 89%
C: 70 – 79%
D: 60 – 69%
F: < 60%

Exams: There are four regular exams scheduled throughout the semester, each will cover the material from the end of the previous exam through the current exam. The lowest exam score of the four exams will not be included in your final grade calculation. The final exam is scheduled during the final exam period of the course and will include new material as well as a portion of material covered throughout the course.

All exams will use the ResponseCard clicker to submit your responses. It is your responsibility to have your clicker on exam day, ensure it is in working condition, and that you know how to use it.

If you must miss a regularly scheduled exam for any reason, this will automatically be the lowest score and will not be included in your final grade. **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.**

Homework: Out of class coursework will be regularly assigned. It is your responsibility to get the assignment dates as they are announced in class. Homework must be completed by the due date. Remember, technology does not always work when we want it to. It is your responsibility to get assignments done on time, and you should not assume that the internet will be working an hour before the due date. Online assignments are due by 7 am on the due date.

Participation: In-class participation will be scored based on complete clicker responses to all questions as well as written in class assignments. Note that simply attending class is not considered participating in class. Review the course Participation Rubric on Blazeview for further information. You must attend your registered section to get participation credit.

There will be NO MAKE-UPS and NO EXTRA CREDIT!

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own work. **This includes the use of a clicker that is not your own during class.** Students are responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with the VSU Student Code of Conduct, in Appendix A of the Student Handbook (<http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/handbook/>)

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

CLASSROOM CONDUCT: A classroom policy will be developed by the course during the first class meeting and will be the standard for behavior in the class. The policy will be posted to Blazeview and enforced during class sessions. Violations with the policy will result in removal from the class session, and a repeated occurrence will result in a 10% grade reduction and possibly permanent removal from the course.

ACCESS OFFICE: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).

FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT: It is illegal to release personal information about an individual to others. Therefore grades, averages, and other personal information about any person will not be released to another person or over email.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER: The Student Success Center (SSC) at Valdosta State University is located in Langdale Residence Hall above the Tech Shop and is available to all students. The SSC provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including biology, chemistry, math, writing, and foreign languages. The SSC also provides free professional academic advising and on-campus job information in one location. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or visit the website: www.valdosta.edu/ssc.

Tentative Topics and Reading Assignments

Date	Topic	Chapter Reading
Aug	19	How will this course work?
	21	How is science a way of knowing?
	26-28	Why are there different environments?
Sept	2	What is a population?
	4	How do populations grow?
	9	Exam 1
	11	What is a community?
	16	How do trophic interactions alter community structure?
	18-23	How do matter and energy move through ecosystems?
	25	What makes organisms different?
	30	Exam 2
Oct	2	How can natural selection result in evolution?
	7	How can we determine if a population is evolving?
	9	What other mechanisms can result in evolution?
	14	What is a species?
	16	How can we classify organisms?
	21	Exam 3
	23-30	How is evolutionary relatedness observed in biodiversity?
	30	Exam 4
Nov	4	Prokaryotes & Protists
	6	Protists & Fungi
	11	Exam 4
	13	Plants
	18	Animals
	20	Does biodiversity matter?
25-27	Thanksgiving Break - No Classes	
Dec	2	Where have all the organisms gone?
	4	Bringing it all together
	10	Final Exam 10:15 am - 12:30 pm

Exam Dates are set and will NOT change.

The schedule of topics is tentative and may be changed.