

Biology 1952H: The Evolution & Diversity of Life Spring 2011

Department of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences, Valdosta State University

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 11:00-12:00 or By Appointment. Please feel free to call the office or use email to schedule a convenient time. Anytime I am in my office, you are welcome to stop in to ask quick questions.

Custom Textbook: 16 Chapters from McGraw Hill's Biology: Concepts & Investigations (2009), by Marielle Hoefnagels.

One chapter is from *Biology (9th Edition)* by Raven *et al.* This book will provide critical scientific content and you are required to read the chapters listed in the *Course Schedule* before the lecture on the day they are listed. There will be some impromptu writing assignments in class that will be based on the reading. Information in the text could be included on the examinat

BIOL 1952 Course Objectives

Educational Outcomes:

Describe the evolutionary processes responsible for biological diversity, explain the phylogenetic relationships among the major taxa, and provide illustrative examples. (Department of Biology Educational Outcome #2 in the VSU catalog)

Enduring Understanding:

Recognize how misrepresentation of the Theory of Evolution and the failure to understand the distinction between scientific and religious knowledge has led to the Evolution/Creationism Controversy.

Essential Questions:

What is the nature of science as both a body of knowledge and a set of systematic processes?

What characterizes the dynamic balance and predictable patterns that are seen in living systems?

Field Trips: During the unit on Ecology (Feb 14), we will visit one of the hidden treasures of Valdosta, the Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area. On that day, there will be no lab or lecture. I will take the Biology van or you can meet us out there. You will take no notes - the whole excursion will be "free-choice learning." We will feed the animals, tour the education center, and hike out the boardwalk. The highlight of the semester will be a weekend trip to Sapelo Island on the coast of Georgia (Mar 25-27). The Honors Program is supporting the trip which includes two nights at the UGA Marine Institute, great food, splendid scenery, etc.

Book Review: Early in the semester each person will select a different book that presents science to the public. This should be something you are interested in and would enjoy reading. Fiction, non-fiction, biography, or anything else that deals with a real scientno notr e3dw 0 0 1 396 UGA, thse t-4(ni)-4(di[14])TJETBT1 0 0.610 1 36 602.26 Tm{-})TJETBT1 254 1 2

BIOL 1952: Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Class Topic	Custom Book Chapters	Assignment/Extension
Jan 10	The Natural World		In-class Writing Assignment
12	Patterns in Nature		Student Information Sheet
17	No Class in Honor of the Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.		
18	Classification	Chapter 1	Essay on Nature
24	Inductive & Deductive Reasoning	Chapter 2	Dichotomous Key
26	Data Analysis & Display		