

Valdosta State University
Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
BIOL 1107K: Principles of Biology I (4 credits)
Lecture and

hoped that you will gain an understanding of how biologists and other scientists approach problems.

The biology program also seeks to develop your general college skills so that you will be competitive when you apply for professional schools (e.g., medical school) or for jobs in the sciences. In this course we focus on your communication skills, your information processing skills, and your ability to think. Your communication skills will be exercised primarily through library assignments and written and/or oral reports of lab activities. Your information processing skills will be developed because of the nature of biology. You will be supplied with a large quantity of information in a very short time, which you must learn in some detail or you will not do well in this course. This will not be wasted effort, however. The ability to digest and incorporate large amounts of information quickly is a valuable skill in most fields of endeavor. Your ability to think will be involved in the analysis of lab exercises, class assignments, and test questions.

Specific Course Goals: By the end of this course, students will be able to answer questions that demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts of biology, including:

- 1) the scientific method and experimental design; cellular structure, function, metabolism, and reproduction; the nature of the gene and its action; and the mechanisms of evolution (GEO 5; BEO 1-4);
- 2) perform a variety of standard lab techniques used in biological research (GEO 5);
- 3) use critical thinking skills and written communication skills to analyze and evaluate the content quality of written and visual media relating biological knowledge (GEO 4 & 7);
- 4) present the results and conclusions of data collected in the lab in standard scientific writing format (GEO 4 & 7; BEO 1);
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Attendance: Attendance in lecture is expected of all students, and attendance in laboratory is mandatory. Excused absences for college-approved activities and in cases of personal emergencies (i.e., death in the immediate family or student hospitalization) will be approved at the discretion of the instructor if provided with suitable documentation. In the case of college-approved activities, students must provide a minimum of five (5) à ~ • ã ^• Áã • ç [çã Áç Á@Á instructor so that accommodations can be made. Lecture exams/quizzes and labs missed without prior approval cannot be made up, and all points associated with missed lectures/labs will be forfeited. Students missing more than three (3) laboratories during the semester will

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! Students missing a lab with prior approval must attend one of the other lab sections for the week, and students missing lecture exams/quizzes with prior approval must take exams/quizzes before their scheduled absence. If students do not take exams and/or quizzes prior to approved absences, students may be required to take an alternate test and/or quiz. Students with potential course conflicts that restrict them from arriving or leaving class on time should consult with the instructor immediately.

Assessments:

LECTURE

Quizzes (50 points) -

dropped. No quizzes can be made up, and a missed quiz automatically counts as the dropped quiz (additional missed quizzes will count as grade of zero (0) towards your point total).

Exams (300 points): The dates for all exams are included in the Tentative Schedule (subject to change). **YOU MUST BRING A PENCIL WITH YOU.** All cell phones must be turned off during exams, and students using cell phones during an exam will automatically earn a zero (0) for that exam. All book bags, books, purses etc. must be placed on the stage at the start of the exam; **NO EXCEPTIONS.** If you do not feel comfortable putting your purse, bag, books, etc. on the stage, do not bring them with you to class. Hats, sunglasses, or other cryptic attire cannot be worn during exams. Students are n

Total Points (Lecture + Lab):

Lecture Quizzes:	50 points
Lecture Exams:	300 points
Final Exam:	200 points
Laboratory Quizzes:	100 points
Laboratory Notebook:	50 points
Laboratory Report/Homework:	100 points
Total	800 points

Your current grade in the course can be calculated at any time by dividing the number points earned from the total points possible for assignments, exams, etc. completed to date.

THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE!!!

Grade Scale:

For Biology majors, a grade of C or higher is required for this course.

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = < 60%

Withdrawing from the course: The last day to withdraw without penalty is Thursday, October 4, 2012. If you don't officially withdraw, and instead just stop coming to class, you will receive an F for the course.

Academic conduct: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the assignment, exam or the class. The Department of Biology has a plagiarism policy, which will be referenced during the first lab period. Students will be expected to provide a signed copy of the Plagiarism Policy, which acknowledges that they have read and understood the content, by the following lab period.

Privacy Act (FERPA): The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits the public posting of grades by social security number or in any manner personally identifiable to the individual student. No grades can be given over the telephone or email because positive

Students with disabilities: Students requiring special accommodations because of disability should discuss their needs with me as soon as possible. Those needing accommodations that are not registered with the Special Services Program must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (voice) and 219-

the instructor may ultimately leave the classroom (students will still be responsible for material that would have been taught during that time).

- 4) Assignments are due at the beginning of class/lab; assignments submitted after this time are late, and late submissions will incur a 50% grade reduction. After 48 hours have elapsed since the initial due date/time, no late assignments will be accepted.
- 5) Students that wish to bring laptop computers to class will be required to sit near the back or sides so as to eliminate distractions to classmates; if students are using such equipment in a distracting manner (i.e. checking email, web-surfing, listening to music, etc.) laptops will be banned from the classroom for all students.
- 6) You will only attend your predetermined laboratory section; in the case of missed labs, you cannot simply attend another lab section without prior approval from the instructor.
- 7) Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated; this beass

- d) Don't simply write down the things that the instructor writes down; believe it or not, they may be saying something important even when they don't write it down! If you are not sure if it's important, write it down anyways, just to be sure. If your instructor talks too fast, ask (don't tell) him/her to slow down - this is your very expensive education, so get what you need out of it.
- e) The phrase **"I don't know"** is the most powerful phrase in the sciences, because it allows us to push past the boundaries of current knowledge. Students are often embarrassed to admit they don't know something, but not knowing is what has allowed the world's greatest scientists to uncover new things. Odds are, if you don't know, half of the class

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Tentative Lecture Schedule

Date	Topic	Chp.
14-Aug	Introduction; What is Science? What is Biology?	1
16-Aug	Chemistry of Life	2
21-Aug	Chemistry of Life, con't.	
23-Aug	Proteins, etc.	3
28-Aug		

Week of

Tentative Laboratory Schedule