# Valdosta State University

## Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

BIOL 3250 A, B, C, D:

**Course Objectives**: Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1) display an understanding of key concepts in ecology/evolution and associated

**Withdrawing from the course:** The last day to withdraw without penalty is Thursday, March 6, 2013. If you do not officially withdraw, and instead just stop coming to class, you will receive an "F" for the course.

**Academic conduct:** Cheating / 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 can be viewed at any time on the department homepage.

**NEVER, EVER, EVER, <u>EVER</u> EMAIL ME TO ASK WHAT YOU MISSED IN LECTURE OR LAB IF YOU ARE ABSENT; IT IS YOUR JOB TO CONSULT WITH CLASSMATES AND DETERMINE WHAT YOU MISSED!!!**

**Notes/Study Tips:**

a) Remember when sending an email that your professor's name is not "Hey"; an email should begin with Dear Dr. (insert name), then continue with your message written in actual English words (not text language), and conclude with terms such as "Sincerely", "Thanks in advance", etc. Realize that many older people (i.e. your professors) are not biologically linked to their phones in the ways observed in younger generations…please allow up to three (3) business days before sending a follow-up email if you haven't received response.

b) There is a documented positive relationship between how often you attend class and your grade…why pay thousands of dollars a semester to not take advantage of someone that you are paying to educate you?

c) Educators recommend studying 2-3 hours per week for each credit hour, which means you should be studying 8-12 a week for this class, not counting the time spent in class. Without fail, the number one thing students say when describing why they did not achieve the academic goal they had set for themselves: "I should have studied more!"

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

**PENALTIES:** In recent years, increasing numbers of students have made a habit of asking questions that are already answered in detail by the syllabus, either because they do not read the syllabus or they assume the rules outlined in the syllabus are flexible or mere suggestions…the most common student justification for such behavior is that "it doesn't hurt to ask". However, in this class, "it doesn't hurt to read and understand directions", and ***a 1% reduction in the final grade will be applied to any student asking questions that are directed address by the syllabus (1% per each offense)***. In addition, students sending emails to the professor in an unacceptable manner (i.e. no subject, no salutation, no signature, incoherent / text language, demand of immediate response, etc.) will receive a succinct email reminding them to read the syllabus and try again; no response will be sent until a suitable revision has been received.

**Educational Outcomes Relevant to this Course:**
**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES (GEO)**

4. Students will express themselves clearly, logically and precisely in writing and in speaking, and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening. They will display the ability to write coherently in standard English; to speak well; to read, to understand, and to interpret the content of written materials in various disciplines; and to listen effectively and to understand different modes of communication.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles and proficiency in laboratory practices. They will understand the basic concepts and principles underlying scientific methodology and be able to collect, analyze, and interpret data. They will learn a body of scientific knowledge and be able to judge the merits of arguments about scientific issues. They will be able to perform basic algebraic manipulations and to use fundamental algebraic concepts to solve word problems and equations. They will be able to use basic knowledge of statistics to interpret and to analyze data. They will be able to evaluate arguments based on quantitative data.
7. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, to evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written and visual materials. They will be skilled in inquiry, logical reasoning, and critical analysis. They will be able to acquire and evaluate relevant information, analyze arguments,

| Date | Topic | Reading |
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