

**Valdosta State University, BIOL 1107K, Sections G-L (4 Credit Hours)**  
**Principles of Biology I – FALL 2014**  
**Syllabus & Course Policies**

Lecture: BC 1011 – Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays – 8:00-8:50

Instructor: Dr. Emily Cantonwine (Dr. Cantonwine)

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Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 11-2 (you may just show up or sign-up for a time on my office door; please do not email me to make an appointment).

Graduate Assistant (GA): See Blazevic for details

*Welcome to Principles of Biology I.* This is the first course in a series designed to help you develop a strong foundation in the biological sciences to build on throughout your studies at VSU and beyond.

*BIOL 1107 Course Description.* An introduction to the principles of biology for science majors, with an emphasis on the cellular nature of life. Concepts covered include the origin and early evolution of cellular life; cell structure, function, metabolism, and reproduction; cell signaling; and gene regulation in bacteria and eukaryotes. There are no prerequisites for this course. BIOL 1100 is a co-requisite for Freshman Biology majors.

Required Resources:

- Sadava, D., Hillis, D.M., Heller, & Berenbaum, M.R. 2012. LIFE: The Science of Biology. Tenth Edition. Sinauer Associates, Inc., Sunderland, MA, and W.H. Freeman & Co., Gordonsville, VA.
- Turning Technologies Clicker NXT
- R.H. Goddard. 2011. Methods and Investigations in Basic Biology. Sixth Edition. Hayden-McNeil Publishing, Plymouth, MI. (Lab manual)

Learning Goal

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.

Course Objectives and Outcomes (refer to Outcome section at end of syllabus for more information)

By the end of this course, students will be able to

- 1) answer questions that demonstrate an understanding of fundamental concepts of biology, including 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 present the results and conclusions of data collected in the lab in standard scientific writing format (GEO 4 & 7; BEO 1)

Assessments:

Lecture (75% of final grade)

• Lecture grade			<u>SCALE</u>
7 of 8 - the lowest of these grades will be dropped	<u>Points</u>		A ≥ 90.0%
○ Unit Exams (5)	100 each		B ≥ 80.0%
○ Cumulative Final Exam (1)	100		C ≥ 70.0%
○ <b>Pooled</b> Clicker Grade (1)	100		D ≥ 60.0%
○ <b>Average</b> quiz grade (pre-lecture & post-lecture) (1)	100		F ≤ 59.99%

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Total possible pts = 700 after lowest grade is dropped

Lab (25% of final grade)

- Refer to your lab syllabus for assessment details

## Explanation of Lecture Assessments:

**Unit Exams.** A percentage score will be determined for each unit exam. There are no make-up exams, regardless of excuse. If you miss an exam, this will be the grade that is dropped. Students may not take exams early, with the exception of students with a university-related or religious excuse. The unit exams are not cumulative.

**Final Exam.** The final exam will be cumulative, and is weighed the same as the unit exams and the pooled clicker grade. Students may choose to not take the final, but in this case, none of the previous lecture grades will be dropped.

**Pooled Clicker Grade.** Beginning in the second week of class, lectures will include an assessment using clicker questions. Each correct answer will count 2 points, incorrect answers will count 1 point, and questions that are not answered will count 0 points. *Individual clicker assessments* will be posted to Blazeview immediately following the lecture. At the end of the semester, a *Pooled Clicker Grade* will be calculated using the following equation:

$$\sum ((\text{individual clicker grades converted to a percentage}) - (\text{lowest individual clicker grade percentage} + \text{any clicker grades where the absence was excused and documented by TA})) / \# \text{ of individual clicker grades used.}$$

*\* The lowest individual clicker grade is dropped from the pooled grade to allow for a forgotten clicker or malfunctioning clicker. Students are therefore allowed one pass for unintended errors. It is your responsibility to fix any clicker issues in a timely manner.*

*\* It is your responsibility to get my approval for an excused absence and to make sure that the GA receives documentation of my approval.*

*\* The Pooled Clicker Grade will be the lecture grade that is dropped if you allow someone to use your clicker in your absence, or if you use someone's clicker in his or her absence.*

**Average Quiz Grade.** This grade will be an average of all quiz grades posted to Blazeview. There are 2 types of quizzes you will see, pre-lecture vocabulary quizzes and post-lecture practice quizzes (see below). When quizzes are assigned, they will be posted on Fridays and in most cases must be completed before lecture on Mondays (8 am). Refer to the tentative lecture schedule for exact due dates. Each quiz may be attempted twice, and the highest score will be recorded.

- **Pre-Lecture Vocabulary.** A list of vocabulary words related to the upcoming week's material will be posted to blazeview most Wednesdays so that the terms may be defined before the quiz is posted on Fridays. Students are expected to define vocabulary words before attempting the quiz! These definitions should be added to your lecture notes so they may be easily accessed during lecture as needed.
- **Post-Lecture Practice Quizzes.** A set of practice questions related to the week's material will be posted to Blazeview as an assessment on most Fridays. In most cases, the quiz will be due by 8am on Mondays.

All lecture grades will be posted on the blazeview cross-listed page **Arts and Sciences Cross-Listed-Fall2014-BIOL-1107K-G\_H\_I\_J\_K\_L**. Your grade can be computed at any time using the following equation (see me during office hours if you would like help with this calculation):

$$\text{Grade} = [(\text{average \% lecture grade after lowest grade is dropped}) \times 0.75] + (\text{average \% lab grade} \times 0.25)$$

## General Rules:

**Attendance Policy.** Attendance is not required in lecture. The attendance policy in the laboratory is per the discretion of the laboratory instructor and may significantly impact your potential grade. Refer to the lab syllabus for details.

**Assigned seats.** Assigned seats will be used (beginning the second or third week of class) to keep track of student attendance for the purpose of monitoring clicker usage. **You may change seats (temporarily or permanently) during the semester, but it is your responsibility to inform the graduate assistant of this change prior to making the move; otherwise, your pooled clicker grade may be dropped if you are counted absent but your clicker is detected!**

**Lecture Notes.** Powerpoint slides with fill-in blanks will be provided for printing at least 48-hours before the lecture (beginning the second week of class). Students are expected to print the slides and fill in the blanks during lecture.

### ***Student conduct***

- Arrive on time and have all the materials you need (including your clicker) when class begins.
- Your full attention should be on the course material. If this is not possible, please be respectful of your fellow students by not being disruptive.
- You do not need my permission to leave class early. Please do so in the least disruptive way.
- Disruptive students may be asked to leave the classroom. I consider listening to music, surfing the internet, obvious texting, and talking to your neighbor while material is being presented to be disruptive.

### ***Food and Drink***

- Drinks and snacks are allowed in the lecture hall as long as their consumption and storage are not a disturbance to yourself or other students. Each student must clean up after him or herself; otherwise, this privilege will be revoked. Drinks and snacks are not allowed in lab!

### ***Electronic Devices***

- Bring your clicker to lecture every day! Clickers will not be used in labs, unless otherwise stated by your lab instructor.
- Turn off your cell phone during class!
- Turn off your MP3 player and remove your earbuds/headphones during lecture.
- Laptops & related tools, including photographing slides, are not allowed for note taking without my permission.
- Recording devices are not permitted to be used without my permission.

Special Needs: If you have need for special arrangements to allow you to meet the requirements of this course, please contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities in Nevins Hall, 245-2498. Also, please discuss this need with me before the end of the second week of class.

Academic Integrity: I follow the Academic Honesty Policies and Procedures of the University and the Department of Biology's Policy on Plagiarism. For more information, refer to [www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml](http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml) and [www.valdosta.edu/biology/documents/biologyplagiarism.doc](http://www.valdosta.edu/biology/documents/biologyplagiarism.doc). "Academic Integrity/ Honesty" means performing all academic work without plagiarism, cheating, lying, tampering, stealing, receiving unauthorized or illegitimate assistance from any other person, or using any source of information that is not common knowledge.

### Important information:

- For Biology majors, a grade of C or higher is required in this course before additional biology courses can be attempted.
- October 9 is the last day for withdrawing without penalty.

## Tentative Lecture Schedule, BIOL 1107K, Sections G-L, Fall 2014

Week	Subject	Chapters	Due on the due date by 8am
Aug 18	What is Biology? The cell theory; Main types of cells & organisms	1.1, 1.2	Vocabulary I Practice quiz I <b>Due Aug 25</b>
Aug 25	Cells: structure & function	5	Practice quiz II <b>Due Weds, Sept 3</b>
Sept 1	<i>Labor day, no class (Sept 1)</i> ; Cells: structure & function; <b>EXAM 1 (Sept 5)</b>	5	Vocabulary II <b>Due Sept 8</b>
Sept 8	Cellular membrane structure & function; lipids;	6.1, 3.4	Vocabulary III Practice quiz III <b>Due Sept 15</b>
Sept 15	Proteins; covalent, hydrogen, & ionic bonds; chemistry of hydrophilic molecules; condensation reaction	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 2.2	Vocabulary IV, Practice quiz IV <b>Due Sept 22</b>
Sept 22	Membrane transport	6.3-6.5	
Sept 29	<b>EXAM 2 (Sept 29)</b> ; Energy, Enzymes, & Metabolism	8	Vocabulary V Practice quiz V <b>Due Oct 6</b>
Oct 6	Carbohydrates; hydrolysis reaction; Pathways that harvest chemical energy	8, 3.1, 9	Vocabulary VI Practice quiz VI <b>Due Oct 13</b>
Oct 13	Pathways that harvest chemical energy; photosynthesis	9, 10	Vocabulary VII Practice quiz VII <b>Due Oct 20</b>
Oct 20	Photosynthesis; Nucleic acids; <b>Exam 3 (October 25)</b>	10; 4	Vocabulary VIII <b>Due Oct 27</b>
Oct 27	DNA and its role in heredity; From DNA to protein	13.2, 14	Practice quiz VIII <b>Due Nov 3</b>
Nov 3	From DNA to protein; The cell cycle; DNA replication	14, 11 13.3	Vocabulary IX <b>Due Weds Nov 12</b>
Nov 10	<b>Exam 4 (Nov 10)</b> ; Inheritance, genes, and chromosomes	12	Vocabulary X Practice quiz IX <b>Due Nov 17</b>
Nov 17	Gene mutation and molecular medicine	15	Practice quiz X <b>Due Weds, Dec 3</b>
Nov 24	Thanksgiving week – no class		
Dec 1	Cell signaling and communication; Regulation of Gene expression	7, 16	
Dec 8	<b>Exam 5 (Dec 8)</b> <b>Final Exam (Dec 6, 12:30-2:30pm)</b>		

## Valdosta State University General Educational Outcomes (GEO)

1. Students will demonstrate understanding of the society of the United States and its ideals.
2. Students will demonstrate cross-cultural perspectives and knowledge of other societies.
3. Students will use computer and information technology when appropriate.
4. Students will express themselves clearly, logically and precisely in writing and in speaking, and they will demonstrate competence in reading and listening.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles and proficiency in laboratory practices.
6. Students will demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultural heritages in the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences.
7. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, to evaluate, and to make inferences from oral, written and visual materials.
8. Students will demonstrate knowledge of principles of ethics and their employment in the analysis and resolution of moral problems.

## Department of Biology Educational Outcomes (BEO)

1. Develop and test hypotheses, collect and analyze data, and present the results and conclusions in both written and oral format used in peer-reviewed journals and at scientific meetings.
2. Describe the evolutionary process responsible for biological diversity, explain the phylogenetic relationships among the other taxa of life, and provide illustrative examples.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the cellular basis of life.
4. Relate the structure and function of DNA/RNA to the development of form and function of the organism and to heredity
5. Interpret ecological data pertaining to the behavior of the individual organism in its natural environment; to the structure and function of populations, communities, and ecosystems; and to human impacts on these systems and the environment.