

BIOL 1100**Biology Freshman Seminar****Spring 2014****Sections:**

A – CRN 21913,

B – CRN 21914,

Room 2022 Bailey Science Center,**Room 2022 Bailey Science Center,****3:30 – 4:20 Mondays****3:30 – 4:20 Wednesdays****Instructor:**

John Elder

Office: Bailey Science Center 2088

Office hours: Monday 1 – 3 pm

Phone: 333-5762

Email: jfelder@valdosta.edu**Pre- and/or Co- Requisites:**

BIOL 1100 is required as a co-requisite for all incoming freshmen biology majors before or during enrollment in BIOL 1107.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn the following:

1) Biology major requirements, general advising, strategies for success, and related career paths from biological research to professional programs;

2) The basics of the scientific method and scientific writing.

These learning outcomes correspond to the biology educational outcome #1 and the VSU General Educational Outcomes 3, 5, 7 and 8.

Required Course Materials: None**Assessments:****Course Grade**

Attendance	60 %	90 – 100 %	= A
Scientific Writing	20 %	80 – 89.9 %	= B
Career Plan	10 %	70 – 79.9 %	= C
Career Slide	<u>10 %</u>	60 – 69.9 %	= D
Total	100 %	< 59.9 %	= F

Mid-term or in-progress grades: The instructor is required to submit in-progress grades prior to mid-term as posted (2/26/2014). In theory, a mid-term grade is necessary for a student to assess how s/he is doing in class by midterm. In this course, students will have feedback on at least one major exam by midterm, several lab quizzes, lab assignments, and any homework or writing assignments. The instructor will, in general, assign an overall average grade at this point on the normal scale of A-F viewable on Banner. Students receiving a grade of “D” or lower should therefore carefully evaluate their option of dropping this course by midterm without academic penalty.

Attendance: Each absence reduces your final grade by 1015. If you miss more than 3 classes you fail. It is the student’s responsibility to sign the roll for each class meeting. Attendance will be based on the roll. Forgetting to sign in will count as an absence.

Attendance in this course is absolutely required. Each student is responsible for all material missed regardless of the reason for absences. Note the University policy regarding attendance: 1) Students who miss 20% of lecture time will receive an automatic failing grade for the course. 2) Students who do not regularly attend lecture, as determined by taking class roll, by the proof role date may be automatically dropped from the class. (3) Students who neither drop nor attend class by the midterm date will receive an automatic F for the course.

Students who miss 20 % of lecture time (15 minutes) on a given day will be counted as absent for that day. Only documented medical or family emergencies will be accepted as excused absences.

Disruptive behavior: No disruptive behavior of any kind will be tolerated in this course. Students should restrict talking and discussion to pertinent questions related to course material and these questions should be directed toward the instructor. Entering a classroom late or early is discouraged. Any student disrupting lectures will be required to leave the classroom. Use of cellular telephones, pagers, or any similar remote communication device is prohibited during class time.

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Privacy Act (FERPA): The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibit the public posting of grades by social security number or in any manner personally identifiable to the individual student. No grades can be given by email or over the telephone, as positive identification cannot be made by this manner.

Biology Tutoring: 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.

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone number is (229) 245-2498.

BIOL 1100 Freshman Seminar Spring 2014

Revised Tentative Schedule to be handed out during the week of 1-27-2014

Week	Topic	Dates
1	Introduction - Advising, BS/BA worksheets,	1/13
	MLK - no class	1/20
2	Primary Literature/Library Resources	1/27 – Room 3018
3	Scientific Method and Scientific Writing	2/3
4	Scientific Writing Exercise due Discussion and Peer Review	2/10
5	Biology Exam, Assessment Revised Writings Due	2/17
6	Biology Exam discussion	2/24
7	eCore – Online courses Midterm	3/3 3/6
8	Biology Careers Discussions	3/10
	Spring Break	3/ 15 – 3/23
9	Discussion, 4 year and 10 year plan	3/24
10	Student Success Center Seminar	3/31
11	Presentation of Biology Related Clubs	4/7
12	Careers in Biology/Slide Presentations Due	4/14
13	Presentations Due	4/21
15	Presentations Due	4/28
14	Last class	4/5

Understanding Class Rules and Grading for BIOL 1100
Spring 2014 Instructor: John Elder

Basic Class rules:

- I. Disruptive behavior:** No disruptive behavior of any kind will be tolerated in this course.
- a. Students should restrict talking, questions and discussion to pertinent questions related to course material.
 - b. Entering a classroom late is discouraged.
 - c. Any student disrupting lectures will be required to leave the classroom.
 - d. Any disruptive student who refuses to leave on request will be removed by campus police.
 - e. I like a relaxed atmosphere, but respect for fellow students and instructors is required.
- II. Electronics:** Use of cellular telephones, pagers, or any similar remote communication device is prohibited during scheduled lectures, laboratories, or examinations. **You are here to learn, not play with toys. If I see you playing with a phone during class I will fail you for the course.**
- a. If it is essential to take an emergency, incoming call, then quietly step outside and conduct your business like an adult. Otherwise, students who bring cellular telephones or similar devices to lecture must switch them off prior to the beginning of the lecture period.
 - b. Phones may not be used as calculators on exams.
 - c. Lecture notes may not be photographed or recorded with phone or computer cameras.
 - d. The penalty for using a phone to record lecture notes or during an exam is failure of the course.
 - e. No electronic devices (including cell phones), books, or notebooks will be allowed during exams. Students using such items will be asked to leave and will receive a zero for the exam.
 - f. Laptop computers can be used for note taking during lecture; however, students using them must sit in the first four rows of the classroom. Anyone caught cruising the net instead of taking notes will receive a failing grade for the course.
- III. Cheating:** Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a grade of “F” for the assignment in question and possibly for the course. Cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students. See your Student handbook for what constitutes catalogue cheating and plagiarism.

General Grading Policies:

- a. I understand that this is a science class and that my enrollment is voluntary. I am **here to learn the science** and I am free to drop the course if I do not wish to learn the material.
- b. I understand that my **grades are based solely upon my level of performance**, not on what I may want or think I need.
- c. I understand that the final grade I receive in this course is the grade I “**EARNED**”. The instructor does not “**GIVE**” me a grade.
- d. I understand that it is the instructor’s responsibility to evaluate my performance and to assign a **grade that certifies the level at which I KNOW and UNDERSTAND the course material**.
- e. I understand that **earn my grade by demonstrating** on assigned tests, quizzes and assignments that I **KNOW and UNDERSTAND** the course material.
- f. I understand that it is my responsibility to **master ALL course material** to the level necessary to achieve the grade I want in this class.
- g. I understand that the grade I receive is **NOT based** on the amount of work or effort I do. Effort is my responsibility.
- h. I understand **that late assignments will not be accepted** and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
- i. I understand that **incomplete work will not be accepted** and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
- j. I understand that **work that does not follow instructions in all respects will not be accepted** and will summarily receive a grade of zero.
- k. I understand that in the event of a **personal emergency** resulting in missed assignments it is my responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible. I also understand that any possible make up work is strictly at the instructor’s discretion on a case by case basis.
- l. I understand that it is **my responsibility** to make sure I understand all assignment instructions and due dates. It is not the instructors fault if I fail to meet these expectations.
- m. I understand that my grades are based only upon the assignments given. There are **no opportunities** for “**extra credit**” or “**additional assignments**”.
- n. I understand that it is **my responsibility to seek additional help** from the instructor or campus tutorial services when needed.
- o. I understand that the time to worry about my grades is all **during the term**. Grades are final after the class is over.
- p. I understand that **no late or additional assignments will be accepted** for any reason after the course closes.
- q. I understand that **grades are not negotiable**. Complaining or begging extra points after the fact are not appropriate behaviors.
- r. I understand that my **grade will be based on the criteria** detailed earlier in this syllabus and that it is my responsibility to seek clarification if it is needed.
- s. I understand that this course will assign grades on a **10 point scale and no curve** is to be used in assigning those grades.
- t. I understand that the instructor cannot and will not predict nor promise any grades before all scores for all assignments are done and the class is completed.

- u. I understand that the instructor will only discuss my final grade for purposes of explanation or correction of a possible mistake. Discussions about disappointment with grades, complaints about grades, grade changes or general whining about poor performance will not be entertained.

Sign, date and return this page to the instructor. By signing below you are acknowledging that these course rules were explained to you and that you understand and agree to abide by them as they pertain to this course.

Signature

Date