

# ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY - BIOL 1030 Section B

## Syllabus

### COURSE INFORMATION:

- a. **Title:** Organismal Biology (BIOL 1030 Section B)
- b. **Instructor:** Dr. Emily K. Croteau ([ekcroteau@valdosta.edu](mailto:ekcroteau@valdosta.edu); 333-5773)
- c. **Office:** Bailey Science Center 2211
- d. **Office Hours:** 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM or by appointment
- e. **Class Meets:** MWF 9:00 – 9:50 AM, Bailey Science Center 1023

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** An introduction to modern biology for the non-major with special emphasis on the processes involved in the development and maintenance of complex multicellular organisms.

- **Co-requisite BIOL 1040L**

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course fulfills one portion of Area D of the Learning Outcomes for Valdosta State University's Core Curriculum: 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.

(<http://www.valdosta.edu/gec/ProposedNewLearningOutcomes.shtml>)

Specifically, students will:

- a. Learn about the nature of science and how to build scientific knowledge;
- b. Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of the cellular basis of life;
- c. Relate the structure and the function of DNA/RNA to the development of form and function of the organism and to heredity;
- d. Effectively organize, communicate and apply their knowledge of biology to their everyday lives.

### COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook: Concept of Biology by Fowler, Roush and Wise. Published by OpenStax; Online <https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/concepts-of-biology/get>

This textbook is available online to download for **FREE!!!!** So, there is no excuse for you not to have it! You are **REQUIRED** to have access to the course textbook in order to complete assigned readings and Concept Coach Bonus Questions. Readings are to be completed before class in order to be able to participate in class activities. Exam questions will be based on readings from the text and in-class material.

### CONCEPT COACH:

You need to register for Concept Coach so when you read your OpenStax textbook online, you will come across embedded Concept Coach question sets to help you understand and retain what you've read. Questions for each section are assigned in the syllabus and are bonus points put towards your homework grade.

Follow the steps below to register for Concept Coach:

1. Paste this link in your web browser to visit your [Concepts of Bio \(non-majors\)textbook](https://cnx.org/contents/v5a_xecj@2.2:3):  
**[https://cnx.org/contents/v5a\\_xecj@2.2:3](https://cnx.org/contents/v5a_xecj@2.2:3)**
2. Click on section 1.1 in the book. Scroll to the bottom of the section and click on the Concept Coach button.
3. Click "Sign up" and follow the prompts to create your free account.
4. At the end of your account set-up, you will be prompted to enter your two-word enrollment code: **missing metal**
5. Continue to your Concept Coach questions!

**INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Learning is not a passive activity in which you attempt to absorb and repeat back facts. Learning requires you to take an active role. In fact, to truly understand science you must construct your own personal interpretation of the concepts and store them away in a form that is meaningful to you. So, you need to **THINK!**

Students will be assigned reading material. Although facts and vocabulary are important to any discipline, you need to go beyond simple memorization of details and interconnect those facts to concepts, applications and problems; to ask meaningful questions; to test well developed hypotheses; to develop a range of intellectual abilities, including critical thinking, logical argument, appropriate uses of evidence and interpretation of varied kinds of information; and to communicate your understanding in writing and orally to multiple audiences.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

**Email:** Email is the simplest way to contact me outside of class and is the quickest way for me to contact you as well. You are required to check and maintain your Valdosta State University email account. I will only communicate with you through this official email account. In the subject line of the email please write the course number so I know to which course your question is in reference to. **DO NOT** email me through Blazeview.

#### **How to write an email:**

When writing an email to a professor it is important to show respect for both yourself and the professor. The form of the email should be as follows:

Dear Dr. Croteau,

Body of text...

Sincerely,  
Your Name

The email should have proper spelling and grammar (NO TEXT SPEAK), address the professor, and have an appropriate sign off (e.g. sincerely, thank you, yours truly...). Failure to write an email correctly may result in the email going unanswered. As prospective teachers it is important to be respectful and polite and be an example of this to your students.

**Blazeview:** We will be using Blazeview throughout the semester as a tool for sharing information. I will post course notes after each class to the website, as well as provide grades, additional resources, readings, and homework assignments if needed. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.

**GRADING PROCEDURES:** Letter grades will be assigned based on the following tables

<b>Course Component</b>	<b># Pts</b>
Homework + Bonus	100 pts
Exams (4; lowest dropped)	300 pts
Final Exam	100 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 pts</b>

#### **Final Letter Grade:**

A: 90 – 100%  
B: 80 – 89%  
C: 70 – 79%  
D: 60 – 69%  
F: < 60%

**Homework:** Homework will be administered through Blazeview and will be assigned at the end of a unit. No points are awarded for late homework and no extensions are given. Homework due dates are included on the schedule.

**Exams:** There are four exams scheduled throughout the semester, each will cover the material from the previous exam through the current exam. The exam with the lowest grade (not the final) will be dropped and therefore **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP EXAMS**. If you miss a scheduled exam due to illness, or a scheduled appointment this will be your “dropped” exam. The final exam will be a cumulative exam comprising of all of the material covered in class.

**There will be NO MAKE-UPS and NO INDIVIDUAL EXTRA CREDIT!**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** You are expected to attend all scheduled course activities. Because of the nature and structure of the class, attendance is vital to your success in the course. We will strictly adhere to VSU’s policy on attendance which states: “A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course” (Undergraduate Catalog 2011-2012, p. 89)

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:** Cheating and plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own, or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit) are not permitted. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an assignment or exam, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own work. Students are responsible for knowing, understanding and complying with the VSU Student Code of Conduct, in Appendix A of the Student Handbook (<http://www.valdosta.edu/stulife/handbook/> ) If substantial evidence exists for a violation of this policy, **the student(s) involved will receive a grade of 'F' for the course** and an official record will be filed with following the Academic Integrity Response along with a letter to the Dean of Students (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>).

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** A classroom policy will be developed by the course during the first class meeting and will be the standard for behavior in the class. **The policy will be posted to Blazeview and enforced during class sessions.** Violations of the policy will result in removal from the class session, and repeated occurrences may result in grade reduction or permanent removal from the course.

**ACCESS OFFICE:** Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).

**FEDERAL PRIVACY ACT:** It is illegal to release personal information about an individual to others. Therefore grades, averages, and other personal information about any person will not be released to another person or over email.

**STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER:** 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](http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc)