

BIOL 1100, Biology Freshman Seminar- Introduction to Biological Sciences
Spring Semester 2013 (1 Credit hour)
Department of Biology, College of Arts & Science, Valdosta State University

Lecture (BC 1024): **Section A** (CRN#20656) **T:** 9:30 a.m. 10:20 a.m.
 Section B (CRN#20657) **T:** 11:00 a.m. 11:50 a.m.
 Section C (CRN#20658) **R:** 9:30 a.m. 10:20 a.m.
 Section D (CRN#20659) **R:** 11:00 a.m. 11:50 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Brian C. Ring
 Office: BC 2084
 Office hours: **M & W** 11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
 Phone: 229-249-4841 (Dept. office 229)

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Mid-term: Students will have completed several lecture sessions (attendance & department) and assignments to determine their overall grade by the Mid-Term and decide whether to withdraw by the deadline date (**2/28/2012**). **If you miss more than 3 lecture sessions you will automatically fail this course as per University policy (see below).**

Note: VSU policy on withdrawals is a maximum of 5 during your undergraduate career. If you are late, your attendance may not be acknowledged. The student is responsible for all material missed regardless of the reason for absences. In the event that a student will miss a lecture session, s/he should notify the instructor in writing by BlazeView email and be

Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Class Topic	Assignments
Jan 07	Introduction to Biology Major & BlazeVIEW	A1: Note Taking & Levels of Organization
14	General Biology Knowledge Exam	

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Writing Guidelines

Objective

The papers assigned in this course will provide you practice toward the types of papers you will be expected to write as a biology major. There are two basic types of papers written by biological scientist and you will practice these paper types in this course to prepare you for future upper division and capstone senior seminar (BIOL 4900) papers.

First, there are primary research papers that are a summary of a scientist(s) research and follow the typical style of Introduction, Materials & Methods, Results, and Conclusio

Grading

Papers are graded based on a rubric. Focus on the objective of the assignment and address it clearly in thesis of your paper. You can dramatically improve your work if you critique your own rough draft and revise it at least once. Outside feedback can also make a difference. **Therefore, we will use class time for peer-review among your classmates.** One must also proofread to avoid careless errors. Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar do effect our impression of the quality of your presentation. These papers will be graded on Effort, Quality, Organization, Content, Proper citations and whether or not you followed these directions. I will look specifically at extent of your coverage of the topic and the clarity in your presentation of the material. Be sure to support general statements and do not use hypothetical examples. Papers are due at the start of class only.

Plagiarism Monitoring

This course utilizes Turnitin software and your final paper will be submitted through Turnitin BlazeView (see above). You will have the opportunity to monitor the level of plagiarism with Turnitin before final submittal so use this software wisely. I will provide more details in class as to what constitutes plagiarism resulting in a grade of F for the paper assignment.