1
Fall 2021 Course Syllabus
Biology 1010: The Evolution & Diversity of Life
Department of Biology, College of Science & Mathematics, Valdosta State University

3

BIOL 1010A: Assessment Plan

Grade Distribution:

Attendance

*

10%

Coursework

4

0%

15 Smar tBook

Cha59.8e W* t

4

McGraw Hill Customer Support: Call (800) 331-5094
If you have any problems with these programs, first try another Browser. Then shut down your computer and restart it or
try another computer. Finally, YOU must call McGraw Hill for Customer Service – Do not tell me or the Teaching
Assistants and think it will be an excuse for not doing your work. The MH people are supposed to take care of any
problem, but in case they do not, get the Case Number when you contact them. If MH does not help you, then email me in
Blazeview and be sure to send me the case number so I can try to do something about it.

Peer Alliance Learning Sessions:
VSU has a program that designates an experienced student to coach you on how to succeed in this course. Mardi Haynes
will be holding sessions every week from 5:00-6:00 pm on Monday & Wednesday and another right after class on
Thursday from 11:00-12:00 in room 1043 of the BSC (The lab with the Reef Tank). These will include prep sessions before
the tests. After the tests, she will go over the questions that were missed most often.

Designated ASC Tutor:
Alejandro Ortega took this class last semester and he will be in the ASC at the Library (just to the right of the main desk) to
tutor specifically for this class, so you can make an appointment with him or try walking in to see if he is available.
His hours are: Mon 10:30-11:30, Tues 12:30-1:30, Thurs 2:30-3:30.

Examinations:
The unit tests will be 100 question multiple choice tests that assess conceptual understanding of course content. Do NOT try to
memorize the information because the test questions will probe your understanding of the concepts. I am not interested in whether you
are good at rote learning. You can practice the type of questions at the PAL Learning Sessions before the first exam. The final
examination will be comprehensive, consist of about 200 multiple choice questions, and cover all accumulated course content. Your
Test Scores will be available on Blazeview sometime after you finish the test.

Writing & Essay Topics:
Deadlines are firm and late work will not be accepted at all. Write these early and turn them in to BV
because if you miss the deadlines, you will not get credit.

9/12 Sex & Gender –

10/3 Nature of Science Essay – The Covid pandemic has been exacerbated in the USA by the fact that so many citizens
including powerful politicians have had such poor science education in school. Lacking a solid background, people
mistrust the medical science community, believe rumors & conspiracy theories, and fail to behave in ways that could help
them avoid the disease. Your assignment for this essay is to explain how medical science fits into the scheme of the natural
science disciplines and how scientific research in several aspects of the life sciences has collectively been used to research,
understand the virus, and fight the debilitating consequences of the illnesses it causes. How was that vaccine produced
and tested so quickly? How did they figure out that masks stop the spread?

10/31 Human Origins -

11/28 Racism –

.
.