

**Biology 1040 Organismal Biology Lab**  
**Spring Semester 2022**  
**Biology Department, College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Valdosta State University**

**Instructor:** Mr. Damion Castellano

**Office:** Science Building 1098

**Office Hours:** Monday 3:15 – 4:30 pm, Wednesday 1:00-2:00 pm or by appointment

**Phone:** Office 333-5769, Biology Dept. Main Office 333-5759

**E-mail:** dacastellano@valdosta.edu

**Room:** Science Building 1046

**Midterm** (withdrawal deadline): March 10, 2022. This is the last day to drop this course and receive a withdrawal grade (W).

**Credit Hours:** 1

**Course Description:**

**Bio 1040L Organismal Biology Lab** is a course for students with previous experience in general biology. ~~Students will participate in the~~ asking scientific questions, developing hypotheses, predicting outcomes of experiments, collecting and interpreting data and drawing conclusions from the results.

**Learning Goal:** Students will demonstrate understanding of the physical universe and the nature of science, and they will use

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scientific methods and/or mathematical reasoning and concepts to solve problems.

**Materials:**

**Lab Manual (MANDATORY):** Biology 1040L Organismal Biology Lab by Teresa H. Doscher. It can be purchased at the VSU Bookstore. It is a loose leaf, 3 hole punched manual so you will need to put it in a small 3 ring binder along with some extra loose leaf paper for taking notes.

**I will not accept assignments or a lab report from a class that you did not attend. I will not accept any late assignments either. You will receive a daily participation grade. Therefore, if you are not present you will receive a zero grade for the day.**

**Final Grades:** Final grades are based on the following cumulative point totals:

90 – 100% = A      80 – 89.99% = B      70– 79.99% = C      60 – 69.99% = D      Below 60% = F

## **COVID, FACE COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING**

Blazers protect Blazers. As members of a community, we seek to protect others and ourselves. The first line of protection against COVID 19 is to be fully vaccinated, including a booster. Vaccinations are strongly encouraged and are available free of charge through VSU Health Services and many local pharmacies. Information about scheduling an appointment at Student Health Services is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/>.

To protect yourself and others, properly wearing a face covering is strongly encouraged in all classrooms and other instructional spaces at all times.

If you are experiencing COVID symptoms, use the free testing available at the Student Health Center; you may also obtain a test at many other locations around town. If you test positive, please report your case using the COVID Self Reporting tool at the top of your MyVSU page. Guidance on student absences is available at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/guidance-on-student-absences.php>. To report an absence to the Dean of Students Office, complete the form at <https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/absentee-notification-form.php>.

If you must self-isolate or quarantine, follow the directions provided by Student Health after you have reported your COVID status.

## **GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDANCE ON ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE:**

**Isolation:** If you test positive for COVID-19, everyone (regardless of vaccination status) must:

- x Isolate at home for 5 days from the date symptoms first appeared or, if asymptomatic, the date of the positive test. Stay away from others in the household as much as possible during isolation.
- x After 5 days, if you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving and you have not had fever for more than 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, you may end isolation. If symptoms are not improving or fever has not resolved, you should continue isolating until these criteria are met.
- x After ending isolation, you should continue to wear a mask around others for 5 days.


**Quarantine:** If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and you are

- x Boosted, or have become fully vaccinated within the last 6 months (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or within the last 2 months (J&J vaccine):
  - x You do not need to quarantine at home.
  - x You should wear a mask around others for 10 days.
  - x If possible, get tested on day 5.
  - x If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.
- x Unvaccinated, or became fully vaccinated more than 6 months ago (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or more than 2 months ago (J&J vaccine) and have not received a booster:
  - x You must quarantine at home for 5 days. After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
  - x If possible, get tested on day 5.
  - x If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.

**ALL GUIDANCE LISTED HERE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH. VSU RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST PLANS AS NECESSARY.**

**For the student,** we advise that you should also email your professors to inquire about course work, staying on track, and making up missed assignments/exams. Given that much of the course material and lectures are available online at this time, students should progress in their coursework unless they are physically unable to do so or the nature of their absence does not permit them to do so. Students are also advised this is not an excused absence from class; rather it is the professor's right to determine the impact of the absence following the absence guidance offered in the syllabus. If students frequently miss class without good reason then later have a reason for absence notification to take place, their prior lack of participation in the course may negatively impact the available excused absences a professor may offer. Lastly, students are not required to let their

professors know why they are absent so long as an absentee notification has been sent on their behalf from Student Affairs. If your absence is COVID-related, be sure you have completed the Self Report Form in the MyVSU portal and talked with Student Health Services. Student Health is providing Student Affairs with all student absence information related to COVID. As the Blazer Creed articulates, members of the VSU community are expected to live by the high standards of civility, integrity, and citizenship and embrace their responsibility as a member of the Blazer community. In recognition of this responsibility, and in response to the best available science and current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Department of Public Health, while face coverings are no longer required, individuals are strongly encouraged to continue wearing a face covering indoors. Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated. Vaccines remain available at no cost for all members of the university community by appointment at Student Health Services. For COVID Vaccines, please call ahead for an appointment at 229-333-5886.



**Extra Help with Coursework**  
**The Academic Support Center (ASC)**

**Bio 1040 Organismal Lab  
Spring 2022  
Room BC 1046**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 AM					
8:30 AM					
9:00 AM					
9:30 AM					
10:00 AM	Bio 1040 Lab A		Bio 1040 Lab E		