BIOL 1100: Biology Freshman Seminar Spring 2012 Course Syllabus, Valdosta State University

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:00-2:00
Please feel free to call my office or use VSU email to schedule a convenient time for an appointment.
I would be more than happy to speak to students anytime the office doors are open.

Course Description: BIOL 1100 is required as a co-requisite for all incoming freshmen biology majors before or during enrollment in BIOL 1107. This is an introduction to college-

Course Requirements for BIOL 1100

Expectation:

Come to Class Prepared - Read the Syllabus to Know What & Where the Lesson Will Be

Attendance: Each absence will reduce the attendance grade by 25% unless a make-up assignment is approved by the instructor. These will only be allowed when class is missed for a good reason. These will be 1 single-spaced page (500-600 words) with 2 properly cited references. Entering a classroom late on more than one occasion is unacceptable. Each student is responsible for all material missed regardless of the reason for absences. Do not call or email and ask if you missed anything important. Assume that you did! This information should be obtained from another student.

- 1) Students who miss four classes (20%) will receive an automatic failing grade for the course.
- 2) Students who miss 20% (10 minutes) of class on a given day will be counted as absent for that day.
- 3) Students who are late 3 times will be given one unexcused absence.

Deportment: Active participation is expected of all students. Everyone should be involved in the disussions that are part of this course. Failure to become involved, thoughtless/rude behavior, or anything that detracts from the learning experiences of other students will hurt your grade. No disruptive behavior of any kind will be tolerated. Students should restrict talking and sidebar discussions, toward the instructor. Any student disrupting class meetings will be required to leave the classroom and considered absent. Use of cellular telephones, pagers, or any similar remote communication device is prohibited during class time.

Assignments: Homework is due at the start of class and will not be graded if they are late. NO EXCEPTIONS: Written assignments should be typewritten and single-spaced. Grades will be out of 10 points as (10 = Excellent, 8 = Good, 6 = Adequate, 5 = Deficient). If ETBT/of t = Good(e,)4(expe) Pu7(device)-5(is(s)-3(t(at)-4(t)4(end))

Monday BIOL 1100 Sections A & C: Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

<u>Date</u>		ClassTopic	Assignment	
Jan	9	Science and the Natural World	Student Information Sheet	
	16	No Class in Honor of the Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.		
	23	Strategies for Note Taking	Note Taking Reflection	
	30	Active Learning (Bring your 1107/1108 notebook to class)	Paper Topic	
Feb	6	Reading to Learn Science (Bring your textbook to class)	Textbook Analysis & Book Notes	
	13	Meet @theN		

Wednesday BIOL 1100 Section B: Tentative Class Schedule

(Subject to Change)

<u>Date</u>		Class Topic	<u>Assignment</u>
Jan	11	Science and the Natural World	Student Information Sheet
	18	The Breadth of the Life Sciences	Concept Map
	25	Strategies for Note Taking	Note Taking Reflection
Feb	1	Active Learning (Bring your 1107/1108 notebook to class)	Paper Topic
	8	Reading to Learn Science (Bring your textbook to class)	Textbook Analysis & Book Notes
	15	Meet @the Library (back entrance) Tour & Online Searching	3 Scientific Papers
	22	Reading a Scientific Paper	Synopsis of Scientific Paper
	29	Biology Curriculum: Plan for Advising & the Future	Semester Plan for Major
Mar	1	Midterm: Last day to drop a class without failing	
	7	The Style of Scientific Writing	Background on Organism
	12 - 0	or	

W riting Guidelines

Objective

These assignments have been designed help you to learn, outside the classroom, through your own writing. Papers are an opportunity to display your knowledge through more than just exams or what you might or might not say in class. These assignments also allow you to show your own style of expression and personal interests, so you should take pride in them.

Focus

Well-crafted writing always has a specific purpose. Every paper should have a distinct thesis or central idea. Your thesis should directly address the nature of the writing assignment. Decide on the topic and a specific case you want to make before you start writing. Write the thesis down and check back throughout the writing process to be certain that the work supports it.

Organization

Before you begin to write, think through how you plan to develop your thesis and use an outline to structure the paper. An Introduction and Conclusion will be the first and last paragraphs of your paper. Start paper with something catchy to interest the reader. Make it perfectly clear, in this introductory section, what your point or central idea will be. Support that concept throughout the body of your paper. Paragraphs in the middle will be the Body of your text. Subheadings are an effective way to support and indicate the organization of longer papers. Any paper over 3 pages probably needs subheadings. Avoid using phrases

Paragraphs

Divide the paper by major themes and make each of these a distinct paragraph. You should have at least 3 paragraphs on a 1-page paper. The first sentence of each paragraph is a topic sentence that shows what the paragraph cover. ONE SENTENCE IS NEVER AN ENTIRE PARAGRAPH because there should be at least 3 sentences elaborating any significant idea.

Format

Your papers are to be typed using something comparable to 12-point Times New Roman type, single-spacing, and reasonable (1-1.5 inch) margins. Other professors often expect double-spacing, but to save paper, I require single-spacing. The lengths of these papers are stated in the assignments. After you draft your ideas, if the paper is too long, go back through and shorten it up by taking out the less important aspects. If it is too short, go back and incorporate more support or add more detail to what you are saying. When I say 1 page, that means one sheet of paper that is full of text. Put your references and heading on that sheet. Use the word counting function on your word processor to be sure your text is 600-800 words per assigned page when single-spaced.

Requirements

Each paper should have a creative title identifying the approach to the assignment. For long papers, the title is centered on the title in the

upper right corner and the title should be centered on the first line. That course information should include the name, number, instructor, and the university. Number all pages starting with the first page of the text, but do not number the title page. Staple your papers, do not fold the corner or use a paper clip.

References

Be very careful about giving appropriate credit to the sources of any outside information that you use. You should have properly formatted references at the end of the paper that include: Author (Last name, Initials), Year (In parentheses), Title, Place & Name of Publisher, Pages. Use the APA or American Psychological Association style. For WWW eb sources, use as much information about the author or site along with the WWW eb address. When you include information that is general knowledge, it does not require a citation in the text. If you can find the same information in 2 or 3 books, it does not require a citation in the text. Be sure to reword or paraphrase text from your sources to avoid plagiarism. Paraphrasing means changing more than 1 word in a sentence. Think about

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ideas by using as few direct quotes as possible. The best idea is to quote someone only when the wording is extremely original and/or d.

Grading

Short papers will each be worth 10 points and longer assignments will be 100 points. Assignments will be described in detail in class, so listen carefully and be sure that you know what is expected or ask about anything that is unclear. Focus on the objective of the