

# Biology 1010: The Evolution & Diversity of Life Fall 2014

Department of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences, Valdosta State University

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## BIOL 1010B Course Objectives

Enduring Understanding: The natural world includes the totality of the physical and biological factors that have and continue to influence the evolution of living organisms, and science is the specific collection of processes employed by humans to understand natural phenomena.

Essential Questions:

What is the Nature of Science as both a body of knowledge and a set of systematic processes?

How do abiotic factors influence the variety of organisms within the ecosystems that make up the biosphere?

How does the Theory of Evolution explain the history of life and the vast diversity of living organisms?

Basic Knowledge & Skills Students Will Acquire:

The Nature of Science as both a Body of Knowledge and Set of Processes

Principles of Ecology

Evolutionary History and Biological Diversity of Living Organisms

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## Dates for Modules, Exams, & Other Events (Subject to Change with Notice)

NATURE OF SCIENCE MODULE - Weeks 1-5, August 19th - Sept 18th  
Thursday, Sept 18 - NoS Exam

ECOLOGY MODULE - Weeks 6-10, Sept. 23rd - Oct 16th  
Lake Louise Study - Sept 25  
Thursday, Nov 16 - Ecology Exam

EVOLUTION MODULE - Weeks 10-14, Oct 21st - Nov 20th  
Thursday 6- Class is Cancelled  
Thursday, Nov 20 - Evolution Exam

Week of 25 & 28      No Class - Thanksgiving Break

### Summary Activities

2 - Human Impact Presentations  
4 - Human Impact Presentations  
Final Exam | Thursday, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00 pm

Class Sessions: Please be on time to class and if you ar0

## Expectations on BIOL 1010 Writing Assignments

### Objective

Written assignments will reinforce class lessons and will help you to learn, outside the classroom, through your own thinking. 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 them.

### Focus

Well-crafted writing always has a specific purpose. Every paragraph or 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 or topic sentence down and check back throughout the writing process to be certain that the work supports it. Concentrate on demonstrating your understanding of the scientific information.

### Paper 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 should be used for clarity. Your assignments in this class should usually be in first person. Avoid using statements such as "In this paper I will discuss.." since it is much more sophisticated to avoid this type of "crutch statement."

### 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