**Valencia College**

**Biological Sciences**

**BSC 1005 (CRN: 15035)**

**Fall 2022 Course Syllabus**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor**: Cory L. Blackwell, Ph.D **E-Mail**: cblackwell8@valenciacollege.edu

**Office**: DPAC 340D **Phone:** (407) 582-1855

**Office Hours:**

Monday 10:00 am—11:00 am; 12:00 pm—2:00 pm

Tuesday  9:00 am—10:00 am; 12:30 pm—1:00 pm

Wednesday 7:30 am—8:30 am

Thursday 9:00 am—10:00 am; 12:30 pm—1:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm

**Course Description**: Welcome to Biological Science (BSC 1005)! An introduction to essential principles of biological science. Topics include, but are not limited to, the nature of science and the scientific method, chemistry for biology, cell structure, metabolism, reproduction and genetics, organisms, evolution theory, and classification of organisms. This is a general education course for non-biology majors. It is also recommended for students who need preparation before enrolling in a biology course for science majors. Students should be prepared to complete college level reading, writing, and mathematics assignments as part of this course. This course will also examine how the field of biology is intertwined with both current events and social justice issues. We will develop critical thinking skills through the study of biology and use those skills to propose solutions for today’s modern problems. This course meets the General Education Core Science requirement for graduation.

**Meeting Times**: Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 am—11:15 am

**Contact Hours**: 3 **Credit Hours**: 3

**Prerequisite**: None

**Refund of Fees**: The Drop/Refund deadline for this course is Monday, August 29 (11:59 pm).

**REQUIRED LECTURE MATERIALS**

Campbell Essential Biology e-book (W/Mastering Biology) Simon

ISBN  8220117021619 Publisher: Pearson Edition: 7

Or

Campbell Essential Biology Loose-Leaf (W/Mastering Biology) Simon

ISBN 9780135161913 Publisher: Pearson Edition: 7

PowerPoint slides comprising the course lecture notes will also be made available on Canvas and should be printed before each lecture, when appropriate, for use by the student.

**COURSE GOALS**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the foundational knowledge needed for

success in a variety of advanced disciplines including, but not limited to, nursing and other allied

health majors, medicine, molecular biology, and microbiology.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Identify levels of organization within and between organisms.
2. Explain how living organisms function.
3. Apply the use scientific method.
4. Identify basic components of the theory of evolution to species development
5. Analyze information and idea from diverse sources and disciplines

**VALENCIA COLLEGE CORE COMPETENCIES**

This course designed to provide you a foundation of biological understanding while fostering the

development of learning skills. It is built around the Valencia Community College competencies

of

1. THINK
2. VALUE
3. ACT
4. COMMUNICATE

For more information regarding Valencia competencies and student policies, go to the ATLAS website.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

**Technology Requirements**: The college uses the Canvas learning management system (LMS). The following link provides answers to common questions students may have about Canvas: [https://valenciacollege.edu/faculty/canvas-resources/student-faqs.php](https://valenciacollege.edu/faculty/canvas-resources/student-faqs.php%20) The following link lists the minimum computer requirements to successfully run Canvas: [https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721-67952720328](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721-67952720328%20) Please note – while Safari can be used for Canvas, Pearson’s website (home to Mastering Biology) has announced that Safari is not compatible with MasteringBiology. If you own an Apple-based system and use Safari, you will need to install a second browser to use to complete the required MasteringBiology assignments. The recommended browsers are Chrome and Firefox. Students must use a computer with reliable internet access because excuses or failure to complete assessments due to computer error will not be permitted. In addition to these basic requirements, you will need to download the Google Chrome browser as it will be required for all online examinations this semester. This browser is available for Windows- based, Apple-based, and Chromebook systems.

**Netiquette**. Since this course will be offered fully online, the practice of proper “Netiquette” will be implemented in this classroom. Common rules of courtesy will be observed by all students during the course and deviation from this would not be tolerated. In this course we will observe Valencia’s Peace and Justice Institute 13 Principles on How We Treat Each Other. Click here to see a listing of the [13 Principles](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/peace-justice-institute/who-we-are/principles.php). We will have discussions that may focus on sensitive areas and to ensure we are respecting each other and facilitating a welcoming environment, the use of these principles is paramount.

**Attendance.** The course is designed where there is a PowerPoint, pre-recorded lecture, and **optional** class meetings to review material that you may have questions about or to clarify learning objectives. Again, your attendance for the class meeting is **optional.** Your attendance, however, may give you the added benefit of a personalized explanation of the topic which may translate to a better understanding of the material which can result in improved grades. It is entirely your responsibility to discover and recover material (from a classmate) that was discussed during the classes you are unable to attend. However, to comply with the new regulations from the Department of Education dealing with program integrity, faculty must document that each student attended class during the first week of semester. Completing one of the required first week assignments will constitute as a record of your attendance

**Online Tutoring**: Never be afraid to ask for help. We have all encountered courses/subject matters that do not “stick” and would benefit from additional time with the material. Of course, you can reach out to your instructor, but you can also reach out to your peers. A third option is the various online tutoring options at the school. There are on-campus tutoring, online tutoring, and Brainfuse (Essay Submissions). This is a link to the Distance Learning Tutoring schedule for the Sciences that are offered by Valencia. Click [here](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/c.php?g=1014597&p=7351774)

**Academic Dishonesty**: All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a test situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the student’s individual thoughts, research and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged. Students shall take special notice that the assignment of course grades is the responsibility of the student’s individual professor. When the professor has reason to believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred, and before sanctions are imposed, the student shall be given informal notice and an opportunity to be heard by the professor. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be liable to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor which will include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment/examination/project; a reduction in the course grade; or a grade of “F” in the course. At the option of the professor, the campus president may be furnished with written notification of the occurrence and the action taken. If such written notice is given, a copy shall be provided to the student. Students guilty of engaging in a gross or flagrant act of academic dishonesty or repeated instances of academic dishonesty shall also be subject to administrative and/or disciplinary penalties which may include warning, probation, suspension and/or expulsion from the college.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to

Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific

needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students

with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

The OSD offices are located in the UnionWest building. For Valencia students, the contact email is osddtc@valenciacollege.edu. dmaschhoff@valenciacollege.edu). The office is in the Testing and Accessibility Office in UnionWest, room number 201. For UCF students, the contact person is Theda Llewellyn (email: Theda.Llewellyn@ucf.edu), also located in UnionWest, room number 210.

**BAYCARE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH’S STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Valencia is committed to making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college

experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help that may assist them

with psychological issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties,

substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home

or work. Students have 24-hour unlimited access to the Baycare Behavioral Health’s

confidential student assistance program phone counseling services by calling (800) 878-5470.

Three free confidential face-to-face counseling sessions are also available to students.

A Victim Service Center’s Sexual Assault Hotline is also available at 407-497-6701 or at

<http://www.victimservicecenter.com/>.

**WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE**

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and

Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of Friday,

October 28 at 11:59 pm will receive a grade of “W”. Instructors on the Downtown Campus will not withdraw a student from their course, and it is incumbent on the student to withdraw from the class. A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. Any student who withdraws from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of “F.” Students on financial aid should consult an advisor or a counselor before withdrawing from a course; there may be financial aid implications to the student which he or she must know about to make an informed decision before withdrawing from a course. Students with some scholarships who withdraw or are withdrawn from a class must pay the college for the cost of the class. Other scholarship sponsors may also require repayment.

For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07, please visit [here](http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=75&volumeID_1=4&nav):

**Grading Information:**

Grading Scale:

100-90% A

89-80% B

79-70% C

69-60% D

59% and below F

# **Assignment Overview & Grade Breakdown**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lecture Exam | Five Lecture Exams (50 points each) | 250 points |
| Final Exam | Cumulative Examination | 100 points |
| Quizzes | Announced and Unannounced | 150 points |
| Mastering Biology Homework | At least 1 homework with each chapter | 150 points |
| Science in Modern Events Discussion Posts | Evaluation and Discussion of Biology in Modern Day Events  \* Must post a discussion **and reply** to at least 1 colleague | 100 points |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Total Points** | **750** |
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|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Late Work/Extensions**

**NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN. No Discussion Posts will be accepted beyond the deadline.** If you miss a given due date because of extenuating circumstances, you can still complete a lecture or lab assignment for a 10% reduction in grade each day it is late. **If you miss an exam due to extenuating circumstances, a 10% reduction in grade per meeting will deducted from your exam grade.**

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Student questions can be fielded in “First Stop” in the UnionWest Building. The Downtown campus Learning Support Center (LSC) is comprised of two areas: Tutoring Center (DPAC 330) and the Writing Center (DPAC 320). The hours of operation are as follows

* Monday – Thursday: 9 am – 9 pm
* Friday: 9 am – 3 pm
* Sunday: 1 pm – 5 pm

**GENERAL STUDY AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT TIPS**

1. Don’t be tardy to class and do attend class daily. Students who follow this won’t miss

important information and the introduction to each lecture, which is important to understand the

purpose of each lecture.

1. Prepare for class and allow plenty of time to study every day. Learning is an action verb!!

Most students need to do more than just sit through lectures and re-read their notes. Plan on

spending 1-2 hours of time EVERY DAY actively writing or discussing concepts to make them a

part of your memory. Use the words you learn often, they will sink in better.

1. Recopy your notes soon after the lecture and audio record lectures to refresh your memory

when you rewrite your notes.

1. Make a lab journal when you get home to review everything you did, used, and saw and explain

what you saw in the lab to refresh your memory when studying for the lab practical exams.

1. Use flash cards with questions you make up from the lecture and lab with answers on the back.
2. Use mnemonic devices and other games to remember concepts. Go to Google images and
3. YouTube for additional pictures and videos to clarify concepts.
4. Make lists of confusing topics from your studying and ask questions. **Take advantage of the**

**professor’s office hours.**

1. When you have studied sufficiently, JOIN A STUDY GROUP and predict what questions the

professor could ask on the test.

1. Get the telephone number of one or more colleagues in case you are absent from a class.

**DISCLAIMER**

This is an outline of course policies and procedures. The professor may change these policies as

he sees fit. If so, I will inform you in class and Canvas of those changes. Any changes made to the course

and/or its schedule of topics and assessments are your responsibility to know. Your continued

participation in this course after the add-drop period constitutes an agreement with and an

acceptance of the conditions presented within this syllabus.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Lecture |  |
| Aug 22 | **Introductions, Chapter 1** |  |
| Aug 29 | **Chapter 1 & Chapter 2** |  |
| Sep 5 | **Chapter 2 & Chapter 3** |  |
| Sep 12 | **Chapter 4/Exam 1(Ch 1-4)** |  |
| Sep 19 | **Chapter 4 & Chapter 5** |  |
| Sep 26 | **Chapter 5 and Chapter 6** |  |
| Oct 3 | **Chapter 7/ Exam 2(Ch 5-7)** |  |
| Oct 10 | **Chapter 8** |  |
| Oct 17 | **Chapter 9** |  |
| Oct 24 | **Chapter 10/ Exam 3(Ch 8-10)** |  |
| Oct 31 | **Chapter 11** |  |
| Nov 7 | **Chapter 12** |  |
| Nov 14 | **Chapter 13/ Exam 4(Ch 11-13)** |  |
| Nov 21 | **Chapter 14 & Chapter 17** |  |
| Nov 28 | **Chapter 17/Exam 5 (Ch 14&17)** |  |
| Dec 5 | **Finals Week** |  |

(NOTE: This is a tentative schedule, and the instructor reserves the right to change this

schedule without notice)

**Vacations and Other Important Dates:**

* August 29—Drop/Refund Deadline
* September 5—Labor Day
* October 28 – Withdrawal Deadline (11:59 pm)
* November 11—Veterans Day
* November 23-27—Thanksgiving Holiday
* December 5-11—Finals Week