**Valencia State College**

**BSC 1005 Biological Science CRN 24066 E 08 and CRN 25269 E 10 Spring 2019**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

- Cesar O. Irizarry, D.C.

- Office location - TBA

- Office phone 407-582-2311

- cirizarry6@valenciacollege.edu

- Office Hours - TBA

- Teaching style: Student Centered – Face to Face instruction with constructivist approach

**Course Information:**

- Contact days and hours/week (lecture): E 08 1:00pm-2:15pm / E 10 4:00pm-6:45pm

- Class meeting location(s): E 08 Bldg. 1 Room 341 / E 10 Bldg. 1 Room 270

- Spring 2019

- Credit Hours earned upon passing: **3**

- Prerequisite(s) and/or Co-requisite(s): None

**- Required Textbook:**

* What is Life? A Guide to Biology
* Jay Phelan 4th Edition
* ISBN: 978-1-319-06545-4

**- Refund of Fees**

Students will still be eligible to get back all tuition and refundable fees by **January 15, 2019 at 11:59pm.**

**- Course Description:**

General education credit course. 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.

**Major Topics/ Concepts/ Skills/ Issues:**

* Principles of the scientific method and applications to practical problems.
* Classification and variation of organisms.
* Basic chemistry of organisms.
* Cell structure and function.
* Cell metabolism.
* Cell transport.
* Cell reproduction.
* Basic molecular genetics and patterns of inheritance.
* Basic principles of evolution theory.

**- Course Learning Outcomes:**

**Students will be able to identify levels of organization within and between organisms**

Corresponding Evidence of Learning

* identify basic chemical compounds and describe their function in organisms.
* identify and describe cellular structures and functions.
* identify the levels of organization from cells to species.
* identify and differentiate between basic cellular metabolic processes.

### Students will explain how living organisms’ function.

#### Corresponding Evidence of Learning

* identify and describe structures and functions necessary for survival of organisms.
* identify and explain genetic mechanisms and types of cellular reproduction.
* identify and apply basic components of the theory of evolution to species development.

### Students will identify and apply the use of scientific methods.

#### Corresponding Evidence of Learning

* identify the steps and types of scientific methods of study.
* analyze practical problems and/or case studies and solve them using the appropriate scientific method.
* identify methods of science inquiry.

### Students will be able to identify and apply basic components of the theory of evolution to species development.

#### Corresponding Evidence of Learning

* identify biological mechanisms which affect the development of species.
* differentiate between the types of biological mechanisms which affect the development of species adaptations.

### Critical Thinking - Students will effectively analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and apply information and ideas from diverse sources and disciplines.

#### Corresponding Evidence of Learning

* review and analyze scientific data and studies and determine their validity.

### Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning - (Scientific) Students will be able to use processes, procedures, data, or evidence to solve problems and make effective decisions.

#### Corresponding Evidence of Learning

* review scientific articles, case studies, and/or data and draw valid conclusions.
* identify the use of scientific methods of inquiry in scientific articles, case studies, and/or data.

**STUDENT SUCCESS INFORMATION**

**Grading scale (points/letter grades)**

90-100 = A

80-89.99 = B

70-79.99 = C

60-69.99 = D

50-59.99 = F

**Assessment due dates with point values for each grade component**

Midterm exam 40%

Final exam 40%

Attendance 10%

Short Research Paper 10%

Two extra credit quizzes will be available.

**Weekly/daily schedules with dates and topics covered in lecture – See Canvas**

**Final Exam date, time, and place**

Final Exam dates: April 22-April 28 in the classroom.

**FYI:** College policy states, “Professors are required to offer final examinations to all credit students (except those taking coursework for audit) during the scheduled final examination period.”

**Make-up Policies and Procedures**

**-** Make for tests will be given only in the case of an emergency with proper documentation.

**Extra Credit Policy**

*“There will be NO CURVE for any test (lecture or practical). The only extra point opportunities are solely based on two quiz assessments during the semester, each one worth 5 extra points. However, if you do not take the quizzes, you will not be given these extra points.* ***No exceptions or other accommodations will be given to earn extra points.”***

**Attendance and Tardy Policy and Expectations**

Attendance to all class meetings is mandatory.

- If you are tardy this will not be considered an absence.

- If you need to leave class early, please do so in a considerate manner after notifying your instructor.

**Withdrawal Deadline and Policy**

Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals).

*“A student who withdraws from class before the* ***withdrawal deadline of March 22, 2019 at 11:59pm*** *will receive a grade of “W.” A faculty member is permitted to withdraw a student from the faculty member's class up to the beginning of the final exam period, for violation of the faculty member's attendance policy, as published in the faculty member's syllabus. A student is not permitted to withdraw from this class after the withdrawal deadline; if you remain in the class after the withdrawal deadline, you can only receive a grade of A, B, C, D, F or I. An I grade will only be assigned under extraordinary circumstances that occur near the end of the semester. If you receive an I, the work missed must be made up during the following semester, at which time you will get an A, B,C,D or F. Failure to make up the work during the following semester will result in you getting a grade of F in the course. Any student who withdraws from this class during a third or subsequent attempt in this course will be assigned a grade of “F.”*

**Note to students on financial aid:**

You should consult an advisor before withdrawing from a course; there may be financial 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.

In order to academically maintain financial aid, students must meet all of the following requirements:

* Complete 67% of all classes attempted, and
* Maintain a Valencia GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
* Maintain an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher, and
* Complete degree within the 150% timeframe

Detailed information about maintaining satisfactory academic progress (SAP) can be found at: <http://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory_progress.cfm>

**Course Attempts/Course Withdrawal**

Agencies and organizations which provide financial assistance/scholarships (federal and state government, businesses, etc.) may have requirements relative to withdrawal, course repeats and grade forgiveness which are more stringent than those described below. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

According to State Rule 6A-14.0301, you may attempt the same course only three times at Valencia including the original grade, repeat grades and withdrawals at any point in the term. Students in bachelor’s degree programs are limited to two attempts. The same course usually means the subject prefix and course number are the same when posted on a Valencia transcript. Courses that have been deemed equivalent will all count as attempts even if the current course number is not the same as your previous attempt(s). Being enrolled in a course for credit beyond the Drop/Refund Deadline counts as an attempt. The Drop/Refund Deadline for each term is listed in the Academic Calendar in the online official catalog.

**Notice to Students Seeking to Withdraw from a Course(s)**

Before you withdraw from a course, you should be aware that course withdrawals:

• Will increase the cost of your education

• May affect your financial aid status

• May affect your transfer grade point average

• May result in your having to pay the full cost of instruction fee to retake the course

• May affect your anticipated graduation date

• May result in your being denied access to limited access programs

• May affect your eligibility for the Honors Program

• May affect your immigration status if you are attending Valencia on a nonimmigrant visa

• Will result in your required repayment of course fees paid by a Bright Futures scholarship.

To withdraw from a course(s) you must access registration on Atlas. The Withdrawal Deadlines for each term are published in the Academic Calendar in the online official catalog. All requests for withdrawals must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the Withdrawal Deadline date (March 22, 2019).

**Before you withdraw:**

• Talk with your professor to discuss your progress in the course

• See a Student Services staff member to discuss how a withdrawal will affect your career and education plans and/or the status of your financial aid

**Conditions That Apply to a First or Second Attempt in a Course**

On or Before the Withdrawal Deadline:

During a first or second attempt in the same course at Valencia, if you withdraw, or are withdrawn by the professor, you will receive a W (Withdrawn). You will not receive credit for the course, and the W will not be calculated in your grade point average; however, the enrollment will count in your total attempts in the specific course.

Following withdrawal, you may, with the professor’s approval, continue to attend the course for the remainder of the term.

After the Withdrawal Deadline: A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A professor may withdraw you up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy, as published in the faculty member's syllabus, in which case you will receive a grade of “W”. If the professor does not withdraw you, your grade will be what you had earned.

For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please got to:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/default.cfm?policyID=75&volumeID_1=4&navst=0>

**Incomplete Grades:**

Before assigning an I (Incomplete) grade, please discuss the student situation with the dean who can send you the Incomplete Grade contract to be completed by the professor and signed by the student.

**Valencia College Core Competencies**

*“The faculty of Valencia College has identified four core competencies that define the learning outcomes for a successful Valencia graduate. These competencies are at the heart of the Valencia experience and provide the context for learning and assessment at Valencia College. You will be given opportunities to develop and practice these competencies in this class. The four competencies are:*

*1.* ***Think*** *- think clearly, and creatively, analyze, synthesize, integrate, and evaluate in the many domains of human inquiry*

*2.* ***Value*** *- make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments*

*3.* ***Communicate*** *- communicate with different audiences using varied means*

*4.* ***Act*** *- act purposefully, effectively and responsibly.”*

**ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM INFORMATION**

**Security Statement**

*We want to reassure you that our security officers are here around the clock to ensure the safety and security of the campus community. It is important to remain alert and aware of your surroundings, especially during the early morning or evening hours. Remember that you can always call security for an escort if you feel uncomfortable walking alone on campus. White security phones can also be found in many of our buildings; simply pick up the phone and security will answer. Finally, report any suspicious persons to East Campus Security at 407-582-2000, or by using the yellow emergency call boxes located on light poles in the parking lots and along walkways.*

**Faculty/Student Communication**

- Communication will be through e-mail after class hours.

- A response will be given within 24 hours.

- You must check your student email every other day, at least.

*“Valencia College is committed to providing each student a quality educational experience. Faculty members have set high standards of instruction for themselves and for you. If you have a problem in a class, your first step is to talk to your instructor. If you are still dissatisfied, you may talk with the academic dean of the division for your class. We will work together to resolve any issues that arise.”*

**Academic Honesty Statement**

Each student is required to follow Valencia policy regarding academic honesty.

All forms of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, misuse) are prohibited as stated in the Student Code of Conduct and will be disciplined or penalized accordingly. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of each student’s individual thoughts, research, and self-expression unless the assignment specifically states “group project.”

With the first occurrence of academic dishonesty, in any form, a student will receive a failing grade for that single assignment/assessment. Proof of a subsequent event of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade in the class along with a referral to the Dean of Science and the Dean of Students.

**Classroom Rules of Student Behavior**

The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with you, and you will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook: [**http://valenciacollege.edu/pdf/student-handbook.pdf**](http://valenciacollege.edu/pdf/student-handbook.pdf)

Disciplinary action could include withdrawing a student from class or initiating a disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions.

- Any student caught cheating will be immediately referred to the Dean for appropriate disciplinary action.

- Any student who engages in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in the disruption of a class will be asked to leave the class.

- Violations of any classroom or Valencia rules may lead to disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from Valencia.

**No Food or Drink in the Lecture Room (no exceptions)**

**Policies Specific to our Classroom**

The use of electronic devices such as cell phones is not allowed unless instructed to do so as it is disruptive to the instructional environment of the class.

Students may take a call outside the classroom if necessary.

**Alternative Arrangements for Pregnant Students**

The laboratory environment often times will involve the use of and/or exposure to chemicals or other substances. If you are pregnant and concerned about your exposure to these chemicals, please see your instructor, lab manager, or Dean to discuss possible alternative arrangements. Students are also invited to contact Mr. Ryan Kane, Title IX Coordinator/Equal Opportunity Officer, 407-582-3421, rkane8@valenciacollege.edu, regarding requests for alternative arrangements relating to pregnancy.

**Student Feedback on Instruction (SFI)**

Students taking courses are asked to complete the electronic Student Feedback on Instruction survey to let us know more about their experiences. It is used at Valencia by faculty members to improve the teaching and learning experience. Faculty cannot access your student feedback until after final grades are posted. Through this link you can find answers to other commonly asked questions about the SFI.

[**http://valenciacollege.edu/academic-affairs/institutional-effectiveness-planning/institutional-assessment/saicc/SFIFrequentlyAskedQuestions.cfm**](http://valenciacollege.edu/academic-affairs/institutional-effectiveness-planning/institutional-assessment/saicc/SFIFrequentlyAskedQuestions.cfm)

**BayCare Behavioral Health’s Student Assistance Program**

Include this statement, which is useful to students in need of private counseling:

“*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.”*

Also, students may need to contact the Victim Service Center’s Sexual Assault Hotline at 407-497-6701 or at <http://www.victimservicecenter.com/>

**Students with Disabilities Information:**

Include in each syllabus the following statement informing students that they must request accommodations through the proper channels in a timely manner.

- Read your statement aloud when reviewing the syllabus with the class.

- Demonstrate to students that Valencia is sensitive to and concerned about meeting the needs of all students.

- Encourage students to make their accommodation needs known to you early in the semester.

- Here is the statement:

*"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; accommodations will not be applied retroactively. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities."*

*East Campus Building 5, Rm. 216 Phone: 407-582-2229 Fax: 407-582-8908*

*Email: osdeast@valenciacollege.edu*

**Disclaimer**

*“The course outline and syllabus are subject to change as needed; changes will be announced in class (or state how you will contact students with this information, such as by using ATLAS email, Canvas, etc.) in a timely manner, when necessary. Your continued participation in this course after the drop-add deadline period constitutes an agreement with and an acceptance of the conditions presented in this syllabus.”*

**Weather Emergencies**

In the case of weather emergencies, you can find out about school closings by signing up to update your information for Valencia Alerts.

**College Policies, Procedures, and other References**

●A full description of all College policies can be found in the College Catalog at

<http://www.valenciacollege.edu/catalog/>

●Information about maintaining satisfactory academic progress can be found at

<http://valenciacollege.edu/finaid/satisfactory_progress.cfm>

●The Student Handbook can be found at

<http://valenciacollege.edu/pdf/student-handbook.pdf>

●The Policy Manual can be found at

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel>

●The college calendar can be found at

<http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar>

●Information about the Office for Students with Disabilities can be found at <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/CurrentStudents.cfm>

●Final exam schedule can be found at

<http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/FinalExam.cfm>

●Information about Valencia’s Skill shop which offers a variety of topics on student success and goals can be found at <http://valenciacollege.edu/studentservices/skillshops.cfm>

**Study tips**

“*LEARNING IS AN ACTION VERB!! Most students need to do more than just sit through lectures and reread their notes.* ***Spend 1-2-hour blocks 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**.*

*Here are some study and classroom management tips that have assisted former students:*

*- Attend class daily and don’t be tardy. The introduction to each lecture explains the purpose of the entire lecture. Students who follow this rule won’t miss important information.*

*- REWRITE YOUR NOTES soon after the lecture; if the instructor permits, tape record lectures and replay to refresh your memory when you rewrite your notes.*

*- Create flash cards with questions you make up from the lecture and lab with answers on the back.*

*- Use mnemonic devises and other games to remember concepts; go to Google images, YouTube and Khan Academy for additional pictures and videos to clarify concepts.*

*- Make lists of confusing topics from your studying and ask questions.*

*- Take advantage of the professor’s office hours.*

*- JOIN A STUDY GROUP and predict what questions the professor could ask on the test.*

*- Get the telephone number of one or more buddies in case you are absent from a class.*

**Learning Support Services information for Faculty and Students**

Valencia offers free services outside of the classroom to assist your learning. The **Tutoring Center** (downstairs building 4) provides math tutoring in a walk-in basis and tutoring for languages, science, business, and many other subjects by appointment. Study rooms are open for reservations and math materials are also available for check out with your Valencia ID card. You can also get tutoring online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through **Smarthinking**. Click the Tutoring (Online) link in the Course tab in Atlas to access the full schedule of Smarthinking subjects such as various math, writing, business, nursing and allied health, science, and computer technology.

The **Computer Access Lab** (Building 4) is an open lab with computers, project spaces, printing, scanning, and equipment check out. One-on-one training is also available for Microsoft Office products, Photoshop, OneDrive, and Blackboard. The **Testing Center** (4-124) is where you go to make-up exams arranged with your professor, take exams for online classes, or receive pre-arranged special accommodations. Make sure you have your Valencia ID card or a state driver’s license with you when you go to take your test.