



and grade information. I will post course tentative grades as well as any necessary class materials and review grades as they are reported. All official course information is located on Blazeview and students are expected to regularly access the Blazeview website.

**deadlines or errors and no late assignments will be accepted.**

**Note that I use the Blazeview site grade sheet only to report tentative grades to you.** I do not use it to calculate final grades. I use a separate spreadsheet.

**Also note that the instructor is required to file the last date of attendance for any student failing the course.** In that case I will report the last date a student has submitted a graded assignment as evidence of attendance. This information is used by financial aid authorities to assess potential payback of aid funds. If you decide to leave the class, make sure you formally drop it through the appropriate procedure. **Failure to do so could potentially result in a student having to pay back financial aid money.**

**Assessment/Grading policy:** Final letter grades will be based upon a 10-point scale. Sapling Homework assignments will constitute 10% of the overall grade, online Sapling chapter quizzes will constitute 10% overall final grade and lecture exams will compose 80% of the overall grade.

1) **Four exams** (each counts equally, and the average will compose 80% of the overall class grade): Students will be tested on their knowledge, comprehension, and application of all lecture, assigned reading material, vocabulary and ability for genetic problem solving. There are four exams. The lowest exam score of the 4 will be dropped. Exams are multiple choice **scheduled and administered on Blazeview**. Exams will include both knowledge of factual material and problem-solving ability.

**Special note:** Exams will **require that students download the Respondus Lockdown Browser** from Blazeview onto their computer to access the test. Also note that exams cannot be taken on Chromebook computers. Anyone using a Chromebook must arrange to take exams on another machine.

2) **Online Homework sets** (average = 10%) The number and due dates of graded homework assignments will be determined and announced as need and class schedule develops. The purpose of homework sets is to develop skills needed for solving genetics problems on the tests. **No late or incomplete homework assignments will be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.**

3) **Online quizzes** (average = 10%): Short, Multiple choice Quizzes covering the text chapter and Powerpoint lecture concepts, problems and terminology will typically be assigned. **No quiz points will be given otherwise.**

**Absentee policy:**

**BIOLOGY TUTORING:** The **Academic Support Center (ASC)** at Valdosta State University is in **the VSU Odum Library** and is available to all students. The ASC provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including biology, chemistry, math, writing, and foreign languages. The ASC also provides free professional academic advising and on - campus job information in one location. **Call 333-7570** to make an appointment or visit the website: [www.valdosta.edu/ssc](http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc).

**Academic Honesty:** This course adheres to the university policy on academic integrity as set fourth in the undergraduate catalogue Student Code of Ethics (pages 93-94): Any student caught cheating will receive an F on the assignment, possibly for the course and be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Dropping A Course Without Penalty:** In order to officially drop a course without penalty, a student must obtain and fill out a drop/add form from the Registrar's Office, acquire appropriate signatures, and return the completed form to the Registrar's Office before the designated date (published in the academic calendar). If you don't officially withdraw, and instead just stop coming to class, you will receive an F for the course. Please be aware of the university policy that limits the number of dropped courses to 5.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibit the public posting of grades by Social security number or in any manner personally identifiable to the individual student. No grades can be given by email or over the telephone, as positive identification cannot be made by this manner.

**Access Office Statement:** Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The **Access Office is located in Farbar Hall**. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348

**January 11 First Class Day for spring 2021**  
**January 14 Registration for spring 2021 ends (11:59pm)**

and conclusions in both written and oral formats used in peer-reviewed journals and at scientific meetings.

2. Describe the evolutionary processes responsible for biological diversity, explain the phylogenetic relationships among the major taxa of life, and provide illustrative examples.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the cellular basis of life.

4. Relate the structure and the function of DNA/RNA to the development of form and function of the organism and to heredity.

5. Interpret ecological data pertaining to the behavior of the individual organism in its natural environment; to the structure and function of populations, communities, and ecosystems; and to human impacts on these systems and the environment.

**Specific course outcomes keyed to departmental and university expected educational outcomes:**

**By the end of this course, as demonstrated by performance on tests, homework problems and written laboratory reports, students will:**