

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE SYLLABUS

General Biology • Fall 2008

Course No.: **BIOL 100** Course Title: **General Biology** Units: **4**
Sections: **21664 (Tues Lab)/21668 (Thurs Lab)** Lectures: **T & Th 5:30 pm- 6:50pm**
Room: **Building 21 Room #142** Labs: **T-Th. 7:00-10:00** Room: **31-11**
Instructor Name: **Dr. Gary Elder AA, BS, BS, DC** Email: drgeisme@msn.com Phone: **927-5321**

SPRING CALENDAR

Fall Semester Begins August 25
Labor Day Sept. 1
Veteran's Day Nov 10
Thanksgiving Holidays Nov 27-30
Fall Semester Ends Dec 13

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Last day to withdraw from class and receive a "W" is Nov 4th.

Attendance Policy: Following is some official verbiage related to class attendance. "Class attendance is not a measure of performance or proficiency. Whether a student is just physically present in the class is not a valid basis for grading (ref. Title 5 Section 55002, CA Code of Regulations: (A) Grading Policy). The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon uniform standards in accordance with section 55758 of this Division. The grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency, at least in part, by means of written expression that may include essays, or, in courses where the curriculum committee deems them to be appropriate, by problem solving exercises or skills demonstrations by students."

Since most of the funding of community colleges in the State of California is based on student enrollment, it is necessary for Victor Valley College to keep accurate records of how many students we actually serve. As a consequence, I will take attendance at each meeting (lecture and lab). " Lateness per se results in no immediate penalty to you, but I can drop you from the class after *four unexcused absences*. My philosophy is that since you knowingly signed up for the time slot, you planned on being there at each class session. I also know that blown tires and pesky babysitters are legitimate problems for people. In order to have something in hand for our administration, however, I request that you provide me with a *written excuse* for each absence to clear it off your record.

Textbook: Campbell et al. *Essential Biology. 3rd Edition.* Benjamin/Cummings (with CD-ROM).

Lecture Manual: Kaiser H & MacKay P. 2008. *Lecture Slides. 2nd Edition.* Pearson Custom Publishing.

Lab Manual: Kaiser, H. 2007 *General Biology Laboratory Manual. Second Edition.*

Other Supplies: 5 scantrons: (only *Form 882-E* will be accepted), ten for quizzes (Form 2020)
#2 pencils to mark scantrons
a good eraser (test it before exams to avoid wrong scoring!)
pencil sharpener, calculator
color pencils (for note-taking and making diagrams in class and lab)
bound, black graph-paper Physics notebook (to serve as lab notebook)

Course Description: This is an introductory course in biological principles that transfers as a laboratory science course to the California State University system and to the University of California system, as well as to many other 4-year colleges and universities. Throughout this course, I emphasize the scientific method, the process of scientific data interpretation and analysis, the use of the metric system, and I encourage all of you to learn to think like scientists. Topics covered include cellular biology, genetics and heredity, classification and systematics, evolution, ecology, behavior, and conservation, and I attempt to make the course content relevant to current biological issues as much as possible.

Grading Policy:	Exams & Quizzes	90%	A > 90.0%
	Lab Notebook (see below)	10%	B 80–89.9%
			C 70–79.9%
			D 60–69.9%
			F ≤ 59.4%

Course Objectives:

1. To critically evaluate popular and scientific writings and experimental design in biology
2. To design experiments using proper scientific methodology
3. The basic chemistry of life
4. The basics of cellular structure, cellular components, and their function
5. The basic processes of photosynthesis
6. The basic processes of cellular respiration
7. To compare and contrast mitosis and meiosis
8. To explain how the structure and function of DNA form the basis for protein synthesis
9. To solve 1-locus, 2-locus, and sex-linked genetic problems
10. How to assess the size and growth of populations
11. The basics of taxonomy, classification, and systematics
12. To construct and use dichotomous keys in identifying organisms
13. To recognize and quantify factors influencing local communities of organisms
14. About species interactions and their influence on community and species evolution
15. To identify and categorize animal behaviors
16. To explain the biological reasons for current environmental concerns, both global and local
17. To keep accurate records in a lab notebook

Examinations: There will be *five* examinations covering lecture material. *Details* will be restricted in scope to the subject matter most recently discussed during the lectures, but *concepts* will build on one another. **These dates are tentative** and are as follows: Exam 1—**Sept 16**; Exam 2—**Oct 7**; Exam 3—**Oct 28**; Exam 4—**Nov 25**; Exam 5—**Dec 11**. These examinations are primarily concept-oriented and will not cover each and every detail found in the chapters; what I teach in lecture, I will examine. You are responsible for what I teach and the power-point slides that are covered in class. In order to get a high grade, attendance of classes is essential. Exams are obviously mandatory.

I take time to create exams that are fair and reflect what I taught in class. Since it is usually impractical to create an equivalent make-up exam, I do not give make-up exams. If you miss an exam, it will be scored as zero. Please be on time for exams; it is discourteous to others to come late because it is distracting to have someone else walk in late and get settled.

Should you realize ahead of time that you will miss an exam, with good reason, it is your responsibility to notify me *before* the exam. If you miss the exam for reasons beyond your control on the exam day, then (1) provide me with a written medical excuse AND (2) notify me within 24 hours of the missed exam. If I do not get proper notification, *your exam will be scored as zero*.

Quizzes: Every Thursday we will be having a quiz that will range between 5-15 questions.

Laboratory: Labs are a supplemental means of instruction, and the lab topics will closely follow the lectures. It is your responsibility to *come prepared* to get the most out of the lab and to not slow down your teammates. Our lab room is SL 9, and we need to keep it clean. Since we sometimes have a variety of toxic **chemicals** in the lab (and we do not know what the other classes bring in), eating and drinking in the lab cannot be tolerated. **ALL CELL PHONES AND LAP TOPS ARE TO BE TURNED OFF DURING LABS.**

Lab Write-Up: There are no weekly lab reports to hand in. Thus, your lab notebook is your record of the labs we do. Your lab notebook is where you record each experiment's objectives, your hypothesis, a summary of experimental procedures, results (your experimental data), analyzing your results (e.g., graphs, statistics, explanation, discussion), a conclusion, and a brief experimental critique. Note that this is a **continuous** record of your lab experience. The lab notebook is worth a total of 60 points. Each lab is worth 3 points in your book. There are 15 labs for a total of 45 points. Neatness is worth 6 points. Table of contents and title page are worth two points each. For each lab you are absent 3 points will be subtracted

from your grade. Plagiarism of lab notebooks will not be tolerated. There are no make-ups for labs, however if you know you are going to be absent I will allow you to attend another lab during the same week.

General Etiquette: There are a few things you need to know so that we together can create an atmosphere where learning and teaching are possible, an atmosphere based on mutual respect. This means behavior on my and your part that is appropriate for a lecture and lab setup. For example, I cannot tolerate persistent talking during the lecture; it is disrespectful and disturbing to me and to your fellow students. If you sit with friends, please don't talk or I will ask you to change seats. Cell phones must be on vibrate or turned off, and if you must answer the call, please leave the room. Ringing cell phones will not be tolerated. Drinking, drugs, and violent behavior are cause for dismissal from VVC. There is a strict policy printed in your college bulletin that explains student discipline on campus. Repeated disturbance can lead to a 2-session suspension issued immediately by any instructor, and the person can be removed by campus police. Let's work together and make it a successful semester for everyone.

Addendum: I reserve the right to make changes to the class as I see fit. If a change is made and you are absent, you are still responsible for any effect made by my changes.