ISCI 2001 - Tentative Course Schedule

Course Structure

Evaluation:

Written Work & Presentations Personal Journal	30%
LearnSmart	10%
Attendance* & Class Participation	10%
Exams	
Midterms (10% Each)	30%
Final Exam Comprehensive	20%

Examinations: There will be three midterms and a comprehensive final examination. These multiple-choice tests will consist of conceptual questions that probe understanding of the course material. This course will be taught in a way that requires students to demonstrate individual construction of knowledge and the questions on these assessments are written to judge the ability to apply the course information. Hard work on the Learn Smart is the best preparation for getting the most out of class sessions. Many students say that they do not need to cram for the tests because they are confident that they have learned the material by doing the summaries after each lesson.

Textbook: Integrated Science- This book covers much more material than will be addressed in this course, but it will be a valuable resource for this class. Concentrate on doing selective reading in the Smartbook and do not spend time on information that goes into detail over subjects that were not covered in class. There is no for need formal citation of the text in your Journal because in the sciences general information does not need to be listed as a reference, but do not copy anything directly always rewrite information in your own words.

Learn Smart Computer Assignments: Your success in this course depends on your completion of the online assignments. These comprise 10% of your grade, so they are very important because they help you review the terminology before class and prepare for the tests. Effort on these assignments is clearly correlated to the grades students receive. You will waste the time you spend doing these activities, if you do not concentrate on learning as you do it. Write down words you want to know with definitions in your own words.

The Learn Smart (LS) prompts are lower order questions that drill on vocabulary and basic concepts. Think about the questions when you read the prompts. Think about what the answer is. Indicate how confident you really are. If you get the question wrong, ask yourself why you did not know it. That type of thinking is the best thing you can do to improve your learning. If you look back a0 Onsive

Weekly Entries: Throughout the semester, we will have weekly thematic topics that are covered by different subtopics on each day with lab and lecture both addressing the same concept. You are required to have one, completely integrated synopsis for each week. These are due in in the designated assignment submission box in Blazeview by 11:59 pm on Sunday at the end of that week. Your papers do not need your name or anything else in the heading other than an original title. But the must follow the writing guidelines on the following page and be submitted as a PDF. If every summary is completed on time, with a grade of 3 or better, you are not required to submit you journal at the time of each test. If you score low er than a 3 on any paper, it must be revised be fore submission at the test.

Everything should be in first person and a reflective voice. Be certain that you show <u>what you learned</u>. DO NOT just restate what we did. Since this science content course is part of the major in Elementary Education, students are

Expectations on Writing Assignments

Objective

W ritten 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.

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, single-spaced paper. The first sentence of each paragraph is a topic sentence that shows what the paragraph cover. ONE SENTENCE ISNEVER AN ENTIRE PARAGRAPH because there should be at least 3 sentences elaborating any significant idea.

Format

A header on the upper right should include the

. Each paper should have a creative title

identifying the approach to the assignment. Since the course will be paperless, coversheets are not necessary. Your papers are to be typed using something comparable to 10-12 point Times New Roman type, single-spacing, and reasonable (0.5 to 1 inch) margins. Other professors often expect double-spacing, I require single-spacing. The lengths of these papers are stated in the assignments. After your draft your ideas, if the paper is too long, go back through and shorten it up by taking out the less important aspects. If it is too short, go back and incorporate more support or add more detail to what you are saying. When I say 1 page that means one sheet of paper that is full of text. Put your references and heading on that sheet. Use the word counting function on your word processor to be sure your text is 600-800 words per assigned page when single-spaced.

References

Any very general scientific information does not need to be cited. We consider this common knowledge because the place you found it is not the original source of the information. How would you know? The answer is if you can find the same information in 2 or 3 books, it does not require a citation in the text or a reference at the end of the paper. How ever, you must be very careful about giving appropriate credit to the sources of any <u>original</u> outside information that you use. If you use original information, it should be cited in the text of the paper. Be sure to reword or paraphrase text from any of your sources to avoid plagiarism. Paraphrasing means changing more than 1 word in a sentence. Think about what something says and completely restate it in your own words. No direct quotes are allowed in papers for this course to prevent you from The

point of writing is to demonstrate your thinking, so first person is usually fine.

Grading

These assignments will be described in detail in class, so listen carefully and be sure that you know what is expected or ask about anything that is unclear. Grades will be docked for any failure to follow directions precisely. If you need more clarification than is given in the Blazeview description, contact your classmates by email, phone, or posting a question on the Blazeview discussion board. Focus on the objective of the assignment and address it clearly in thesis of your paper. You can dramatically improve your work if you critique your own rough draft and revise it at least once. Outside feedback can also make a difference. Proofread to avoid careless errors. Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar do effect our impression of the quality of your presentation. These papers will be graded on Effort

Class Protocols

Learning Management System: A great deal of important extraneous communication will take place in the VSU Blazeview (BV) email. Therefore, you should be in the habit of checking it often for clarification of assignments and important messages. (http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/blazeview-d2l.php) Your standing will be available throughout the semester becaus