
Introducr duT

This course should direct students toward a broad _____ :

- How do I ask scientific questions or use data, mathematics, or technology to understand the universe?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following _____ :

- Students will use the scientific method and laboratory procedures or mathematical and computational methods to analyze data, solve problems, and explain natural phenomena.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following _____ :

- Inquiry and Analysis
- Problem-Solving
- Teamwork

At the end of this course, you will be able to

1. Demonstrate understanding of the physical universe and the nature of science.
2. Use scientific methods and concepts to solve problems.
3. Explain the process and principles of evolution.
4. Describe distinguishing characteristics and group organisms using taxonomic classification.
5. Explain the relationship and interdependencies between evolution, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

See the _____ section below for how these course outcomes (COs) are addressed.

The following text is required for this course:

Access to other learning materials and external resources are linked within content modules.

More information about accessing course materials is provided in the Course Materials module.

Valdosta State University is committed to creating an equitable learning experience for all students. In these efforts, we have designed this course using inclusive principles that will address diverse learning needs and empower all students.

If at any point during this course you experience issues in accessing learning materials or activities due to the format of the course, please reach out to your instructor to work together to find reasonable alternatives.

If you are a student with a physical or learning disability, you are encouraged to reach out to the Access Office for assistance with course accommodations. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (Voice) and 229-375-5871 (Video).

The following modules are required for successful completion of the course:

- Start Here
- Module 1: Evolution and the Properties of Life
- Module 2: Evolution and Speciation
- Module 3: Evolution and Classification

- Module 4: Microbial Diversity
 - Module 5: Plants and Animals
 - Module 6: Biomes and Population
 - Module 7: Ecosystems and Biodiversity
 - Module 8: Final Exam
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Valdosta State University is a learning environment based on trust and mutual respect and is committed to the core values of afa

You are expected to refrain from profanity, crudeness, and slurs of any kind. In other words, you are expected to behave and treat your fellow students and instructor fairly, just as you would in the traditional classroom.

Proper conduct applies to all forms of communication in the course. Just as you would listen to others speak in the classroom, you are expected to read and respond politely and thoughtfully to others in the online course. You should demonstrate good netiquette (online conduct) by observing the following procedures:

- Practice manners and civility, and be polite and respectful of your instructor and classmates in all your communication.
- Use correct grammar and punctuation in all your communication ('Dear Professor xxx' not 'Hey').
- Capitalize words only to highlight an important point or to distinguish a title or heading. Capitalizing whole words that are not titles is generally termed as SHOUTING!
- Cite all quotes, references and sources and respect copyright and license agreements.



Make up work or alternative assignments will be determined by the instructor and at the sole discretion of the instructor. These assignments may or may not exactly duplicate the original and will not entitle other students to the same alternatives since they may not have experienced the same situations.



5 Discussions and 2 Assignments	30%
7 Quizzes	30%
Final Exam	40%

Participation in each discussion also provides you with the opportunity to explore varying viewpoints and constructively respond to your classmates. It is by engaging in such academic dialogue that we are able to demonstrate and improve our understanding of the physical universe and the nature of science – fulfilling the course learning outcomes.

Grades are based on student performance and capability. Simply turning in all the assignments does not guarantee that the student will receive a "good grade." To receive a higher grade, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the material. For different students, gaining that proficiency requires different levels of work, because not all students walk into the class with the same aptitude for the course content. The standards for the respective grades are as follows:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: 0-59%

All assignments and assessments will be graded within one week's time. The instructor will provide comments along with grade ~~slm~~w

- - Utilize only authorized materials during exams. Additionally, sharing informatio^a

instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not receive

Final





