# ISCI 3103: Natural History for Middle School Teachers Fall 2011

Department of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences, Valdosta State University

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**Office Hours:** Tues & Thurs 2:00-3:00 or By Appointment. Please feel free to call the office or use email to schedule a convenient time. Anytime I am in my office, you are welcome to stop in to ask guick guestions.

#### Textbooks:

A Custom Designed E-Book by McGraw Hill (www.mcgrawhillcreate.com/shop)

Natural Environments of Georgia. (1977). Charles H. Wharton, Atlanta: Georgia DNR {In Bookstore Soon}

Course Description: Natural History is the study of the relationships between living organisms and how they interact with, influence, and are influenced by their natural surroundings. According to the VSU Undergraduate Course Catalog, <code>lg'Ulg'</code> fj Ymdfla Ufl'mcZh\YV]chUcZgci h\'; Ycf[]U'UbX'UggcWJuhX'V]c`c[]W'dfcWgses. Using the biota of southern Georgia as a model, students will study basic ecological principles, population structure and dynamics, life history patterns, and reproductive strategies and behaviors common to living systems. Special topics covered in the course include the biology of rare and endangered species and the importance of biological fygci fWg'hc'\i a Ub'gcWYmili

Course Objectives: UXXfYggYg'h\Y'J Gl; YbYfU'9Xi Wh]cb'Ci hWa Yh\UngdYv]Z]YgÎgh XYbhgk]``` demonstrate knowledge oZgWJYbh]Z]WubX'a Uh\Ya Uh]WU'df]bWJd`Yg'UbX'dfcZ]WYbWh]b``UVcfUhcfmdfUM]WYg'I`'=h'U'gc' Z `Z]``g'h\Y'6]c`c[m8 YdUfha YbhU'ci hWa Yg'h\UhW\``Zcf'h\Y'W]`]mmc ÎXYgWf]VY'h\Y'J c`i h]cbUfmdfcWggYgfYgdcbg]V'Y' Zcf'V]c`c[]WU'X]] Yfg]mi'UbX Î]bhYfdfYhYWlogical data pertaining to the behavior of the individual organism in its

# SCI 3103

### Course Assessment:

Course Assignments Class Participation

20%

# Expectations on ISCI 3103 Writing Assignments

#### Objective

Written 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. Consider every assignment in this course a sign of your professionalism.

#### 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.

### 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