# The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

## Biology Department, College of Science and Math Valdosta State University

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Title IX Statement: Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: the Director of the Office of Social Equity, <a href="mailto:titleix@valdosta.edu">titleix@valdosta.edu</a>, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.

Extra Help with Coursework The Academic Support Center (ASC): The Academic Support Center (ASC) provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including, math, writing, sciences, social sciences, humanities, and foreign languages. The ASC also provides supplemental instruction (tutor-led study group sessions) for historically difficult courses like biology, chemistry, geosciences, psychology, and sociology, as well as academic success workshops. New for fall 2018: 24/7 access to online tutoring through ThinkingStorm, which includes Writing Center where you can submit drafts for feedback and get help with core courses when the ASC is closed. Visit the ASC office on the main campus, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Odum Library, or call 229-333-7570 for an appointment, or visit the website where you can make appointment for yourself (www.valdosta.edu/asc).

SOI Statement: At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through Smart Evals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to 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 be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage.

#### GRADING SCHEME

### Grades will be based on the following:

#### **Exams**

800 points

There will be 4 exams covering lecture material during the semester worth 200 points each, totaling 8

Week o	Lecture Topic(s)	Lab Topics
1	Lecture 1 Intro and Lecture 2 Evolution and Taxonomy Overview	Intro/SREL site-Fieldtrips TBA
2	Lecture 3 Amphibian Evolution and Characteristics	Intro/SREL site-Fieldtrips TBA
3	Lecture 4 Amphibian Diversity and Classification	GA Amphibians/Fieldtrips TBA
4	Lecture 5 Amphibian Anatomy and Physiology (A&P)	GA Amphibians/Fieldtrips TBA
5	Lecture 6 Reptile Evolution and Characteristics	GA Amphibians/Fieldtrips TBA
6	Lectures 7 & 8: Diversity and Classification of Turtles and Crocodylians	GA Reptiles/Fieldtrips TBA
7		