

Virginia State University  
Department of Biology  
Course Syllabus: Spring 2004

**BIOL 417 – General Physiology**

(Lecture: 3 semester hours)  
208 LB, TR 9:30-10:50am

**Instructor:** Dr. Paul Kaseloo

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**Office hours:** MWF 9-11am; TR 11-1pm or by appointment

**Course description:**

A study of the human body systems at work and the ways and means by which various functions are integrated into a living unit. Levels of study range from molecules to organs and organ systems. Subject areas include chemical basis of life, cells, tissues and major systems of the human body (e.g. muscular, skeletal, nervous, circulatory, immune, digestive, respiratory, urinary reproductive). Emphasis will be placed on excitable tissues including signaling in the nervous system and muscular contraction. Other major areas include the endocrine system (hormonal functioning), cardiovascular, respiratory, urinary and reproductive systems. Concepts given in lecture will be reinforced in laboratory studies.

**Text: Vander, Sherman and Luciano's Human Physiology: The mechanisms of body function. Ninth Edition.** Widmaier, Raff and Strang, 2004. McGraw-Hill

**Evaluation:**

Tests – There will be four lecture tests during the semester each worth 100 points and a final comprehensive exam giving during the final exam period also worth 100 points. Students are required to take all tests. Each test will consist of both multiple-choice questions and short answer written questions. Makeup exams will be given only in exceptional circumstances and will be written in format.

Quizzes/Assignments – in class (announced or unannounced) or on-line quizzes and short assignments will be given during the semester. They will be given a cumulative value of 100 points (i.e. the equivalent of one test).

Research Paper – Each student will prepare an original library research paper on an approved topic. The paper and presentation will be worth a possible 100 points. The body of the paper will be at least 5 pages typed (double-spaced).

Grade calculation: Grades will be determined from the tests (500 points total), quizzes and assignments (100 points total) and research paper scores (100 points total). Scale: 100-90% A; 89-80% B; 79-70% C; 69-60% D; below 60% F

**Expectations:**

It is expected that students will attend classes regularly, be punctual and attentive. Students should plan on at least three hours of studying outside of class for each lecture period. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Cell phones and other devices are to be turned off in class. Cheating will result in a score of zero for a test and will be reported.