Course Introduction and Objectives: During this semester we are going to explore the fascinating biological world. Throughout this course we will immerse ourselves in the wonder of the world that brings life to us, interacts with us, and sometimes even threatens us. We will start our exploration with fundamental molecules such as DNA, RNA and proteins. We will continue on to discuss the structure of cells, cellular metabolism, cellular reproduction, key animal and plant systems, and finish up with evolution and ecology. During the semester it will become clear to you the impact that biology has on your life now and will have in the future. This impact is realized through interaction with your environment, modern medical treatment, and the realization of ethical controversies.

Assessment: The exams will allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the subject matter that we have covered in class and your comprehension of the related material in your textbook. They will also test your ability to apply what you have learned to solve problems. The exams will consist of a combination of true/false, multiple choice and short answer questions. One extra credit question will be present on each exam. No additional extra credit will be given. If you know that you deserve additional points for an answer on an exam question, you should bring it to my attention during office hours. Please keep in mind that I reserve the right to look over the entire exam to make sure no additional adjustments to your score are required.

The five exams of this course will be worth 100 points each. Your grade will be determined by your performance on four of them. The lowest score from the first four exams will be dropped. The final (fifth exam) is comprehensive and may not be dropped or missed. No makeup exams will be given except under the extremely dire of circumstances.

Grading: The standards for awarding your grades will be no higher than:
A= 90%-100%, B= 80%-89%, C= 67%-80%, D= 57%-66%, and F= 0%-56%
These standards MAY be changed at my discretion to adjust for the performance of the class.

Academic Honesty: You are expected to meet the highest standards of academic honesty and ethics. All work you turn in (exams, papers, labs, etc.) must be entirely the result of your own effort and represent your understanding of the subject matter. Any cheating or assisting someone else in cheating will result in you receiving an F for the assignment and likely for the class.
**Attendance:** Material will be presented in lecture that cannot be obtained from your textbook. Therefore, if you desire to successful in this class, it is imperative that you attend lectures and pay attention to the material being presented and discussed.

**Preparing for success:**
- Before class look through your notes from the previous class and look over the related material in the book.
- Take your own notes during class and make sure you think about the material being covered. If you do not understand something, please ask for help.
- Look over your notes relatively soon after class and supplement them with information for your textbook.
- Review your notes before the exams. Think about the material in the context of the rest of the material that has been covered in class.
- Resolve any confusion by talking with your classmates or by coming to see me during office hours.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Please conclude any social conversations and turn off your cell phones before entering the lecture hall. During class you need to respect the rights of your classmates and stay focused on the material we are discussing. If you need to arrive at class late or leave early, please sit in the back of the lecture hall and be as quiet as possible.

**Schedule:** This is a rough outline of the material we will be covering and the chapters in the book that will be relevant. We will deviate from this outline early on during the semester so please pay attention in class.

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EXAM 2

Evolution

Chapters 13, 14, 15

Diversity

Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19

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EXAM 3

Animals

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Plants

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2nd
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EXAM 4

Ecosystems

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FINAL EXAM