Course Introduction and Structure: During this semester you will be sharing your interest in biology through reading, presenting, and discussing primary research articles. Each student will select an appropriate primary research article that they will present in class. The steps for the presentation are:

1. Get my approval for the article.
2. Distribute either paper or electronic copies of the article to the rest of the class and the science faculty.
3. Outline a presentation of the article that contains an introduction of the topic presented in the paper, discusses the data reported, summarizes the major conclusions of the authors and finishes with a discussion of your own conclusions.
4. Meet with me to discuss the presentation.
5. Make any appropriate revisions to the presentation.
6. Give the presentation
7. Discuss it afterward (optional)

You will also be responsible a typed, well-formulated, relevant question for each article presented. Two copies of this question will due at the beginning of each class. At the end of the class you will ask your question of the presenter and you will then be given a copy of a classmates question to answer. Your answer and a copy of the question (typed) are due at the beginning of the next class.

Assessment: The presentations will be worth 60% of your overall grade. 30% of your grade will be the questions and answers, and the remaining 10% will be based on class participation. The presentations will be graded on your performance on steps 1-5 above as well as the presentation itself. Presentations will be graded on the appropriateness of the article, the organization and delivery of the presentation, and your ability to address the questions that are asked. The questions that are asked will be worth 5 pts and graded on how appropriate and relevant they are to the article being presented. Each answer will also be worth 5 points and will be graded on whether it answers the question.

Grading: The standards for awarding your grades will be:
A= 90%-100%, B= 80%-89%, C= 67%-80%, D= 57%-66%, and F= 0%-56%

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:** You are required to attend every class unless a valid reason for your absence is presented to me in advance.

**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.