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.

The three regular exams in this course will be worth 100 points each. The final exam will be worth 150 pts. 50 points worth of questions will be based on "new" material covered after Exam 3 and 100 points worth of questions will be based on "old" material covered prior to Exam 3. No makeup exams will be given except for university-approved absences and I must be informed before the scheduled time of the exam.

Review questions will be handed out prior to each exam to help you prepare for each of the exams. There will be at least one opportunity during the course to hand in a completed review sheet from a specific exam in order to earn extra credit. This will take place at the time of the exam and no advance notice will be given. Therefore you should bring your completed review sheets to each exam. No additional extra credit will be given.

Grading: The standards for awarding your grades will be no higher than:
A= 90%-100%, B= 80%-89%, C= 70%-79%, D= 60%-69%, and F= 0%-59%

These standards MAY be adjusted downward at my discretion to account for the performance of the class. Any adjustment to the grading scale will occur at the end of the semester.
**Academic Honesty:** You are expected to meet the highest standards of academic honesty and ethics. All work you turn in 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 the lectures that cannot be obtained from your textbook. Occasionally you will be held accountable for material in the textbook that is not being presented in detail in the lecture. I will make every effort to make it clear which material that is. In addition, my lecture notes are available by special request only. Therefore, if you desire to be 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 textbook.
- 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 from 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 and only a portion of the material in each chapter of the text will be covered so please pay attention in class.

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Intro to Chemistry</td>
<td>Chapters 2,3</td>
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<td>27th</td>
<td>Cells</td>
<td>Chapters 4,5,6,7,8</td>
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Feb.
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10\textsuperscript{th} EXAM1
13\textsuperscript{th} Genetics Chapters 9
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24\textsuperscript{th} Molecular Biology Chapters 10,11,12
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Mar.
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6\textsuperscript{th}-10\textsuperscript{th} Spring Break
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15\textsuperscript{th} Take home Review project
17\textsuperscript{th} EXAM 2
20\textsuperscript{th} Evolution Chapters 13,14,15
22\textsuperscript{nd}
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27\textsuperscript{th}
29\textsuperscript{th} Diversity Chapters 16,17,18,19
Apr.
3\textsuperscript{rd}
5\textsuperscript{th} Animals Chapters 20-30
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10\textsuperscript{th}
12\textsuperscript{th} EXAM 3
14\textsuperscript{th} Mini spring break
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19\textsuperscript{th} Plants Chapters 31, 32, 33
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24\textsuperscript{th} Ecosystems Chapters 34, 37, 38
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May.
1\textsuperscript{st} FINAL EXAM 2:00-3:50