Course Introduction and Objectives: Throughout this course we will immerse ourselves in the wonder of the molecular and cellular world that brings life to us and threatens us. We will discuss the structure, replication, processing, degradation, and regulation of DNA, RNA, Proteins and chromosomes. Hopefully much of this will be initially familiar to you and this course will serve to expand your understanding of these topics. During the semester it will become clear to you the impact that molecular biology has on your life now and will have in the future.

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 essay style questions and one extra credit question and based on the material covered in the review sheets. There are two written midterms and a written comprehensive final exam. The midterm exams will be worth 100 points each and the comprehensive final will be worth 150 points. The written mid-term exams will be conducted in class but please keep in mind that students often require additional time to complete the exam. The final exam will also be a written exam and consist of questions based on the material covered throughout the course with emphasis placed on new material.

The REQUIRED PAPER will review the molecular biology of a disease. It is worth 50pts. Only one student may each disease and so you may want to decide early in the semester which one you will pick. You must use at least 3 primary research articles and may have only 1 review article cited.

No makeup exams will be given except for university-approved absences and I must be informed BEFORE the scheduled time of the exam. Makeup exams must be completed within one week of the regular scheduled exam or on April 23rd. You will not receive the same exam as the rest of the class and it may consist of EVEN LONGER essay style questions.

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%. The grading scale may be lowered at my discretion to adjust for the performance of the class. For example, if you earn 69% of the total points possible in the course you MAY be awarded a C rather than a D.

Academic Honesty: 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 in the class.

Attendance: Material will be presented in the lectures that cannot be obtained from your textbook. Therefore, if you desire to be successful in this class, it is recommended that you attend lectures and pay attention to the material being presented and discussed.

Classroom Etiquette: During class you must respect the rights of your classmates and stay focused on the material we are discussing. Please conclude any social conversations before class. If you need to arrive at class late or leave early, please sit near an exit and be as quiet as possible.

Schedule:

2/17        Mid-term Exam 1
3/29        Mid-term Exam 2
4/9         PAPER DUE
4/26        FINAL EXAM 10:00-11:50