

Honors Developmental Biology

BIOL 3090-091 - FALL 2014

TR from 8:00-9:15 a.m. in WO1205

Instructor

Dr. Robert Steven

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Office Hours: M 10-11:00 am; T 2-3:00 pm; W 11:00 - noon; R 12-1:00 pm (or by appointment)

Honors Course Description

Honors students will attend the same classes, write exams at the same time and be responsible for the same material as the students in BIOL3090-001. However, honors students will have additional responsibilities as outlined below.

1. Honors students will read one assigned journal article for each of the three in class exams, but not the final exam. You will be asked five or six questions about the article on each exam. Most questions will pertain to the experimental details of the figures in the articles. The exams will be out of 110 points instead of 100, which is the total for students in section 001.
2. Honors students will also be assigned a total of four additional articles for writing assignments (see below). In total they will count for 8% of your final grade.

Written Assignments

For each of the four assigned articles you will be required to write, **in your own words**, a short (approximately 400 - 500 words) summary and answer a few specific questions about the article that will be given ahead of time. For the summary you need to do more than just rewrite the abstract. State why the paper is important to the field and identify key experiments. Be sure to consult the rubric, which will be posted on Blackboard.

Assignments are due by 6 pm on: **September 11, October 2, November 6 and December 4**. Email your assignment to "robert.steven2@utoledo.edu". Please submit a "Word" document file, but if you don't use Word then submit a PDF file.

Grading of Writing Assignments

Each writing assignment will be worth 20 points and points will be *deducted* for each of the following mistakes identified in your assignment (see the grading rubric on Blackboard for more detail):

Written Summary Section:

- The summary is incomplete or poorly written (no mention of a key experiment)
- No statement of significance to the field.
- Key experiment(s) not identified.
- Providing a list of experiments and how they were performed.
- Much too long or short
- Incorrect spelling
- Incorrect grammar
- Unexcused lateness (5 points for each day beyond the due date)
- Copying statements from the paper (use your own words).

Question Section:

- Incorrect or incomplete answers to the questions
- Copying statements from your references (use your own words).
- Not giving references

If you use a reference to help you write your summary or answer a question you must properly cite the reference. Failure to do so will result in major deductions. Reprinting the wording from the paper or a reference (if it is not properly quoted and cited) is plagiarism, which is not acceptable. Quoting directly from the paper you are summarizing should not be necessary. If you do reference *other* papers in your summary use the format followed by the science journal Nature.

Honors Grading Summary

Midterm Exams	48% (16% x 3)
Final Exam	30%
Clicker Questions	9%
Discussion Questions	5%
Writing Assignments	8% (2% x 4)
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	100%