

General Lab Information and Guidelines

- **NO EATING OR DRINKING IS PERMITTED IN LAB.**
- Please, **no cell phone use.**
- **It is expected that you will :**
 - Prepare for each lab by reading the lab manual and textbook prior to the start of lab.
 - Use caution and handle equipment properly.
 - Clean up after yourself.
 - If you have questions, refer to your laboratory manual first, and then ask.

- **Grading and Assignments.** Your lab grade will be based on the following:

- **Lab Quizzes.**

A short quiz will be given at the beginning of each lab session. You must arrive on time in order to take these quizzes—if you miss one it cannot be made up. Quiz questions will address the procedures used and the relevant underlying biology for that day's lab and the previous lab. The purpose is to encourage you to come on time, prepared to make the most of each lab as a learning opportunity, and to reflect on the activities you carried out in the preceding lab. The 9 quizzes are worth 5 points each = 45 points (Each quiz is worth about 1% of your lab grade.)

- **Lab Reports.**

- Formal traditional lab reports are required for the Planaria and Fermentation labs. These reports must be typewritten, and must strictly follow the formatting guidelines given in the appendix of this manual. Your TA will go over the general requirements, and may ask you to address specific points in each report. 100 points each. (This is 40% of your lab grade.)
- A report is also required for the Virtual Genetics lab. Explicit guidelines for this report are given in the manual, and your TA will also explain and clarify the assignment. 100 points. (This is 20% of your lab grade.)

○ **Lab Notebooks**

You will keep a lab notebook in which to:

- Enter and interpret data from the experimental labs
- Make sketches and diagrams as required
- Answer assigned questions
- Make other entries as assigned by your TA

Your notebook will be an important learning tool. Use it to reflect on and understand the background science and the goals of each lab, and to evaluate and interpret your data, where appropriate. Careful, complete, detailed notebook entries will also be extremely valuable as you prepare for the lab exam (see below).

Notebooks will be collected for grading twice, once approximately in the middle of the term, and again at the end. 30 points. (About 6% of your lab grade.)

- **Lab Exam** A lab exam will be given during the final lab period. You will be tested on both the background science and the hands-on practical aspects of the term's lab exercises. The exam may be a mix of typical-exam-style questions along with a lab practical exam component, in which you rotate through stations at which you are asked to identify a structure, correctly adjust a microscope, etc. If throughout the term you have studied for the quizzes, given careful attention to each session's lab exercises, written good lab reports and kept an up-to-date detailed notebook, you should be well along in preparing for the lab exam. 125 points. (About 25% of your lab grade.)

	Points for Each	Point Total	% of Lab Grade
Nine Quizzes	5	45	9%
Two Formal Lab Reports	100	200	40%
VGL (Virtual Genetics Lab) write up	100	100	20%
Lab Notebook, collected twice	15	30	6%
Lab Exam	125	125	25%
Total	----	500	100%