

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, then ask.

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

There will be 5 unannounced quizzes given during the semester, at the beginning of a 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. We will drop one quiz score, and use your best 4 in calculating your lab grade.

 - **Lab Reports.**

Formal traditional lab reports are required for the Planaria, Enzymes, and Photosynthesis labs. We will drop the lowest score and count only the best two. 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.

- **Check-Offs and Follow-Up Assignments**

For all other labs you will be asked to complete certain work during the lab period itself for check-off credit, and/or you will need to turn in a follow-up assignment the following week. Follow-up assignments may consist of specific questions to be answered, and may require presentation and interpretation of experimental data. Explicit instructions are provided in the lab manual, which may be modified or added to by your TA. These assignments are intended to enhance your learning of biology by requiring you to revisit and reflect on the activities completed in lab. They will also help you prepare for the quizzes. We will drop one of these when calculating your overall lab grade.

- **Attendance and Participation**

Role will be taken at the beginning of each lab, and attendance will count for a small, but significant part of your lab grade.

- **Grading Point Breakdown**

	Point Total	% of Lab Grade
Quizzes, best 4 of 5, for 5 points each	20	9
Lab Reports, best 2 of 3, for 30 points each	60	27
Check-Offs/Follow-Up Assignments, best 9 of 10, for 15 points each	135	60
Attendance and Participation	10	4
Totals	225	100