HOW TO TAKE A FANKHAUSER GENETICS/CELL COURSE

David B. Fankhauser, Ph.D., Professor of Biology and Chemistry
U.C. Clermont College, Batavia, OH 45103
23 August 2014

ELECTRONIC GADGETS: TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES. NO TEXTING DURING CLASS...!

Completion of the first college year of biology and of chemistry (and labs) is required for enrollment in this course. If you have not met these requirements, see the instructor immediately. Mastery of basic algebra is also important.

STUDY HABITS: COMPLETE READING ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO CLASS: To benefit maximally from this college course, you must possess the requisite study habits. Disciplined completion of the reading before each lecture will improve your comprehension, allow us more freedom for class discussions and increase our joy in learning. Slacking off until test time turns interesting assignments into drudgery.

ATTENDANCE is crucial and attendance records will be kept. Missing even one class will put you out of synchrony with the class, short-change your education and doublecost you points on the next test.

CLASS NOTES: Do not attempt to record lecture material verbatim. Instead, concentrate on these elements:
- **title your notes** each day or new major topic section accurately with CAPITALS at the left-most margin.
- **words**: Copy correctly spelled all which are written on the board. Leave space in your notes for explanations.
- **definitions** of all key words should be filled out in detail when you rework your notes.
- **drawings** should be carefully copied, label all mentioned structures and processes or effects. Learn these!
- **text book** should be brought to each class. We use its illustrations and tables. Carefully note the text illustrations.
- **wordstems** should be listed on the last page of your notebook with their meanings. Memorize the new ones prior to each test.

Note that these will comprise around 10% of each test. (See attached cumulative list.)

**PARTICIPATE IN CLASS**: Pay attention, and do not be afraid to speak up. Offer answers to questions posed, ask questions. Challenge my statements. This participation in class is critical to the proper functioning of the class.

**REWORK YOUR NOTES AFTER EACH CLASS**: Spend 15 minutes soon after class to rework each day's draft lecture notes. Compare with your text. "Flesh out" skimpy material with detail while it is fresh in your mind. I call for questions at the beginning of each class, so have questions prepared to ask from your reworked notes.

**HOMEWORK**: Much of genetics concerns itself with problem solving. Homework problems are due on the date on which they appear in the syllabus. SHOW ALL WORK. When turned in on time, each set will be worth 5 points. Test problems will be more easily solved with the practice you gain doing the homework. (See a separate handout on homework.)

**STUDY GROUPS** are extremely helpful in the learning process (5% of grade for the course)! See separate handout.

**STUDENT NUMBER**: To ease collating and entering grades, I assign student numbers in each class according to alphabetical order. All material which you hand in should carry your name and this number. Thanks.

**QUIZZES and EXAMS** (Midterm and Final) are scheduled regularly and are made as comprehensive as possible, including questions from lab activities. They consist of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>essays, problems or illustrations of key concepts, 3-5 points:</th>
<th>Quizzes (−50 pts)</th>
<th>Exams: (−150 pts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>8-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wordstems, 1 point each:</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>15-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fill-in-the-blanks, 2 or occasionally 3 points each:</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>18-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brief illustrations, 2 or 3 points each:</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>5-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HONOR CODE**: I assume that students will support the honor code during testing. The class shares the responsibility of protecting the integrity of the testing process. Please tell me if the honor system is being abused. (Names of offenders need not be given.) Make-up tests or quizzes are given only in the event of a valid excuse, and should be rescheduled and taken before tests are returned to the class. There may be a 5% deduction on make-ups.

**GRADE SLIPS** are distributed each time graded material is returned. These reflect how well you are progressing in the course. Tape them inside the back cover of your notebook to maintain a complete record. (One NB point each.)

**Unsatisfactory quiz scores?** See me about your study habits (listed above). You may also seek help from the Learning Lab: take your quizzes, notes & books. They will help you, and may provide tutoring where appropriate.

**LAB NOTEBOOKS** will be graded twice, worth about 115 pts each. Late notebooks penalized 10%/lab.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**: You will be awarded 5 points for participation in a college activity outside the classroom.

**YOUR GRADE** in the course will be based upon a summation of all points awarded approximately: homework, (5%), quizzes (28%), lab notebooks (28%), midterm (18%), final exam (18%), and study groups (5%). A class histogram will be drawn with the class median equated to 85% for sophomore classes. Final grades are assigned (using algebra) based on the decimal system: 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, <60% = failing. Within a given range, lower 1/3rd = “−”, upper 1/3rd = “+”, i.e.: 80-83.3 = B−, etc. Grades will be posted after the end of the quarter on my web page according to your private UC “M” number. Please do not telephone me to inquire about your grades.

**If you cannot complete the semester**: You must officially drop the course. I will sign drop slips with a WP (without prejudice) prior to the Midterm. Failing students (<60%), who drop after the third quiz receive a WF.

DO A JOB OF WHICH YOU ARE PROUD.

I GUARANTEE THAT WE WILL ALL HAVE A GOOD TIME IN THE PROCESS.