BIOLOGY 400 – HISTORY OF BIOLOGY

Summer 2020
Department of Biology, University of Victoria

Course Description
The historical development of the major techniques and ideas of biology, including the significance of the important contributors to biology. The treatment will be part chronological, part topical.

Instructor
Dr. Greg Beaulieu.
Email: gregoryb@uvic.ca. If you send an email, please put "Biology 400" in the message line.

Office hours
I will be having Zoom office hours. I will let you know the details.

I will also be happy to answer questions by email.

Prerequisite
Third year standing.

Meetings
There will be no set lecture times.

Every week, on the CourseSpaces site for Biology 400, I will post new chapters of lecture notes and an associated PowerPoint lecture. The PowerPoint will include both slides and audio. You can look at these materials on your own schedule.

Readings
I will post pdfs of selected readings on the CourseSpaces site when they become relevant as we progress through the course.

Evaluation
Online Midterm (Wednesday, June 3) 40%
Online Final Exam (Friday, June 26) 60% (cumulative)
The midterm and the final exam will be accessible though the Quiz tool on CourseSpaces. Both exams will be open to you for approximately 12 hours; I am still working out exact timings and details with Technology Integrated Learning.
The midterm exam will be all multiple choice.
The final exam will be mixed format, and will include an essay question that will require a written answer of 400-500 words or so; you will be asked to integrate various parts of the course in your answer to this question.

Topic Outline

Introduction
Roots of biology
Biology in the ancient world

The Islamic world and medieval Europe
Hidden and mythical organisms

The human body: the Scientific Revolution and after
The early days of microscopy
Biology and the emerging physical sciences: chemistry
Describing and arranging organisms
Biology and the emerging physical sciences: geology

Evolution before Darwin
Darwin
Heredity
Evolution and genetics come together
The hereditary material