

**Biology 113: Issues in Modern Biology**  
**Dr. Kelly Hogan (Kelly\_hogan@unc.edu)**  
**MWF 11:00-11:50 in Wilson Hall 217**

**Office hours (Wilson Hall 104B):** Wilson Hall 104B  
Mondays 11-12:30, Tuesdays 1-2, and Fridays 11-12

The goal of this class is to be able to effectively read, digest, and communicate successfully on biomedical/biotech issues currently making news. Our content is fluid but will cover (in depth) a few topics recently in the news that relate to genetics and medicine. Some major topics that will be covered: genetic testing, stem cells, organ transplantation, and genetically modified foods. Not only will we strive to understand the *science* behind these topics, but we will also discover the *political, ethical, and legal* issues that accompany these topics, and how they impact society now and in the future. Therefore, I will expect that you reach your goals through being able to understand the scientific concepts. Equally important, I'll expect that you master writing, presenting, and discussing ideas and opinions related to these concepts.

For the most part, we will not use a textbook. The only assigned textbook is: *Stem Cells and Cloning, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition* by Kelly A. Hogan. We will use newspaper and journal articles that will be posted on blackboard. In this class, you will need to be prepared for each class. To keep up on readings/homeworks it is **ESSENTIAL that you log onto blackboard everyday**. Current assignments, readings, announcements will *continually* be posted for upcoming classes. <http://blackboard.unc.edu/> (you will need your onyen to log on)

***The components of your grade are as follows: Late assignments will be given a grade of zero.***

Participation: 20% (5 % attendance and 15% in class discussions)

Semester quizzes (3 for the semester): 30% (10 % each)

Homeworks: 10 % (*each assignment must be submitted by class start time on assigned day*)

“Genetic testing” article/report: 6%

Final presentation: 11%

Review of a non-fiction book: 8% (*This semester the book will be: Our Daily Meds by Melody Petersen—you may purchase this on your own*).

Cumulative Final exam: 15%

Participation/Presentation is a huge component of this class. The goal here is that if you were to get into a discussion with someone in your daily life about a biological issue, that you would be able to speak eloquently and, possibly, persuasively. During class, you will sometimes be asked to read a passage aloud. In other instances, you will be asked for your opinion during a class discussion. Additionally, you will have a component of formal presentation to the class towards the end of the semester. I will be taking attendance throughout the semester. Coming to class is important, but being an active participant during class is what earns you an “A” in this category!!! Speaking slowly and clearly with enthusiasm is what makes a good presenter. I will be grading your presentations on style as well as content.

The writing component of the class comes in the form of collected homework assignments. Additionally, you will write a non-fiction book review. Your ORIGINAL thoughts and

organization, as well as grammar and spelling will be part of your grade on all homework and writing assignments, so please take time to perfect your writing! I consider your writing style of utmost importance in effectively communicating on science topics. I'll expect topic sentences and supporting details in each paragraph. I'll expect well thought transitions between paragraphs and clear organization to the entire assignment. You have all been admitted to UNC, so I *know* that you are capable of writing well! If you have trouble, please visit the writing center.

<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/>

A testing component will also be present. For example, after we discuss a topic, you will have a short quiz to be sure you understand the science and the underlying issues. There will be reading material assigned to help support the lectures/discussions so that you can study! Additionally, there will be a final exam at the termination of the course.

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### **Sources of information that you will use in this class:**

Throughout the semester you will be asked to find information from the **internet**. How do you know that it is a **credible** source? I'll expect you to be citing your sources. How to decide?

Please read through this site:

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/index.html>

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### **How do you cite sources at the end of an assignment?**

We'll use APA style. Be sure to look through this site for how to cite books, journals etc. Scroll towards the bottom for internet resources.

[http://www.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res\\_strategy/citing/apa.html#apa](http://www.library.cornell.edu/newhelp/res_strategy/citing/apa.html#apa)