Syllabus
Honors Biology Lab
Spring, 2015

Instructor: James Skelton and Lukas Landler
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Office Hours:

James Skelton: Monday 9 – 11am, 1000 Derring Hall
– or by email appointment

Lukas Landler: Thursday 8:25-9:25, 4078 Derring Hall
– or by email appointment

Cellphone / Laptop Policy: No cell phone calls or messages are allowed in the lab. Computer use and internet access in the lab are restricted. No messaging, playing (online) music, watching (online) videos, or showing (online) pictures should take place. Cell phones, laptops, or any devices that can make sounds should be muted during the entire lab.

Clothing Policy and Basic Lab Rules: No sandals. No hats/caps. Long hair should be tied up. Wear appropriate lab cloths/protective equipment. No food or drink. No smoking or chewing gum. Do not enter the lab without your GTA's present.

Honor Code: The Honor Code will be strictly enforced in this course. All assignments submitted shall be considered graded work, unless otherwise noted. All aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor System. Any suspected violations of the Honor Code will be promptly reported to the Honor System. Honesty in your academic work will develop into professional integrity. The faculty and students of Virginia Tech will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Violations include (but are not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and falsification.
Website: http://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

Disability Statement

If you need accommodations due to a disability, have emergency medical information that you need to share with me, or need special arrangements in the event of an evacuation from the building, please make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

Grading Scale		Approximate Weights of Grades	
93-100	A	In-lab exercises and participation	25%
90-92	A-	Peer review	25%
87-89	B+	Lab Report	25%
83-86	B	Final Presentation	25%
80-82	B-		
77-79	C+		
70-76	C		
67-69	D+		
63-66	D		
60-62	D-		
0-59	F		

Attendance: Students are expected to attend each lab on time with all assignments completed. No make-ups will be given without previous arrangements or an official university excuse. If you must miss a lab, please let the instructor and your group members know ahead of time. Four (justified) absences will result in an incomplete in the course. No makeups will be given for the final presentation.

Participation: This grade will reflect your attendance in class, being on time, participation in the lab exercises, lab etiquette (proper lab attire, responsible use of lab equipment, and lab clean-up).

Lab Report and Final Presentation: You will be required to complete a formal lab report and final presentation. More details will be given later.

Tentative Schedule *(subject to change according to needs)*

Week	***Objective***
Jan 29	*Syllabus, intro, group discussion of possible research questions*
Feb 5	*Class discussion of each groups three questions and approaches*
Feb 12	*Experimental design and hypothesis testing/group work on proposal*
Feb 19	*Developing proposals*
Feb 26	*Proposal presentation and class discussion*
Mar 5	*Turn in project time line, determine logistics of projects*
Mar 12	*SPRING BREAK – no class*
Mar 19	*Start of experiment*
Mar 26	*Working on experiment (short introduction to statistics)*
April 2	*Working on experiment (short introduction to scientific writing)*
April 9	*Working on experiment (short introduction to scientific figures)*
April 16	*Peer review introduction, methods and results*
April 23	*Turn in revisions, peer review discussion and abstract*
April 30	*Final presentation and turn in final lab report*
May 7	*Reading Day – no class*