Biology 4071 - Developmental Biology  
Spring 2012

Instructors:  
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Although the instructors do not have set office hours, all will be happy to meet with students as needed. To ask questions or set up a meeting, contact instructors by email.

Text:  

Website:  
All course handouts, PowerPoint presentations, and other materials will be available on the course website (http://www.nslc.wustl.edu/courses/Bio4071/bio4071.html). The username for this site is bio4071; the password will be announced in lecture.

Homework:  
In the first two thirds of the course, papers will be assigned weekly, and students will be required to submit two-paragraph summaries of these papers, the first paragraph explaining the "big idea" of the paper, and the second proposing a control or next experiment. In the final third of the course (taught by Larry Taber), weekly homeworks will consist of problem sets. In addition, students will be required to attend at least one seminar in the area of Developmental Biology and submit a two paragraph report in the same format as required for the assigned papers. Instructors will advise students as to particularly appropriate seminars during the semester. Excellent seminars in the area of developmental biology can be found at the websites for the Departments of Developmental Biology (http://devbio.wustl.edu/Monsemspg12.htm), Genetics (http://www.genetics.wustl.edu/seminar_sp12.php), and Neurobiology (http://neuroscience.wustl.edu/events/current.html).

Midterm exams:  
An in-class exam will be given at the end of each third of the course (on Feb. 22, April 2, and April 25). The format of these exams will vary, with the first two requiring essay-type answers, while the third exam will involve primarily problem solving. Regrade requests will be accepted for two weeks following the return of each exam. There will be no final exam.
Term paper: A term paper of approximately 15 pages double spaced will be due during exam week. Students will be free to write on topics in any area of developmental biology. To make sure the topic chosen is appropriate, and to engage students early in the course, a one page summary of the goals of the paper as well as five key references and a statement of their relevance will be required by midterm break. Students will be strongly encouraged to discuss their chosen topics with instructors, and to submit first drafts for comments and advice.

Grading: The final grade will be based upon scores in the homework (10%), three midterm examinations (60%), term paper summary (5%), and term paper (25%).