

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.

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