

### **Preparing for and Writing Exams:**

Multiple choice and short answer questions will cover material that is both in the text and presented in class. I reserve the right to ask questions about assigned readings from the book. While the intention is to ask questions about important material rather than trivial or insignificant details, we are likely to disagree sometimes about just what is important. So, be very careful about concluding that something is not worth studying. In general, you will not be asked to remember individual names, dates, or the details of specific experiments unless these receive at least modest attention in the text and/or in class lecture (which indicates that these are important experiments, dates, or people).

The fill-in-the-blanks questions will typically be drawn from lecture. Sometimes, they do come from assigned readings. As a hint, look for items that would make good lists (e.g., something with 5 stages or 5 parts).

Essay questions will come from the study questions distributed for each section, so you should be very well prepared to answer each of these questions. If you have difficulty answering any of the questions, or doubt that you have a good answer, feel free to ask about it in class prior to the exam.

In most cases, a good essay answer will require that you combine material in the text with additional material presented in class. Read the text before class, try to take good notes in class, and go over your notes soon after each class. In some instances, all material will come from the text, and in others, all material will come from class.

Some essay questions have several parts, and it is extremely important that you answer every part. (It helps some students to underline the separate parts of each question.) As a general strategy, try to give a broad, general answer first and then fill in the details as possible later.

Finally, you only need to answer the question that is asked. Students very frequently waste valuable time with long presentations of information that is irrelevant to the particular question. Read each question carefully and answer only the question that is asked. You will not lose points for leaving out material that is not asked for. Conversely, you will lose points for adding information that is not correct.