1. **PREREQUISITES:** Students should have completed Biology 115 (General Genetics) or an equivalent course with a grade of C or higher. It will be assumed that students are familiar with the basics concepts of classical and molecular genetics. If you are not a biology major or sure if your background is sufficient for this course, speak to the instructor early in the session.


3. **LECTURES:** The lectures will cover selected topics in human genetics as indicated in the lecture schedule. We may not make it through all the topics. The textbook is devoted to medical genetics, the dominant theme in human genetics. The text is current, well written, and fairly easy to read. The lectures will cover many of the same topics that are included in the text but sometimes with a different emphasis. Some very recent issues are not in the text and will be addressed in the lectures. There will be some overlap in topics discussed in this course and Biology 116 (Molecular Genetics). This is to be expected since some of the most important and exciting developments currently in molecular genetics are studied with humans or human cells. In general, Biology 117 is more medical and clinical in orientation than Biology 116, which stresses broader concepts. As in most genetics courses, problem solving is a dominant theme.

4. **COMPUTER-BASED RESOURCES:** There are a large number of sites on the Internet that provide information on human genetics. Some are designed to provide information on recent research progress while others discuss social and ethical issues resulting from the new developments. Any computer with an Internet connection allows you to use the PubMed search system ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/)), which allows access to MEDLINE and preMEDLINE at no cost. MEDLINE can be used to search for references to enhance your understanding of the lecture topics. Instead of the instructor giving you lists of references, you can search for yourself if motivated.

On the Dept of Biological Sciences website, materials will be deposited to supplement lectures. These materials will include practice problems, research articles in pdf format, and old exams. New materials may be added during the semester.

6. **GRADING:** Two midterms examinations and a noncomprehensive final examination will count equally toward your final grade. The final grade will be based upon a curve but a final average of 90% or higher will insure that the student receives at least a grade of A or A-, a final average of 80% to 90% will insure at least a grade of B or B-, etc. A student who misses either lecture exam and wishes to take a make-up exam (for either exam) will have to do it on May 3rd.
University and Department guidelines require serious and compelling reasons to drop a course. Grades, alone, do not constitute a reason to drop a course. (See catalog.)