

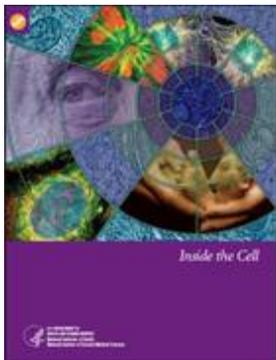


Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Inside the Cell



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

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Format

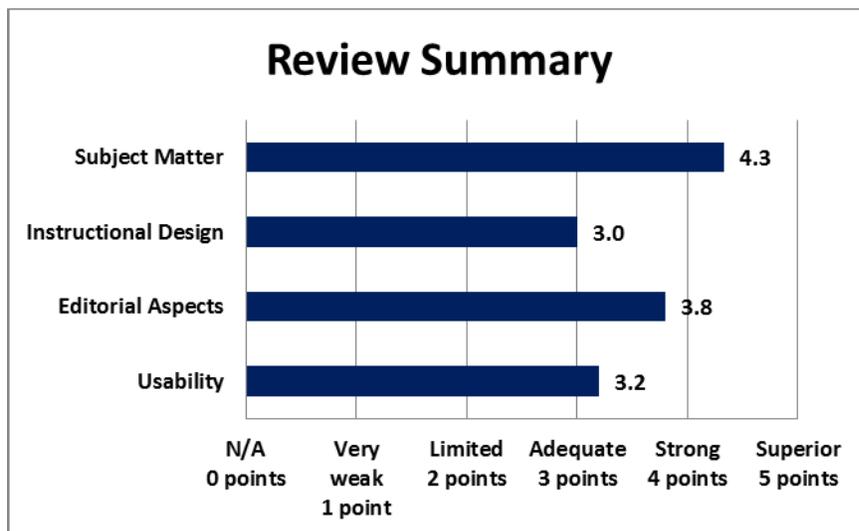
Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:

December 2015



California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [BIOL 190](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?						X
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?			X			

Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)						X

Total Points: 26 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The content of this text is accurate, though some material is outdated (apparently the text was last updated in 2005). Most material however is current because the content is relatively general.
- As far as content goes, there are at least two major issues with using this book for the C-ID BIOL 190 course: 1) the level of treatment is more appropriate to a non-majors class than the major level BIOL 190; 2) the text only covers cell biology (including cell structure and function, cell division (mitosis and meiosis) and transcription/translation. Most of the required content of BIOL 190 would not be covered by this text.
- There are no ancillary materials like test banks available. The text is full of excellent figures, photographs, and diagrams. There are a few questions at the end of each section to test knowledge, but answers are not provided.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?						X
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)	X					
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?		X				
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?						X
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?						X
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)		X				
Is the textbook searchable?					X	

Total Points: 21 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The book is designed to effectively convey the material to students with not much science background. The writing is engaging and the text is full of boxes, visual aids and analogies. There are some review questions. To my knowledge, there are no ancillary materials available.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?						X
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?						X
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)						X
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)					X	
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)	X					

Total Points: 19 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The text is incredibly appealing both visually and because of the lively writing style, the liberal use of analogies and examples, the frequent boxes with extra information and the fantastic layout. There is a detailed table of contents and a glossary, but no index. There are only five chapters.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?						X
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)						X
Can the textbook be printed easily?					X	
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?	X					
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?			X			

Total Points: 16 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- The book is available in several electronic formats (PDF, ePub) and as a print book. Printing would be difficult due to the high resolution and color graphics and the background colors behind the text.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?			X			
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
						X

Total Points: 7 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- This text would make an excellent supplement to the traditional coverage of cell and molecular biology. It primarily covers cell structure and function and would be an effective way to help students who need more background to visualize cell components and processes. It is engaging on a number of levels and though the treatment is superficial relative to a typical majors level treatment of this material, the text beautifully clarifies and simply explains the topics to students who may lack a strong biology background.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- This text could be updated as the last update appears to have been 10 years ago.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#) (Please [register](#) in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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