Term Paper Topics – Fall 2004 Semester
(revised instructions – September 25, 2004)

Step One: Selection of Your Topic

You will write a term paper this semester on the topic of Nobel Prizes. In particular, you will choose an individual or individuals from a particular year and provide

- a brief biography of each individual;
- a description of his/her/their contributions to science; and
- how such advances have affected society, both positively and negatively.

You must choose a Nobel Prize winner (or winners) as a topic of your paper. There is one restriction in making your choice, however. The contribution(s) of the individual(s) you choose must be microbiologically related. The inside cover of your textbook provides a list of Nobel Prizes and their awardees. The authors of your textbook have recognized these contributions as related to the field of microbiology. However, you should be aware that this list is not all-inclusive. For example, the 2001 Noble Prize winners (Hartwell, Hunt, and Nurse) were omitted. Their seminal work on the yeast cell cycle was pivotal in helping scientists understand basic cellular division and the causes of cancer. Hence, you should research the list of Noble Prizes carefully by searching other sources, e.g., internet.

You are most strongly encouraged to thoroughly research your possible choices before submitting one by the deadline of 10:00 AM on Wednesday, September 22nd. Also, it is highly recommended that you review Chapters 1, 2, and 7 in A Short Guide to Writing About Biology, 5th ed (J. A. Pechenik, 2004) before and during your deliberations on a topic choice.

To submit your topic by the 10:00 AM, Wednesday, September 22nd deadline, send an email to Dr. Cooper (crcooper.01@ysu.edu). You MUST place the following phrase on the SUBJECT line: 2004 Term Paper Topic. In the message area, briefly (several words or a sentence) provide your topic as well as your name. Be sure to give me your name – not all non-CUE email addresses contain the name of the sender.

If you do not follow the above instructions in submitting your term paper topic, your topic may not be considered as submitted or accepted. Moreover, not properly submitting your topic as described above and by the stated deadline, will result in a 3-point deduction to your final term paper score.

Step Two: Researching Your Topic

You may use a number of resources in your research on the individual(s) you have chosen and their contributions. Again, you are strongly encouraged to review the pertinent chapters in A Short Guide to Writing About Biology, 5th ed (J. A. Pechenik, 2004) throughout your research and writing efforts.
There are several restrictions/requirements for your references.

- You must have at least six references
- Only one (1) reference may be a textbook pertaining to microbiology
- Only one (1) reference may be an internet web page — **CAUTION**: do not assume that the web page you use is authoritative.
- At least one (1) reference must be from the primary literature, i.e., it must be one in which publication occurred in a peer-reviewed journal and which describes real experiments pertaining to the topic you have chosen
- The remaining references may be journal articles, books, or like publications.

When researching your topic, **be sure** to gather information that meets the specific criteria for this term paper. Again, these criteria are:

- a brief biography of each individual;
- a description of his/her/their contributions to science; and
- how such advances have affected society, **both** positively and negatively.

**Step Two: Writing Your Paper**


*It is essential that you follow the instructions below.* Submissions that do not adhere to these instructions will receive a significantly lower score. Moreover, submissions received after the deadlines stated below will not be accepted and a score of “0” will be recorded for this grade component.

- Type your essay on standard letter-size paper (8.5 in x 11 in) using one (1.0) inch margins on each side.
- Use either Times, Times New Roman, Arial, Century Schoolbook, Courier, New York, or Palatino font with a size of 12 points.
- Double-space each line of text.
- Include your name on each page as well as page numbers.
- Limit your text to 1500 words total.

**DEADLINE #1:** Submit a hard-copy draft version of your term paper to Dr. Cooper no later than **10:00 AM on Monday, October 25, 2004**. Also, submit an electronic version to Turnitin.com by the same deadline. Be sure to place your completed paper to the file entitled “Term Paper Draft/Outline”. The draft version only needs to include an outline or several introductory paragraphs so that I can assess if you are working in the proper direction. Alternatively, you may submit a full draft version. **You are welcome and certainly encouraged to submit your draft version at any time prior to the above deadline.** NOTE: Failure to submit the hard copy and electronic versions of your draft
by the stated deadline will result in a 2-point deduction to your final term paper score for each offense.

**DEADLINE #2:** Submit a hard copy of your term paper to Dr. Cooper no later than **10:00 AM on Wednesday, November 24, 2004** as well as an electronic version to Turnitin.com by the same deadline. Be sure to place your completed paper to the file entitled “Term Paper Final Version”. **Again, you are welcome and certainly encouraged to submit your draft version at any time prior to the above deadline.** **NOTE:** Failure to submit the hard copy and electronic versions of your draft by the stated deadline will result in a 5-point deduction to your final term paper score for each offense.

**Grading Your Paper**

Your term paper will be graded according to the following scale:

- Submission of Topic by the stated deadline: 3 points
- Submission of hard-copy draft by the stated deadline: 2 points
- Submission of electronic version of draft by the stated deadline: 2 points
- Submission of hard-copy final version by the stated deadline: 5 points
- Submission of electronic version of draft by the stated deadline: 5 points

**Final Version Only:**

- Style, Format, Adherence to Instructions: 5 points
- Proper Use of:
  - Spelling: 2 points
  - Grammar: 4 points
  - Punctuation: 2 points
- Content:
  - Biography: 5 points
  - Contributions: 5 points
  - Societal impact: 5 points
  - Proper number, use, and citation of references: 5 points

**Total Points:** 50 points

As a reminder, Turnitin.com is a tool used by the Department of Biological Sciences to detect plagiarism. Other means are also used in this course to detect such activity. Plagiarism is considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be handled in accord with course and University policy.