

Course Focus

BIOB - 105 Introduction to Biotechnology, team taught, organized by David Sands



What better way to start college than to have a look at some world class problems and some current biological innovations that might make a difference? Examples: general malnutrition, drought, overgrazing, caloric and protein deficiency, resource depletion, obesity, emigration from rural regions, plant and animal diseases, growing chronic diseases, human parasites, soil infertility, violence due to dietary deficiencies, water purity and water availability problems. We have combed the campus for people who will present their spiel on what it might take to actually mitigate some of these problems. These will be a potpourri of scientists from diverse departments who look for new solutions to old problems. They tend to be readers, thinkers and successful doers. The student who takes this course might end up with an open optimistic attitude and perhaps a clearer sense of direction of where modern biology might be headed. And if, heaven forbid, the student's parent or relative is diagnosed with a serious disease, one might be able to ask some very relevant state-of-the-art questions about the quality of science involved in the diagnosis. No one can predict with much accuracy where modern biology is going to take us. The new and powerful tools we have to detect environmental toxins, genetically inherited traits, nutritional mitigation and disease prevention, early stages of cancer, and emergent diseases can improve humanity significantly. This course is designed to be an open door to some world class problems, be they medical, animal health, human nutrition, or third world subsistence agriculture.