

Preface



Biology: Life Features is intended for introductory nonscience majors biology courses at the college and university levels. The book is formatted around seven life features—organization, energy transactions, sensation and response, homeostasis, reproduction, growth and development, and evolutionary adaptation which constitute the framework for study in each section. The emphasis on fundamentals reflects the needs of the audience for whom the book was written. For virtually all of the students enrolled, a nonmajors biology course is a one-time, terminal experience. These students, who will become lawyers, artists, actors, journalists, and business graduates, will not be required to understand or employ complex biological principles in their vocations. Accordingly, this is *not* a text for biology majors, minors, premeds, pre-dents, and the like, nor is it a compendium of the classical biology text for majors. As such, it is *not* an attempt to “cover” all the known fields, theories, attitudes, and viewpoints associated with biology.

Stated positively, the intent of the text is to highlight some of the major areas of biology that may evoke in a student an appreciation of science in general and biology in particular, and to provide an opportunity to learn how to think rationally and analytically. Perhaps the crux of a nonmajors science course is to offer students the opportunity to become more aware, better informed citizens, and to prevent them from being fooled, misinformed, or overwhelmed by partial truths, hype, and sensationalism—without drowning them in a sea of scientific minutiae.

The author thanks Pearson Custom Publishing, and especially Terry Brennan, for the opportunity to present the book.