**Parasitology**

**(Biology 4271)**

**Fall 2025**

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| **Instructor:  Cynthia Church, Ph.D** | **Office Hours:** |
| **Office: Science 2037** | **Tue: 9:00-9:30** |
| **E-mail:**[**churchcy@msudenver.edu**](mailto:churchcy@mscd.edu) | **Thur: 9:00-9:30; 1:00-2:00** |
| **Course Website:** [**http://www.drchurchbiology.com/BIO3270/**](http://www.drchurchbiology.com/BIO3270/) |  |

**Textbooks:**   
Desowitz. 1981. [*New Guinea Tapeworms and Jewish Grandmothers*](http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail.aspx?ID=12594)*.* W.W. Norton and Co. New York. **(Required)**

Roberts and Janovy. 2013. [*Foundations of Parasitology 9th Edition*](http://www.mhprofessional.com/product.php?isbn=0073524190). McGraw-Hill. New York. **(Optional)**  
The text was originally written by Dr. Gerald D. Schmidt who spent his career at the University of Northern Colorado. He was one of the most prominent parasitologists in the world who published well over 150 articles and three books in a short life of only fifty-six years. He was an excellent writer, dedicated scientist and delightful person.

**Course description:**  
Introduce the common parasites of humans and their domestic animals  
Introduce historical methods for studying and handling parasites  
Show the commonality of the symbiotic way of life

**Prerequisite:**  Invertebrate Zoology

**Teaching Philosophy:** Parasitology is often taught as a descriptive science where the ultimate goal is to memorize the names and appearances of the more common pathogens. This is important, especially for those who will be doing laboratory diagnostic work. In this course we will use these well-established techniques of the field, but also incorporate research skills and analytical techniques. I will ask you to spend a lot of time outside of class on this course in order to have experiences that will make memorization easy.

I have tried to arrange the course so you can learn the fundamentals of parasitology while having as much freedom as possible to make it meaningful to yourself. I have developed a number of assignments that I hope will encourage this approach. I will strive to make this an interesting, rewarding class that you look forward to attending. My intention is to challenge you, not frustrate you. If the material seems too difficult, please see me early in the semester.

**Rocky Mountain Conference of Parasitologists (RMCP):** I hope that you will attend the RMCP annual meeting, which will be September 4-6 at the Cedar Point Biological Field Station.

**Exams:** There will be three hourly exams each worth 100 points. I will drop your lowest exam grade. For that reason there will be no make-up exams. The final exam will be worth 150 points and it will be cumulative.

**Definitions Quizzes** (10 points each): These quizzes will help you learn the vocabulary of parasitology, you will have unlimited attempts, and only the highest grade will count.

**Assignments:** If you are taking this course it means you are an upper division student. It is time to think and reason and decide some issues for yourself. The teamwork/ presentation, discussion, and book analysis assignments will require you to ask questions of yourself and others, evaluate your peers, find and read new information beyond the basic subject matter, and communicate clearly and concisely.  
 **Course Evaluation**  
Hourly exams 200  
Final exam 150  
Definitions quizzes 20  
Book analysis 50Presentation 50  
Lab notebook 25  
Teamwork 25   
**Total points 520**

**Grading Scale**

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| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D/F** |
| **97-100% A+**  **93-96%:  A**  **90-92%:  A-** | **87-89%: B+**  **83-86%: B**  **80-82%: B-** | **77-79%: C+**  **73-76%: C**  **70-72%: C-** | **60-69%: D**  **< 60: F** |

**Attendance:** I believe that you are mature enough to decide whether to attend class and there will be no “attendance” penalty for missed classes.  However, missing classes will have an impact on your participation grade, which is a part of the course assessment. Please remember that it is your responsibility to obtain notes and handouts from lectures that you don’t attend.

**Mandatory Participation:**Students must participate in this course at the start of the semester to ensure they are not dropped from the course. In this course, you can "participate" by attending class and signing into the course in Canvas.