How to Maximize Your Grade!

The points below are to help guide you. Doing all of them does NOT guarantee an A letter grade, but they will help set you one the right path.

- Go to every lab and have a good attitude about the lab in general.
- Stay in contact with your TA about any issues that may impact your performance during the lab. If you cannot discuss the matter with your TA, seek out the Coordinator.
- If you have a valid reason to request to make-up a lab or to have one excused, make sure that you let your TA know what is going on (use e-mail as a written reminder and copy the coordinator). Follow all directions re the paperwork (excuse documentation.) No slips are needed.
- Ask questions if you don’t understand something – go to office hours…just don’t waste the TA’s time by asking questions that could be answered by reading the text or listening to instructions during lab!!
- Take the quizzes seriously; this is where students often drop a letter grade.
- Be original – only use your own words in all of your graded assignments. While lab partners and study group members can help you understand a concept, do not be tempted to copy from them nor from any other student for ANY reason. This is a violation of the Honor Code.
- TA Evaluations are based on observations of the following criteria, and others if your TA sees fit. They may add more during the semester:
  - Arrive on time to lab & stay the entire time.
  - Pay attention in class. Use the lab time judiciously.
  - Be prepared for the lab, mentally and physically (Be appropriately dressed, bring your manual, dissection kit etc.)
  - Complete the work assigned & on time.
  - Keep your work area organized. (lab bench supplies, your lab notes and drawings).
  - Keep lab area neat and clean – and put away all supplies and materials used (in their appropriate places) at the end of each lab.
  - Work well as a team member = not always in a leadership or gofer role!
  - Talk respectfully, with low volume to your TA and to your peers during lab.
  - No cell phone use, food or drinks during lab.
  - Ask permission of the TA to leave the room (This is for safety reasons so that we are always aware of who was/should be in the classroom at any given point.) Bathroom breaks only.
  - Take all personal belongings with you at the end of each lab – quizzes, quiz slips etc.
  - Create a table of comparative phyla characteristics