Lab Notebooks

The Book Itself
- The drawing notebook must be in a bound format:
  - Spiral notebook
  - Composition book
  - Drawing sketchbook
  - Loose-leaf binder
- Your lab work will not be deemed acceptable if submitted as a bunch of loose papers or as note cards. Neatness is key!
- Paper size should be between 7.5” x 9.75” (composition book) or 8.5” x 11” (regular note paper)

Minimum requirements
- All labs should be included (from microscopes to Protista)
- Material should be presented in the order in which it was taught:
  - Microscopes & Porifera
  - Cnidaria
  - Acoelomates (Platyhelminthes & Nemertina)
  - Pseudocoelomates (Nematoda & Rotifera)
  - Annelida
  - Arthropoda I
  - Arthropoda II
  - Mollusca
  - Bryozoa & Echinodermata
  - Chordata
  - Protista
- This notebook should contain only your personal notes taken during the lab period – nothing from the lecture – and NOT EVEN the pre-lab lecture given by your TA. Do not fill up your lab notebook with this information. You will gain more points by adding your own observations next to a drawing or a dissection than by regurgitating everything your TA says during their pre-lab amble!
- Do not copy drawings from the lab manual or text book, nor any work from another student, past or present.
- Include ALL dissections and slides.
- ALL of the taxa that we cover in lab should be represented. Make sure that you have at least one or two drawings of some of the specimens, or additional notes to help you recognize other major specimens in the jars.

The Drawings
- Drawings must be in pencil. You may highlight using colored pencils – but NO felt pens or crayons.
- Each drawing should take up at least 1/2 of the page.
- Drawings should be as detailed as possible and should have at least 3 significant structures clearly labeled.
- Label structures using your lab manual as a guide. Remember the perfect drawings in your lab manual are of “perfect” specimens so it is unlikely that your dissections or your specimen will look exactly like this. If all of your drawings in your lab notebook look like those in the lab manual….your TA will be very suspicious!
- Add your own descriptions and interpretations of what you are looking at. These will help you on your lab practicals far more than anything else. “Yellow and crumbly in texture – easily broken if not careful!” etc……

Grading
- All student notebooks will be looked at by your TA after the midterm to give you hints as to how to improve their final grade. Notebooks will be graded by your TA during the Protista lab. All TAs will be use the same grading chart to make the process as objective as possible.