

## Review of Biology - OpenStax

(First Edition)

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### Reviewer Information

Textbook that was reviewed
Biology
My name
Kuo-Hsing Kuo
My title/position
Associate Professor
My institution
University of Northern British Columbia

### Comprehensiveness

The text covers all areas and ideas of the subject appropriately and provides an effective index and/or glossary.
The text is well-written and easy to read and understand.
How do you rate the book's overall comprehensiveness?
4

### Content Accuracy

Content, including diagrams and other supplementary material, is accurate, error-free, and unbiased.
The textbook is aimed to provide fundamental knowledge at a general reading level. The content is up to date with no glaring and serious mistakes. However, there are several mistakes that do need to be corrected. For instance, in Figure 40.15/Page 1178, the branch after the Thoracic aorta is named the Abdominal aorta; its branches include the Celiac trunk, Superior Mesenteric artery (mistakenly labeled as Gastric artery) ..., and it becomes the Common Iliac artery (mistakenly labeled as Iliac artery) ...
Overall, how do you rate the accuracy of the content?
2

### Relevance/Longevity

Content is up-to-date, but not in a way that will quickly make the text obsolete within a short period of time. The text is written and/or arranged in such a way that necessary updates will be relatively easy and straightforward to implement.
The textbook has taken good advantage of the use of figures in describing concepts and structures. I would agree that the relevance is one of the strengths of the textbook.
Overall, how do you rate the relevance/longevity of the book?
4

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## Clarity

The text is written in lucid, accessible prose, and provides adequate context for any jargon/technical terminology used.
The textbook may need some improvements with clarity. For instance, in Figure 41.5/page 1194, the major and minor calyces are introduced unclearly in the description and there are no labels provided to follow.
Overall, how do you rate the clarity of the book?
3

## Consistency

The text is internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework.
The terminology and framework are consistent throughout the whole text.
How do you rate the overall consistency of the text?
4

## Modularity

The text is easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections that can be assigned at different points within the course (i.e., enormous blocks of text without subheadings should be avoided). The text should not be overly self-referential, and should be easily reorganized and realigned with various subunits of a course without presenting too much disruption to the reader.
The textbook is divisible into smaller reading sections and it is self-referential.
Overall, how do you rate the modularity of the text?
4

## Organization/Structure/Flow

The topics in the text are presented in a logical, clear fashion.
It is acceptable for a general reading level.
Overall, how do you rate the organization/structure/flow of the text?
4

## Interface

The text is free of significant interface issues, including navigation problems, distortion of images/charts, and any other display features that may distract or confuse the reader.
The interface is acceptable. It would definitely improve the interface if there were a softer color scheme. The contrast of the colors is too strong which detracts the reader from the content.
Overall, how do you rate the textbook's interface?
3

## Grammatical/Spelling Errors

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The text contains no grammatical or spelling errors.
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I found there are no issues.
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How do you rate the grammar and spelling of the text?
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4
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## Diversity and Inclusion

The text reflects diversity and inclusion regarding culture, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, education, religion. It does not include insensitive or offensive language in these areas.
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The majority of the photos in this textbook are images adopted from American-based resources. It may be more suitable for Canadian students if there were more images from Canada-based resources.
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Overall, how do you rate the diversity and inclusion of the text?
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## Recommendation

Do you recommend this book? If not, why?
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The content and organization of the textbook have great potential to be a popular textbook if the clarity and interface were improved. I still would not recommend my students this current version as it may not be easy to follow and is at times confusing.
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