

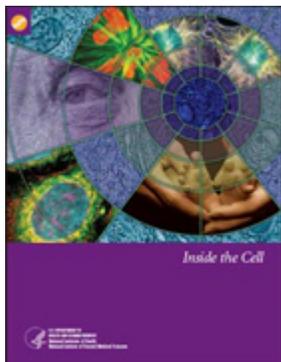


## Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education ([www.cool4ed.org](http://www.cool4ed.org)). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

### Inside the Cell



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Textbook Authors:

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Reviewed by:

Aparna Sreenivasan

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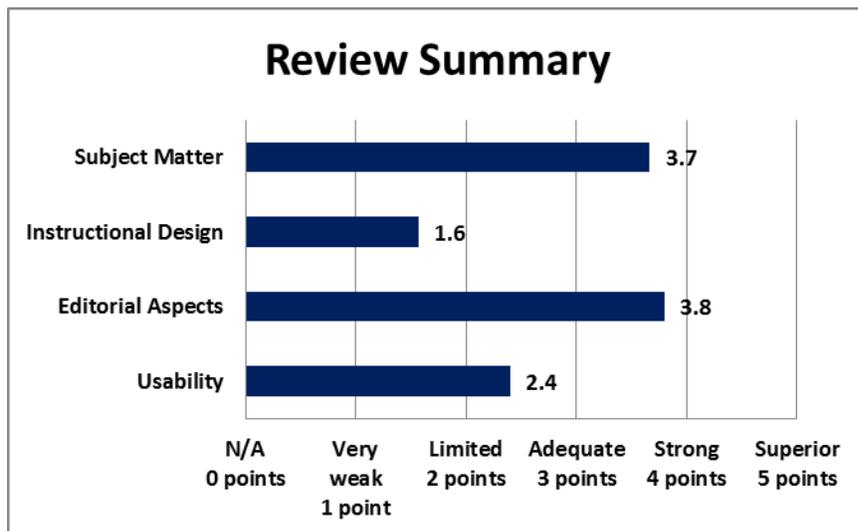
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

August 2015

### California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [BIOL 190](#)

| Subject Matter (30 possible points)                | N/A (0 pts) | Very Weak (1pt) | Limited (2 pts) | Adequate (3pts) | Strong (4 pts) | Superior (5 pts) |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased? |             |                 |                 |                 | X              |                  |

|  |  |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?  |  |  |  | X |   |  |
| Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?  |  |  |  |   | X |  |
| Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?   |  |  |  |   | X |  |
| Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?   |  |  |  |   | X |  |
| Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?) |  |  |  | X |   |  |

Total Points: 22 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The book is for a straight cell biology course. Only five chapters that describe the cell in detail. It is meant for an introduction to the cell, and is only 84 pages in length. It has a few online tools, but not a lot provided.

| Instructional Design (35 possible points)   | N/A (0 pts) | Very Weak (1pt) | Limited (2 pts) | Adequate (3pts) | Strong (4 pts) | Superior (5 pts) |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?  |             |                 |                 | X               |                |                  |
| Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)   |             |                 |                 | X               |                |                  |
| Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?  | X           |                 |                 |                 |                |                  |
| Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?   |             |                 |                 | X               |                |                  |
| Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?   |             | X               |                 |                 |                |                  |
| Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.) |             | X               |                 |                 |                |                  |
| Is the textbook searchable?   | X           |                 |                 |                 |                |                  |

Total Points: 11 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The text is very short, well written, but not for a full course.

| Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)  | N/A (0 pts) | Very Weak (1pt) | Limited (2 pts) | Adequate (3pts) | Strong (4 pts) | Superior (5 pts) |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?   |             |                 |                 |                 | X              |                  |
| Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?   |             |                 |                 |                 | X              |                  |
| Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?) |             |                 |                 |                 | X              |                  |
| Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)   |             |                 |                 |                 | X              |                  |
| How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)   |             |                 |                 | X               |                |                  |

Total Points: 19 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The multimedia pieces are short, and not many included, but that is par with the size of the textbook. Overall, the book is good, but cannot be used for a full course.

| Usability (25 possible points)  | N/A (0 pts) | Very Weak (1pt) | Limited (2 pts) | Adequate (3pts) | Strong (4 pts) | Superior (5 pts) |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs? | X           |                 |                 |                 |                |                  |

|   |   |  |  |  |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.) |   |  |  |  |  | X |  |
| Can the textbook be printed easily?   |   |  |  |  |  | X |  |
| Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?    |   |  |  |  |  | X |  |
| How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?                                   | X |  |  |  |  |   |  |

Total Points: 12 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- Same comments as above.

| Overall Ratings                                  |                    |                            |                             |                  |                          |                                  |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | Not at all (0 pts) | Very Weak (1 pt)           | Limited (2 pts)             | Adequate (3 pts) | Strong (4 pts)           | Superior (5 pts)                 |
| What is your overall impression of the textbook? |                    |                            |                             |                  | X                        |                                  |
|  | Not at all (0 pts) | Strong reservations (1 pt) | Limited willingness (2 pts) | Willing (3 pts)  | Strongly willing (4 pts) | Enthusiastically willing (5 pts) |
| How willing would you be to adopt this book?     |                    |                            | X                           |                  |                          |                                  |

Total Points: 6 out of 10

## Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- I would not recommend it to colleagues because it's not comprehensive enough. But I would recommend it to intro instructors who want to provide a "flavor" of cell biology.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- It doesn't need improvement, it's just not really a text book per se, but rather supplemental or a book included with many for an introductory course.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#)  
(Please [register](#) in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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