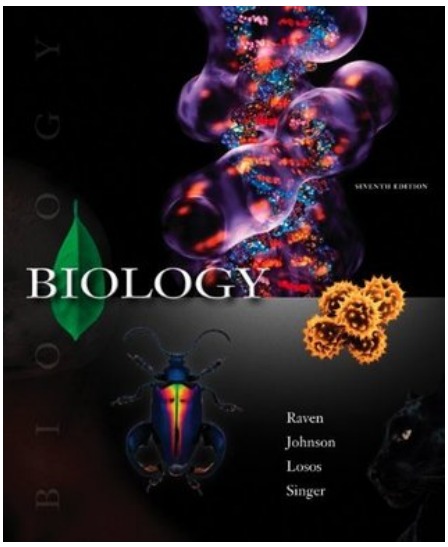

Biology

Peter H. Raven , George B. Johnson , Susan R. Singer , Jonathan B. Losos

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With evolution as a unifying theme, this textbook emphasises on natural selection and the evolutionary process that explains biodiversity.

Biology Details

Date	:	Published January 8th 2004 by McGraw-Hill Science/Engineering/Math (first published 1942)
ISBN	:	9780072921649
Author	:	Peter H. Raven , George B. Johnson , Susan R. Singer , Jonathan B. Losos
Format	:	Hardcover 1250 pages
Genre	:	Science, Biology, Reference, Textbooks, Academic, School, Nonfiction

From Reader Review Biology for online ebook

Maqsood says

i think this book.....

Sohey says

i want to download this book how i can download it

Ned Peneguy says

This text is very poorly written. It is unnecessarily obfuscating and jargon cluttered. If there are three terms with which to describe the exact same thing, Raven is sure to give you four. There are much better General Biology texts out there which I had to refer to because Raven makes such a muddle of things. Better and more highly recommended texts are Sadava "Life" (Very Good) and Freeman "Biological Science" (Fantastic). Campbell is good too.

Aside from the plethora of unnecessary jargon, the book's other primary failing is a lack of unification in what is presented. Nothing is tied to anything else. This book is essentially a loose assemblage of facts about biology without any seeming connection.

I will mention that the final chapters on ecology are, however somewhat better written than the rest of the book. In these chapters (and only in these chapters) the facts are presented not as they are elsewhere, as just a string of true statements (or purportedly true statements - another failing of Raven is that he uses many speculative studies which are still being debated and after mentioning they are still disputed, proceeds to treat them as though they were established facts) connected by conjunctions and unnecessarily technical mumbo jumbo, but as a unity of interrelated, interlocking parts to a puzzle.

I cannot imagine (and I can imagine quite a good deal) any possible way this text could have been written more poorly.

Kathely says

Reading for Ecology is finished...two classes, 1 paper, and 1 final to go!

Ellis says

Good stuff for everyone here. Too much fun. Again, McGraw-Hill did an excellent job with the teaching/learning resources that accompany this text.

Manda says

The nerd in me loved this ridiculously huge and overly in depth text.

Chris Duval says

Overall, this was an okay text. I read it not for a course but to update my personal knowledge of the subject originally gained in the 1970s and only supplemented in a piecemeal fashion.

A problem: The authors/ editors do not seem to have a consistent view of their audience, which seems a problem for a textbook. Some parts of the book are moderately challenging, requiring one to bring to active use material learned in earlier chapters; this is particularly so in the coverage of biochemistry and cytology.

Another inconsistency, not unrelated to the first, is in the rigor of the science. For example, the chapters on ecology seemed more loosely reasoned then the book's earlier chapters. My retained knowledge gained from Scientific American articles and from economics showed up gaps in these chapters.

Finally the tone was inconsistent, ranging from dispassionately descriptive to preachy.

Minor point: the glossary needs expansion. It misses terms, not common outside the field, that are used in widely separated parts of the text.

Kassilem says

We didn’t use this whole book for my summer class, but I’d say we used at least half of it. I remember taking Biology in high school vaguely, only really remembering that I didn’t like it all that much. Taking it now in college I can say that I do like it, most of it at least. And this book helped play a part in that. The text is full of pictures and diagrams; I learn best visually so these helped me immensely. The text is also full of jargon but the technical names are all explained. There are a few topics in the book that I needed additional supplement readings to understand but for the most part, the authors explained ideas in an easy to get manner. I’m sure I’ll be referring back to this book for years to come.

Modboy says

A fantastic textbook that explains biology in terms of time, energy, evolution, behaviour and ecosystem. The scope is utterly amazing. A good teacher should be able to take this book and show how life scales from the single-cell to the biosphere for each of the many physiological processes we depend on.

Ellis says

Pre-read/use:
I thought the previous edition of this book was pretty good. I think this book should be largely similar to the previous edition, but with some better instructor resources. I'm going to ask my students to rate it at the end of the semester and I'll post their rating here with my review.

Post-read/use:
Still good. Not as many updates as I thought there would be. The publisher caught me on this one.