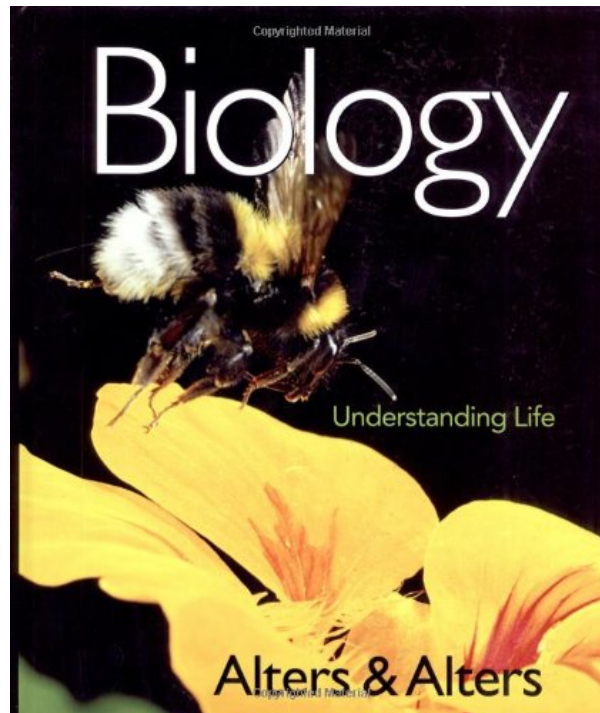
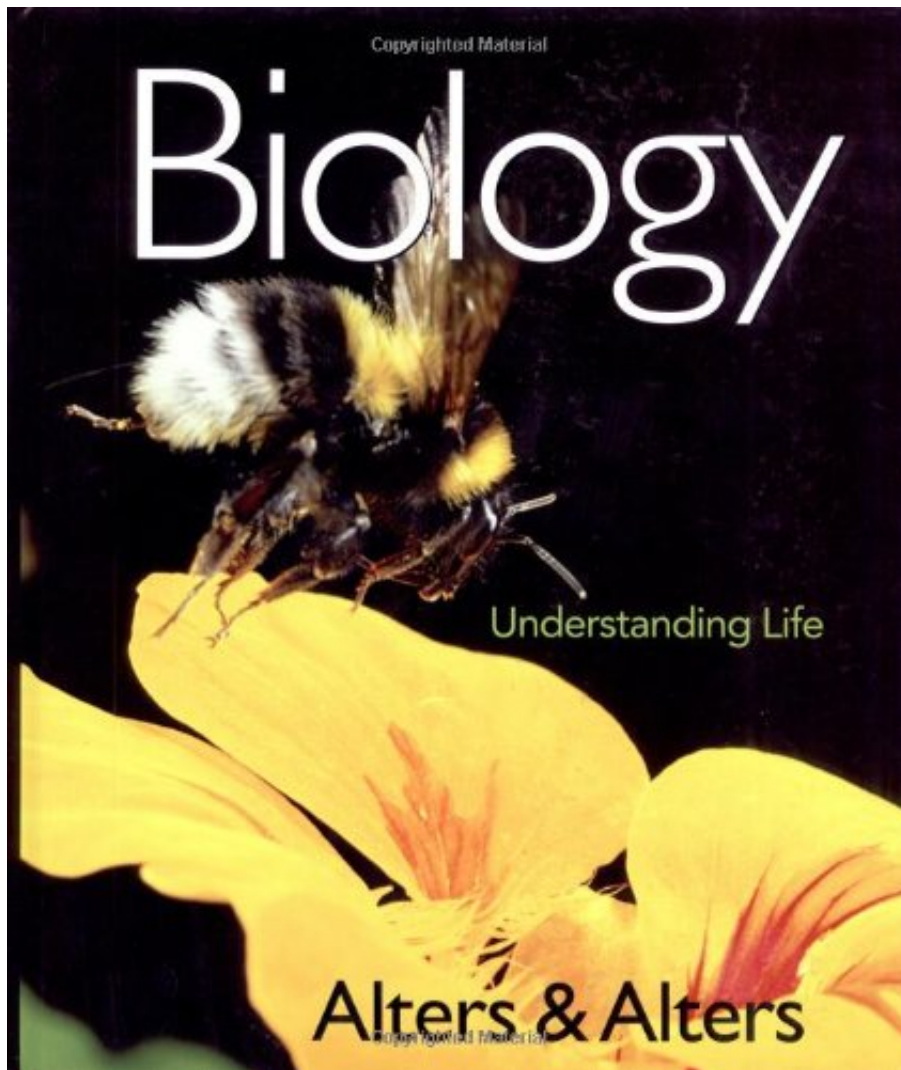


BIOLOGY: UNDERSTANDING LIFE BY SANDRA ALTERS, BRIAN ALTERS



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From the Back Cover

What's all the buzz about?

In Sandra and Brian Alters' years of teaching biology and training science teachers, they've worked to understand how to create the optimal learning environment and a buzz in the classroom. *Biology: Understanding Life* reflects this experience and dedication to teaching and learning by providing unique, classroom-tested examples, analogies, and explanation—along with pedagogy that points students to the important ideas in biology. Some of these unique, highly-praised pedagogical features include:

- Analogies throughout the text help students visualize and understand concepts and processes by comparing them with readily recognizable, real-life examples.
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About the Author

Sandra Alters is formerly a tenured professor of biology and education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a professor of biology at Salem State College (MA). After teaching for over 25 years and teaching non-majors introductory biology for 10 years, Sandy left academia to write full time. She has over 20 years experience in science textbook writing in particular and science writing in general. She and her husband Brian are the only Ph.D. science educators currently authoring a non-majors college biology textbook. This book and its related ancillaries reflect their strong focus on science education.

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Designed for a one or two semester non-majors course in introductory biology taught at most two and four-year colleges. This course typically fulfills a general education requirement, and rather than emphasizing mastery of technical topics, it focuses on the understanding of biological ideas and concepts, how they relate to real life, and appreciating the scientific methods and thought processes. Given the authors' work in and dedication to science education, this text's writing style, pedagogy, and integrated support package are all based on classroom-tested teaching strategies and learning theory. The result is a learning program that enhances the effectiveness & efficiency of the teaching and learning experience in the introductory biology course like no other before it.

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Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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Most helpful customer reviews

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

A Good Introduction to Biology

By A Customer

This book is an attractive package that invites the reader to dive in. Not only does it discuss basic biological concepts but mentions concepts that are in the news today, such as genetic engineering and DNA sequencing.

Although the introduction implies that it's appropriate for college-level courses, I think it could be used at the high-school level, too, especially since someone taking this course at the college level is someone who probably never took introductory biology in high-school, so the only difference between what would be covered in the college course and the high-school course is the number of chapters covered.

The book begins with an introduction to some basic concepts of life (what is biology? what are characteristics of life? how are forms of life classified? what are molecules? what is an organic molecule?) and then moves onto sections covering the structure of cells, systems in the human body and those of other animals. Next, it covers genetics, evolution, the five kingdoms, and social interaction of organisms.

I was surprised to see so much coverage of human anatomy (with many color drawings and some photographs, too) in a general introduction to biology (after all, biology is more than just humans), but I guess that the author included that to keep the reader interested, since it helps to relate each biological concept to a machine the reader already possesses---his body (see goal #3 below).

The goals that the author sets out for the text are these:

1. Help students understand biological concepts
2. Offer a range of visual learning aids to meet students' diverse learning styles
3. Make biology relevant to student's daily lives
4. Help students gain an understanding of scientific processes
5. Review, test and assess student understanding
6. Integrate every aspect of the text into a comprehensive teaching package

The author meets each of these goals, and, particularly, the writing style and illustrations help to meet goal #2, in that, I believe, the author has specifically avoided complex sentence structure in order to make the text accessible to students with weak reading skills. That's probably good, and it further supports my contention that the book is good for college and high-school students alike to read. Also, there are lists of relevant vocabulary words at the end of each chapter, and a glossary in the back of the book.

I like the book and will continue to refer to it myself to refresh some of my own biology knowledge.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

WileyPlus Registration Code

By Amazon Customer

If you're trying to purchase this textbook used, and your instructor is using the online WileyPlus supplement, be sure to ask the seller if they're including a WileyPlus registration code. From what I've seen most either don't include it or don't even know about it. The textbook sells for around \$120 brand new, and I think that comes with the code. If not, the code costs about \$50 on the WileyPlus website. So if you're looking to pay \$30 to \$40 and thinking you're getting a great deal, you may be surprised by a hidden cost. Again, this all depends on if you're going to be using the online supplement, but just be warned. I wasn't happy with the surprise.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

A highly recommended reference and teaching tool

By Midwest Book Review

Now in an updated and expanded third edition, *Biology: Understanding Life* by Sandra Alters is an impressively organized and presented instructional text which is adaptable to high school or college curriculums, and is eminently suitable for classroom work, home schooling, or for independent study. Color photos enhance a clear and precise text which includes exercises and a solid coverage spanning a wide variety of topics including human genetics, development before birth, evolution issues, the nervous system, senses and hormones, and a great deal more, making *Biology: Understanding Life* an essential and highly recommended reference and teaching tool.

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