

# Syllabus and Introductory Articles: Take-home Quiz

Micr-22, revised Fall 2017

Like many other assignments in this course, this assignment will be graded as follows:

- Check-minus: Approaches expectations, but may be incomplete or otherwise insufficient. Half credit.
- Check: Meets expectations. Full credit.
- Check-plus: Exceeds expectations. (A check-plus can compensate for check-minus on a different assignment.)

**Note:** In this grading scheme, it is better to turn in a complete assignment within 48 hours of when due (max. 90% credit), than to turn in an incomplete assignment on time (max. 50% credit).

## Expectations for assignments

- Respond meaningfully to every part of the assignment.
- Respect your own ideas enough to present them professionally and clearly. Consider grammar, spelling, appropriate terminology, and appearance. Complete sentences are not always necessary.
- May be typed or clearly handwritten. Double-sided printing is encouraged.
- If you generate multiple pages, simply staple them together rather than using a cover.

## Materials needed

- Access to course website
- Course syllabus (printed or electronic)
- *L. A. Times* column by Michael Hiltzik (printed or electronic, on course webpage)
- NPR story on "Mighty Farming Microbes" <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2015/06/12/413692617/>
- One to two hours of your time

## Objectives

- Become thoroughly familiar with our syllabus.
- Know where to find electronic versions of handouts and assignments.
- Encounter and respond to part of an ongoing conversation about science, as described in a couple of articles.

## Assignment prompts

From syllabus:

1. How much time do you have to turn in a late assignment and still receive up to 90% credit?
2. If you cannot come to your instructor's office during their "student hours," what is another way that you can speak with them, in person?
3. "Lectures consist of your instructor telling you exactly what you need to know." Why is this a false statement?
4. According to our syllabus, what is likely to happen if a student allows another student to copy their work?
5. Where is your instructor's office? (A challenge: What building, what floor, what end of the building?)

From NPR story:

6. What surprised you about this story? Why? If nothing, why?  
(If you're hungry for more, consider this story: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/140918-soil-bacteria-microbe-farming-technology-ngfood/>)

From *L. A. Times* column:

7. What surprised you about this issue? Why? If nothing, why?

From course website:

8. On our course website, what is one link from the left column that interests you?

From you:

9. What are you dreaming of becoming? How will this course help you achieve this goal?