Academic Integrity Policy for Fundamentals of Biology I Lab

1. Every laboratory assignment/report is an individual writing assignment, not a group effort. All questions must be answered and all reports written in your own words. Changing a word here or there or just rearranging the word order of someone else’s work is still considered plagiarizing. This means copying between lab partners as well as from the lab manual, textbook or an online website will be considered plagiarism. You may use ideas from your lab manual, textbook, class notes or online source, but you must use proper citations giving the original author credit and write the information in your own words.

2. Excel graphs are also individual efforts. You may discuss your data with your lab partners, but you must do all the graphs yourself. That means if one member of your group does the graphs and makes copies for everyone else it will be considered plagiarizing.

3. When drawings are required you must put each microscope slide on your own microscope, locate the requested structure and draw it. Do not try to save time by letting your lab partners find things and then drawing what they found. It will mean your drawings will look alike and this will be considered cheating. The point of setting up each microscope slide yourself is to give you practice using your microscope.

4. Draw what you actually see on your slides – Do not copy photographs from A Guide to Biology Lab by Thomas Rust – those photographs are just to help orient you to what you see on your slides – your slides are similar, but they are NOT identical. If you just copy the photographs in the book or from some other source it will be considered plagiarism.

Penalties
The first instance of either cheating or plagiarism will give you 20 points off your assignment grade. The second instance will give you a zero for the assignment and a third instance will give you a zero for the course and you will be referred to the Office of the Provost. So if you have any doubt about whether what you are doing might be considered a breach of the Academic Integrity Policy see your lab instructor and get their OK before you hand in your work.

I have read the above and understand all sections.

Signature ________________________________________________