



St Hilda's College  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

June 2026

## **Biology**

Congratulations on your offer of a place to read Biology at St Hilda's College, University of Oxford. We look forward to working with you when you come up to Oxford in October. Meanwhile, you will probably want to do some preliminary reading. The attached list gives some suggestions both for general background reading, and for textbooks that you will find useful during the first year of the course. Asterisked texts will be particularly useful for the course. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of texts to read; you could, for example, go through aspects of a couple of the asterisked texts, and pick a combination of other general interest books from this lists or ones of your own choosing. Please note that most of these books are available in several copies in the college library, so for the course you will not have to purchase all these books yourself.

With best wishes from the St Hilda's Biology teaching staff,

Dmitry Filatov and Aris Katzourakis



**St Hilda's College: Biology Freshers' Reading List, Summer 2026**

***For Oxford Biology course – asterisked texts will be particularly useful. These will be available in the library.***

\* Peter W.H. Holland, 2011. The Animal Kingdom: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford University Press.

\* Lindsay Turnbull, 2023. Biology: The Whole Story. David Fickling Books, UK

\* Barton, Briggs, Eisen, Goldstein, Patel 2007 Evolution. Cold Spring Harbor Lab Press, New York

\* Mark (*not Matt*) Ridley. 2004. Evolution. 3rd Edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK.

\* Benjamin Lewin: Genes XII

\* Alberts, Johnson, Lewis, Raff, Roberts, (2014) Molecular biology of the Cell - 6th edition (or other recent editions)

Colin Tudge. The Variety of Life.

B.A. Pierce: Genetics: A Conceptual Approach.

John Postgate. Microbes and Man.

***General interest***

John Maynard Smith and Eörs Szathmary: The Origins of Life: from the Birth of Life to the Origin of Language. Oxford University Press.

Carl Zimmer "A planet of viruses" published by the University of Chicago Press

Richard Dawkins: The Blind Watchmaker. Norton & Company Inc., or:

Richard Dawkins: The Ancestor's Tale. Weidenfeld and Nicholson.

Houghton JT (2004). Global Warming: the Complete Briefing. Cambridge University Press

Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza 2001 Genes, Peoples, and Languages.

Marian Dawkins: Unravelling animal behaviour.