

HANDOUT for HLW

THERE WILL BE NO 'PRESENTATIONS' in this seminar. Members will be expected to acquire and do weekly readings in the book 'How Life Works' by Philip Ball, and come prepared to discuss. The book is well written, authoritative, and dense.

Reviews of How Life Works'

"Nearly all 'the neat stories that researchers routinely tell about how living cells work are incomplete, flawed, or just totally mistaken,' according to this bold report. Science writer Ball explains how advances in biology have upended traditional understandings of how organisms develop and reproduce. The most revelatory material pushes back against the notion that DNA constitutes the 'blueprint' for life. . . . The author takes glee in tearing down scientific shibboleths . . . and his penetrating analysis underscores the stakes of outdated assumptions. . . . Provocative and profound, this has the power to change how readers understand life's most basic mechanisms." — Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"Ball's marvelous book is both wide-ranging and deep. It explores the fundamental mechanics of biology and leaves the reader full of awe and wonder. More than this, by reframing how we talk about the latest scientific discoveries, How Life Works has exciting implications for the future of the science of biology itself. I could not put it down." -- Siddhartha Mukherjee, author of "The Song of the Cell" and the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Emperor of All Maladies"