This is not an easy course; the curriculum is demanding, and the pace is swift. To help improve your scientific reading comprehension abilities you will be expected to complete a significant amount of independent work including reading textbooks, scientific articles and book excerpts. Before the course begins, you will read the book *Survival of the Sickest* by Dr. Sharon Moalem. (New and used copies can be found at the library or on Amazon for under $10). The ideas presented will be revisited myriad times throughout the year; it is imperative that you read the book in its entirety and complete this project independently.

### Part I – Slide Show (30 points)

Many of us regard disease as entirely destructive, but we are now learning that reality is more nuanced. According to Dr. Moalem: “Life is such a compromise.” You will be creating one slideshow to illustrate and present the four diseases listed below in detail.

- Chapter 1: Hemochromatosis
- Chapter 2: Type I Diabetes
- Chapter 3: High Cholesterol
- Chapter 4: G6PD Deficiency/Favism

**Be sure to discuss:**

- a full description of the disease
- causes – both environmental and/or genetic
- specific symptoms and physiological effects
- current/potential treatment options
- the historical perspective of the disease including statistics, prevalence, geographic distribution, and other interesting facts
- the evolutionary advantage of the disease which is dependent upon on time and place

**Criteria to be graded:**

- You have presented sufficient, detailed information on each of the four diseases
- Your slides are well organized and aesthetically pleasing (high quality images, colorful, visible fonts, etc.)
- Create a slideshow as if you are presenting to an audience who has never heard of the disease
- Your slides should present information using bullets, never in full sentences
Part II – Written Response (40 points) to be completed in class

You will be provided with prompts for each disease from the book to generate a written response in class. This portion will be done on paper, and you may use the book with your remarks or annotations to help you generate responses. We strongly encourage you to actively take notes, underline, and highlight what you find significant from your reading which will help you with this assignment. More information will be provided in class if you have any questions.

Important Dates

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Part I is due 9/6/24 Friday
Part II is to be completed in class on 9/9 Monday (subject to change)

Dr. Sharon Moalem

Sharon Moalem MD, PhD, is an award-winning scientist, physician and New York Times bestselling author. His diverse research and work span many fields and brings together evolution, genetics, biology, and medicine to revolutionize how we understand and treat disease. Dr. Moalem has served as an associate editor for the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease and cofounded two biotechnology companies. His clinical genetics research led to the discovery of two new rare genetic conditions. He has also been awarded more than 25 patents worldwide for his inventions in human health and biotechnology. His scientific work led to his discovery of a first-in-class member of a novel class of antibiotic compounds which combat superbug infections caused by organisms such as methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).