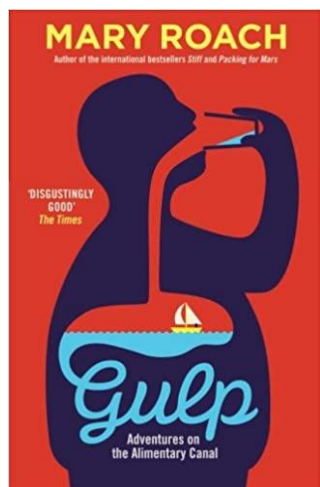
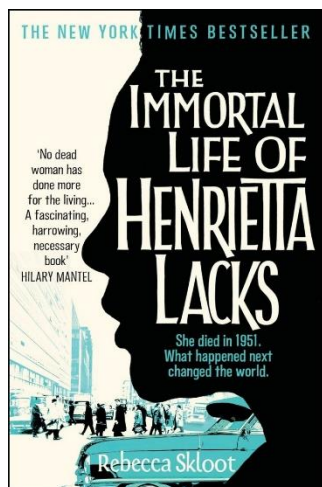


Dr Ford's Recommendations



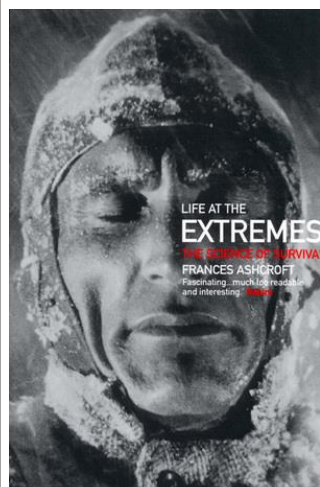
Gulp (Adventures on the Alimentary Canal) – Mary Roach

Mary Roach is an American journalist, who has written several Science books. Gulp is a book that explores the weird and wonderful associated with the journey of our food through the digestive system. Mary Roach has written several other books too, which may interest you. Do let me know if you read any of these and would recommend them.



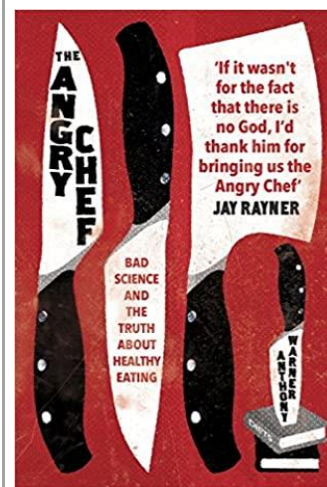
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – Rebecca Skloot

Advertised as '*The internationally bestselling story of a young woman whose death in 1951 changed medical science for ever*'. It is a fascinating true story touching on wide-ranging themes from the ethics of medical research to racial divides in America. If you read this book, you will be interested to hear that I learnt about HeLa cells when I was at university; I was taught they came from a lady called Helen Lane.



Life at the Extremes (The Science of Survival) – Frances Ashcroft

Frances Ashcroft is a Professor of Physiology at the University of Oxford. Her book explores how living organisms respond to extreme conditions like altitude, pressure, cold, heat and speed. This is a very detailed book, but one that you would definitely benefit from dipping into at different parts of your A-Level course. If I taught you at GCSE and told you the story of the man who survived 15 mins at 105°C to explain the importance of sweating – this is the book I read about the story in.



The Angry Chef - Anthony Warner

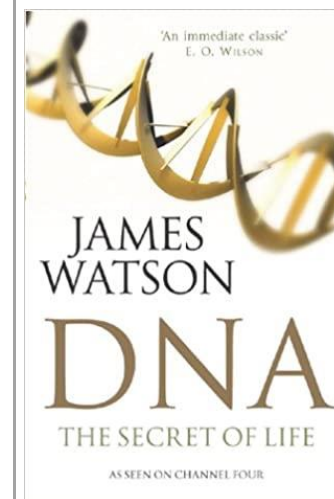
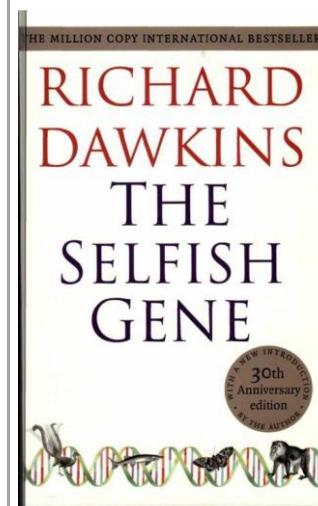
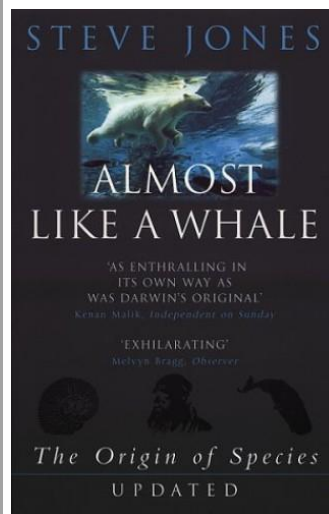
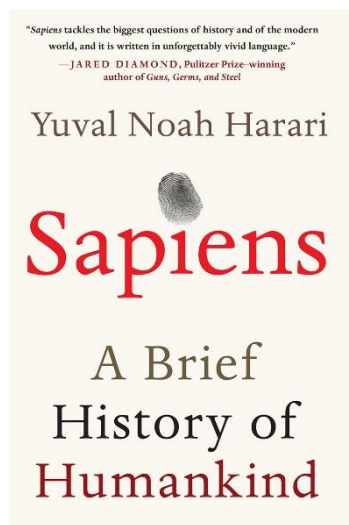
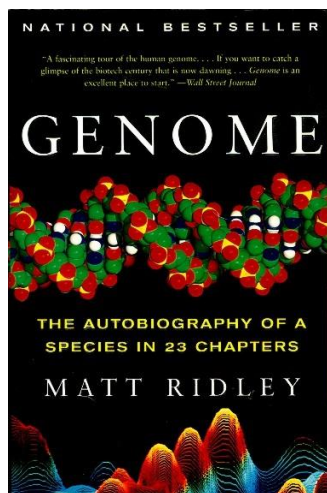
Anthony Warner originally did a degree in Biochemistry, before embarking on a career as a chef. In his writing he tackles pseudo-scientific messages presented by the health and wellness industry. His books contain detailed research and he presents well-thought out scientific arguments in a very readable manner. Although I can't possibly condone the language used (!), Anthony Warner also writes a very interesting blog at <https://angry-chef.com/blog>.



Dave Goulson – The Garden Jungle (or any of his other books)

Dave Goulson is Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Sussex. He is a successful academic, award-winning author and environmental campaigner. His books are both scientifically detailed and humorous. Any of his books are a great read to learn about how we can become better custodians of our ecosystems.

Mr Kelland's Recommendations



Genome: The Autobiography of a species in 23 Chapters - Matt Ridley
 If there is one book on this list I would recommend above all others it is this one. This is the book I read as an A Level Biologist that convinced me that this was the subject for me, and lead me to a Masters degree in Biology, specialising in Genetics. It provides a fascinating insight into the workings of the human genome, much of which we study through topics 2 and 3. Matt Ridley is first and foremost a writer and journalist, making his writing style easy to read and his explanation of the science easy to follow.

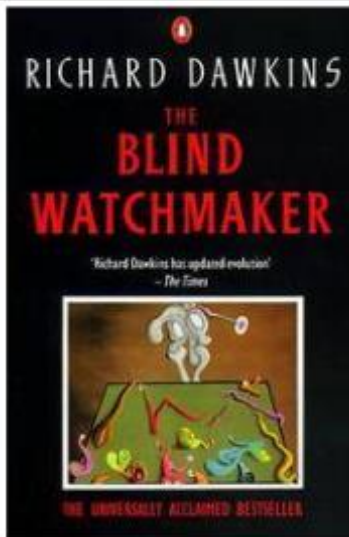
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind - Yuval Noah Harari
 Yuval Noah Harari has been my main source of reading over the last year, with this and its sequel '*Homo Deus*'. These books are more than just Biology, giving an insight into the social, economic and political advances that brought humans to where they are today. What makes them a great read is the authors ability to write as if he is watching humanity from above, and he certainly does not set out to present humanity in a positive light, or suggest that every advance is a positive one. There is a bit of everything in these books, but above all they make you think and look at the world in a different way.

Almost like a whale: The Origin of Species Updated - Steve Jones
 Steve Jones was the head of Genetics at UCL in London, and a winner of the Michael Faraday prize for 'his numerous, wide ranging contributions to the public understanding of science...'. This book in particular sets out to update Charles Darwin's famous work, presenting the same theories, but with the aid of modern genetic understanding. It is easy to read, and leaves you with an even greater respect for its source material; it is truly astonishing how much Darwin was able to work out with so little genetic understanding at his disposal.

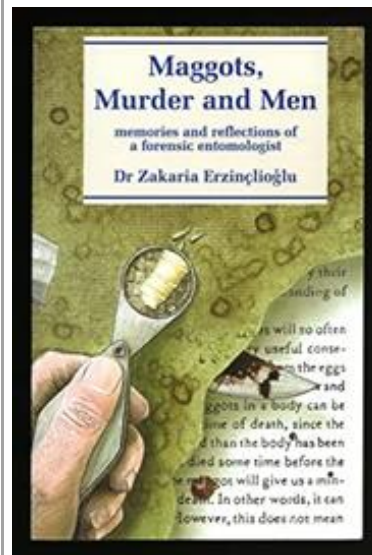
The Selfish Gene - Richard Dawkins
 You may have heard of Richard Dawkins- he is a very polarising and controversial figure in scientific writing, primarily due to his strong belief in atheism and anti-religious stance, culminating in his book '*the God Delusion*'. Primarily, however, Dawkins is an evolutionary Biologist, and much of his work delves into the mechanisms of natural selection. The Selfish Gene was his first book, and some ideas may be a bit dated now, but any of his books present an easy to grasp explanation of 'the cornerstone of modern Biology'. It may surprise you that this book also invented the word 'meme'!

DNA: The Secret of Life - James Watson
 James Watson should need no introduction, as a Nobel Prize winner as the co-discoverer of the structure of DNA alongside Francis Crick. He is also an acclaimed writer, and has worked at the forefront of genetics for the last 50 years. He is able to present an insight and personal experience of the world of modern genetics that few others could match.

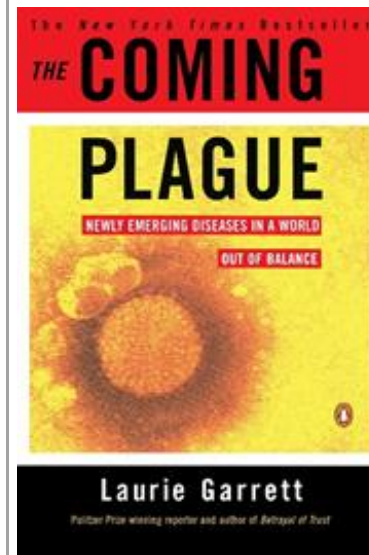
Mr Mayo's recommendations



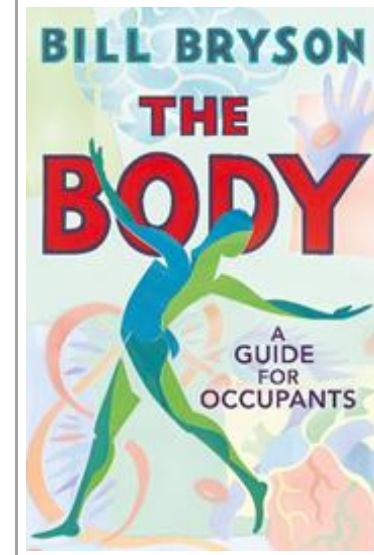
Read this as directed by a lecturer during the first year of my degree. He is a passionate author and makes sense of Darwin's ideas in a recent context with more knowledge of the mechanisms behind the evidence. Debunks ideas and arguments made from the perspective of creationism



Just interesting this one really, again early 2000s but will give some context to units 3&4 with some excellent aspects helping you into Y13



I have decided to re-read this due to recent events but again this is a much older (relative to you not me) book that provides fantastic background to very recent events. The biology has moved forward tremendously, the sociology is more so now than previously!



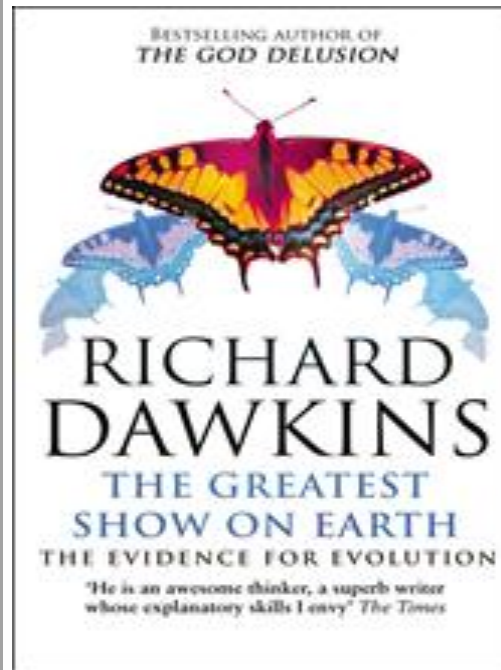
A relatively light read and the most recent book I have read. Again provides context for several aspects of the course and will give you a great overview of the background, this is the least 'sciencey' book and will (hopefully) make you want to ask questions and look into the mechanisms

Mr Dawson's Recommendations



The Origin of Species and The Voyage of the Beagle – Charles Darwin

When I first started to read the voyage, I was so amazed that such an old book would be so enthralling. Charles Darwin's details of his voyage are so interesting and mixed, that the book doesn't really fall into any one category of literature. This book ended up inspiring me to visit South America, with its intriguing insights, as well as beautifully described people, landscapes and fauna. It also shows how Darwin began his understandings on the Origins of species and gives you a good stepping stone for a lot of other evolutionary based scientific literature.



The Greatest Show on Earth – Richard Dawkins

This is a great follow on from Darwin and gives a modern view on evolution using all evidence available. It does contain some polarising opinions, with Richard Dawkins letting some of his distaste for religion making parts hard to read. But most of the book is a fantastic read, with some humour and wit added to make the scientific arguments even more interesting.

Other options:

Richard Dawkins:

Unweaving the Rainbow
Climbing Mount Improbable
The Ancestor's Tale

Steve Jones:

Y: The Descent of Men
In the Blood: God, Genes and Destiny
The Language of the genes

Matt Ridley-

The Red Queen: Sex and the Evolution of Human Nature
The Language of Genes
Francis Crick: Discoverer of the Genetic Code
Nature Via Nurture: Genes, Experience and What Makes Us Human

Lewis Thomas:

The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher.
The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher

Barry Gibb:

The Rough Guide to the Brain (Rough Guides Reference Titles)

Armand Marie Leroi: Mutants: On the Form, Varieties and Errors of the Human Body

David S. Goodsell: The Machinery of Life

Ernst Mayr: This Is Biology: The Science of the Living World

George C. Williams: Plan and Purpose in Nature

Steve Pinker: The Language Instinct

Edward O Wilson: The Diversity of Life

Richard Leaky: The Origin of Humankind

Bill Bryson: A Short History of Nearly Everything

If this isn't enough for you (!) The Royal Society has a Science book award each year- the shortlists can be found here:

<https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/book-prizes/science-book-prize/past-winners/>