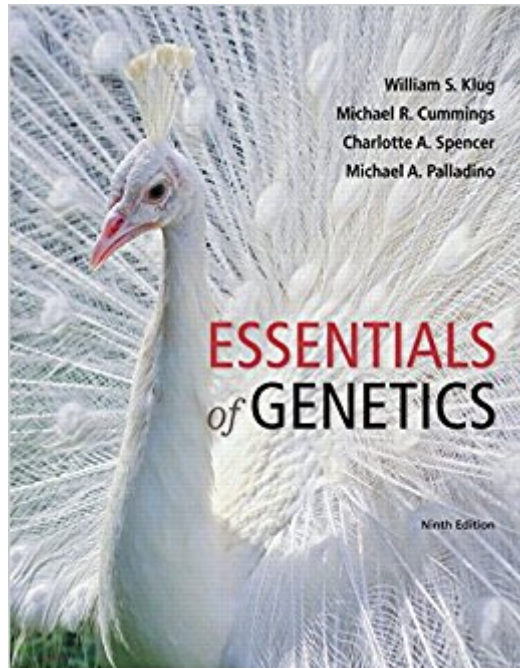




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Synopsis

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Customer Reviews

William S. Klug is a retired Professor of Biology at the College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College) in Ewing, New Jersey. He served as chair of the Biology Department for 17 years, a position to which he was first elected in 1974. He received his B.A. degree in Biology from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Prior to coming to the College of New Jersey, he was on the faculty of Wabash College as an Assistant Professor. His research interests have involved ultrastructural and molecular genetic studies of oogenesis in *Drosophila*. He has taught the genetics course as well as the senior capstone seminar course in human and molecular genetics to undergraduate biology majors for each of the last 35 years. In 2002, he was the recipient of the initial teaching award given at the College of New Jersey granted to the faculty member who most challenges students to achieve high standards. He also received the 2004 Outstanding Professor Award from the Sigma Pi International, and in the same year, he was nominated as the Educator of the Year, an award given by the Research and Development Council of New Jersey. Â Michael R. Cummings is currently Research Professor in the Department of Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences at Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois. For more than 25 years, he was a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences and in the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has also served on the faculties of Northwestern University and Florida State University. He received his B.A. from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota, and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. In addition to *Essentials of Genetics* and its companion volumes, he has also authored several texts in human genetics and general biology for non-majors. His research interests center on the molecular organization and physical mapping of the heterochromatic regions of human acrocentric chromosomes. At the undergraduate level, he teaches courses in Mendelian and molecular genetics, human genetics, and general biology, and has received numerous awards for teaching excellence given by university faculty, student organizations, and graduating seniors. Â Charlotte A. Spencer is a retired Associate Professor in the Department of Oncology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She has also served as a faculty member in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of

Alberta. She received her B.Sc. in Microbiology from the University of British Columbia and her Ph.D. in Genetics from the University of Alberta, followed by postdoctoral training at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington. Her research interests involve the regulation of RNA polymerase II transcription in cancer cells, cells infected with DNA viruses and cells transverse the mitotic phase of the cell cycle. She has taught courses in Biochemistry, Genetics, Molecular Biology and Oncology, at both undergraduate and graduate levels. She has contributed Genetics, Technology and Society essays for several editions of Concepts of Genetics as well as Essentials of Genetics. In addition, she has written booklets in the Exploring Biology series, which are aimed at the undergraduate nonmajors level. Â Michael A. Palladino is Dean of the School of Science and Associate Professor of Biology at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey. He received his B.S. degree in Biology from Trenton State College (now known as The College of New Jersey) and his Ph.D. in Anatomy and Cell Biology from the University of Virginia. He directs an active laboratory of undergraduate student researchers studying molecular mechanisms involved in innate immunity of mammalian male reproductive organs and genes involved in oxygen homeostasis and ischemic injury of the testis. He has taught a wide range of courses for both majors and nonmajors and currently teaches genetics, biotechnology, endocrinology, and laboratory in cell and molecular biology. He has received several awards for research and teaching, including the 2009 Young Investigator Award from the American Society of Andrology, the 2005 Distinguished Teacher Award from Monmouth University, and the 2005 Caring Heart Award from the New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research. In addition to Essentials of Genetics and its companion volumes, he is co-author of the undergraduate textbook Introduction to Biotechnology, Series Editor for the Benjamin Cummings Special Topics in Biology booklet series, and author of the first booklet in the series, Understanding the Human Genome Project. Â

The textbook was basically informative and useful, however, it asked questions in which the answers were not accessible so that when you were done working them you wondered how close to right you were. There was also too little information given in the text to use to answer some of the more complicated problems without researching elsewhere to figure out how to work them. In summary, it would have been better if the problems at the end of each chapter were better supported by the text itself.

It explains difficult concepts very thoroughly!

Great book, well written and easy to understand! I'm very happy with it!

The third edition is classic. I found Essentials of Genetics (3rd Edition) on my book shelf. This edition was published in 1999 on the eve of the successes of the Human Genome Project (HGP). The HGP project and Celera Corporation have significantly changed our study and understanding of genetics. I imagine the current editions of this textbook are much changed. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries the men and women (and there were many women in this field) who studied genetics were part mathematicians and part diligent investigators. Indeed, much of the opening chapters of the 3rd edition read like a math text with discussions of probability, combinatorics, logic, and problem solving. Experiments had to be cleverly designed so that the genotypes [DNA] of all gametes can be determined accurately by observing the phenotypes [observable characteristics] of the result offspring. This is necessary because the gametes and their genotypes can never be observed directly. This was the fact of life that made these heroic genetic scientists a close knit group. Every chapter references the many scientists who made slow progress observing generations of bacteria, and famous model organisms such as *C. elegans* and *D. melanogaster*, which were bred to support slow scientific before genotypes could be observed directly. While the text is packed with excellent science, one 20th century mythology is also well represented. Before the HGP, it was imagined that *Homo sapiens sapiens* (that is you and I) were somehow special and must therefore had to have many more genes than other living things. The chauvinistic consensus was in the neighborhood of 50,000 to 100,000. The HGP has settled on under 25,000, with the higher numbers belonging to plants like grapes and corn. As I read through the clever and tedious research required to take us from Mendel to HGP, I wonder where the epic novel of trial and discovery is. A 21st century Michener or Uris should tackle this project. This edition is out of print, but later editions (8th edition) are available. This book is B-23 approved!

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