

Betsey Dexter Dyer
**THE BASICS
 OF GENETICS**
 WHEATON COLLEGE

Professor Betsey Dexter Dyer examines the wide-ranging field of genetics, which is the study of the hereditary information of organisms, how it is used, and how it is transferred through generations. These fascinating lectures also address DNA sequences and how they apply to “genetic engineering,” viruses, and genetic diseases such as cancers and birth defects. In addition to examining why people look and act the way they do, the course also considers the philosophical issues associated with such controversial topics as cloning and genetic ID cards.

BETSEY DEXTER DYER is a biology professor at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, where her courses include bacteriology, genetics, parasitology, and invertebrate evolution. She earned her Ph.D. in biology at Boston University. Dyer’s research interests include DNA sequence analysis, cell evolution, symbiosis, and field microbiology. She has written three books: *Pearl for Exploring DNA* (with coauthor Mark LeBlanc), *A Field Guide to Bacteria*, and *Tracing the History of Eukaryotic Cells* (with coauthor Robert Obar).

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