**BMB/MMG/PSL 825**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Cell Structure and Function**

**Instructors**

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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>BMB</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Barbara Atshaves</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
<td>4196 BPS</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:atshaves@msu.edu">atshaves@msu.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:conrad@msu.edu">conrad@msu.edu</a></td>
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**Time:**

Lectures will be given at 1:00-2:20 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday throughout Spring Semester in Room 1420 BPS.

**Office Hours:**

Each instructor will provide office hours, either scheduled or by appointment as needed. Short questions can be answered by e-mail.

**Readings:**

Readings from the current literature will be assigned by individual instructors. Some reading assignments will include material from the text "Molecular Biology of the Cell", by Alberts et al., 6th Edition. You may want to purchase this book but it is not required.

**Class participation:**

It is expected that students will participate in class discussions and present an individual analysis on assigned readings.

**Evaluation:**

The final grade will be apportioned as follows:

- 3 Exams (75%) 150 points total
- Term paper (25%) 40 points
- Participation (5%) 10 points

**Examination Times:**

The examinations will be held at the following times.

- **Exam 1** Thursday, February 9th from 12:45 until 2:45 in Room 1420 BPS Bldg.
  This exam will cover lectures from January 9 – February 7th. Note that we have scheduled extra time on this day to allow students to have up to 2 hours.

- **Exam 2** Thursday, March 23rd from 12:45 until 2:45 in Room 1420 BPS Bldg. This exam will cover lectures from February 14th– March 21st.

- **Exam 3** Monday May 1st from 12:45 until 2:45 in Room 1420 BPS Bldg. This exam will cover lectures from March 28th– April 27th.

**Term Paper:**

Topics for a potential term paper will be provided by each professor. **The paper must be delivered to the office of the appropriate professor by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 20th** and must closely follow the guidelines provided in the syllabus. Points will be deducted if the paper is late. Certainly papers can be submitted prior to April 20th. Instructions are attached.
**Term papers are due by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 20th in the office of the appropriate professor.**
Instructions for the Preparation of a Term Paper

1. **Topic Selection:** Topics for the term papers will be provided by each instructor and you will be given a chance to select a topic of interest. Discuss your area of focus with the assigned instructor BEFORE beginning work. Provide the papers you have selected and an outline of your paper before beginning the writing process. You should contact the instructor **a month in advance** of the due date.

2. **Format:** The paper should be 7-10 typewritten, double-spaced pages (excluding the references). The first page or two should be an introduction to the topic that assumes the reader has some knowledge of the material presented in class but not beyond. The middle 4-6 pages should focus on 3-4 experimental reports bearing directly on your specific topic. Figures can be a welcome addition to guide the reader. Unless there is an important exception, the papers cited should be from reputable journals from the 2006-2017 literature. For the most part, they should be original articles supported as needed by review articles. One aspect of this assignment may be to narrow the topic from that provided to focus on a specific subtopic. **The last page or so of the paper is VERY important.** It should be a summary or synthesis that reflects your assessment of the area presented in a mature, thoughtful manner. Discuss any controversies and be sure to provide your own ideas for future directions and experiments. **The summary MUST reflect the maturity of your thinking on this topic and will play a key role in the grade.**

3. Your reference list at the very end of the paper should include all the authors for each article, the title of the article, the volume and date of journal and all page numbers.

4. Plagiarism: Copying paragraphs or sentences from your cited or non-cited references constitutes plagiarism! Rephrasing sentences and paragraphs does not represent a scholarly effort. All writing must be your synthesis of the material presented in your own words. **Any significant form of plagiarism will result in an automatic failing grade since it constitutes scientific misconduct.**

5. **The term paper is due in the appropriate professor's office by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 20th.** Points will be deducted for papers turned in late. Papers can be turned in prior to this date.