­Course Information-BMB 401

Spring Semester 2020

**Required Text and Lecture Notes:**

*Biochemistry,* R.H. Garrett and C.M. Grisham, 5th ed., Brooks/Cole, 2012. An acceptable alternative is the 4th edition.

**Note:** Rental versions of the e-textbook are available directly from the publisher at substantially reduced cost ([www.cengage.com](http://www.cengage.com/)).

PowerPoint and/or Acrobat (.pdf) versions of the slides used in lecture will be posted in advance at the course website on D2L. Students may choose to print these files for use as a course pack. These files in general do *not* contain all of the required information presented in lecture, but are instead intended as an aid to note taking. Additional note taking should be expected. Free “Reader” software for both PowerPoint and Acrobat files are available at the Microsoft and Adobe websites, respectively.

Practice problems are at the end of each chapter in the text. Those will be useful exercises to test your understanding of the material. Answers are available in the back of the text. Specific problems of particular applicability may be announced in lecture.

**LECTURES**

Attending lectures is the best way to assure that you do well in this course. Lectures will generally follow the outline of the text, with some rearrangement of the order of the topics. It is our intention to explicitly cover the concepts you will be responsible for in the exams. This may include presentation of material in somewhat different terms than used in the text, and occasionally additional material that is not included in the text. Occasionally during lectures, the instructors may announce material from the text that is not covered in class but on which you may be tested nevertheless. Examinations will be based on material covered in the lectures and on this supplemental material. Reading relevant sections of the text (indicated below), and reviewing the recorded lectures will assist you in providing additional background and perspective on the material. If you have a question during lecture, raise your hand to be recognized or see the instructor after class. If you feel the instructor has misspoken or made an error in presenting material, please bring it to the instructor’s attention so that the issue can be clarified or corrected in class or on the class website.

Recordings of the projected and audio portions of the lectures will be made available via the Camtasia system at the course D2L site. These recordings are useful for reviewing material that was unclear to you during the lecture. These recordings, however, are *not* a substitute for consistent attendance at lectures. True online courses rely on many additional resources and mechanisms to assist student learning. All experience indicates that using Camtasia recordings as a replacement for, rather than a supplement to, regular class attendance in this lecture-based course will result in poorer learning outcomes and decreased grades. *We cannot emphasize this point enough: watching the Camtasia recordings is not an adequate substitute for regular class attendance.* Further, the Camtasia recordings are provided as a convenience, not as an inherent part of the course. In other words, if a lecture recording fails due to technical or other issues, a replacement will not be produced and a recording will simply not be available for that lecture.

**OPTIONAL REVIEW SESSIONS**

Lectures will be presented at the scheduled times: MTTF, 9:10-10 am. Optional review sessions are scheduled on Wednesdays, 9:10-10 during most weeks as announced where the instructor and/or the teaching assistant will review material and address questions. Additional review sessions may be scheduled before the exams.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

If you would like to meet directly with the instructor to deal with any aspect of the course, please e-mail or call for an appointment. An instructor may also offer scheduled office hours (see Course Schedule below).

**EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING**

The average grade is ~2.5/4.0, but this varies a little each year. Grades will be based on performance on three one-hour exams and a final exam. Each one-hour exam will be worth 100 pts. The final exam is not comprehensive and will be worth 100 pts for a maximum of 400 pts in the course. The mean and median for each exam will be announced, but letter grades are not assigned to individual exams. The grading scale will be set after the completion of the semester based on the final distribution of scores on all four exams. The three one-hour exams will be given during the regularly scheduled class times as indicated on the syllabus. The final exam will be given at the time determined by the University schedule.

**MAKEUP EXAMS**

We are sure you can appreciate the difficulties of administering examinations in a large class such as this. Therefore, we will adhere strictly to the exam schedule given above. If you miss an exam due to illness or accident, notify the instructor as soon as possible and consult with the instructor to determine an acceptable alternative. Makeup exams will cover the same material as the regular exam but may involve different questions and may be different in style (e.g. essay style). Documentation for why participation in the regular exam was not possible (e.g., physician’s certification) is required in order to be allowed to take a makeup exam and makeup exams are scheduled as soon as possible after the regular exam.

**ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN BMB 401**

As a one-semester, four-credit Biochemistry course covering a wide variety of material, BMB 401 is fast-moving and information-rich. The key to obtaining one's desired grade is to work steadily throughout the semester and keep up with the material as it is presented; attempting to learn the material in the run-up to each exam is unlikely to succeed. The lectures and the textbook will cover the material from different perspectives in different ways, and optimal learning will usually involve taking advantage of both resources, moving back and forth during studying to make sure one understands the material fully. One strategy described by successful students is to read the textbook pages corresponding to each lecture through once before that lecture, noting but not focusing on areas that you do not fully understand, and then to reread the section carefully following lecture, paying renewed attention to those areas that were not clear upon first reading. Lectures will build on each other, so it is critical to understand the material as it goes by in order to avoid simply falling further and further behind. A variety of options for getting help is available, including instructor and TA office hours and scheduled review sessions on Wednesdays (see above). We also encourage students to contact the instructor or TA with any questions about the material via e-mail.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

General University policy on integrity in scholarship and grades is described in relevant publications and on the MSU website. This policy requires instructors to take appropriate action in response to any instance of academic dishonesty. This action may include giving a failing grade in the course in which the incident occurred. It is the policy in BMB 401 that a failing grade in the course will be given to any student found to have committed academic dishonesty, which would include either copying answers from other students during the exam or providing answers to another student taking the exam. All instances of academic dishonesty will also be reported to the Dean of the college in which the student is enrolled.

**Important Information Regarding BMB401 Exams**

1. Bring your MSU student ID.

2. The class room will be near its full capacity. You are advised to leave bulky personal items in the back of or outside the classroom.

3. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions. Remember to bring your own pencil and eraser. Having a spare pencil is highly recommended.

4. Other than your pencil and the exam material no other item can be used during the exam. This includes calculators, cell phones, any other electronic items, notes in any form, or books. **Any attempt to use such aids during an exam results at the minimum in a 0 for that exam**.

Academic dishonesty will result in appropriate actions from the instructor, including a failing grade and the filing of an Academic Dishonesty Report that will remain in the student's electronic folder.