

Fall Semester, 2018 - Syllabus for BMB 472:

Experiments in Molecular Biology: Biochemical Applications

Course Objective: To prepare students for future careers in modern biological research.

Instructors:

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Teaching Assistants:

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Text: Experiments in Molecular Biology: Biochemical Applications

Authors: Dr. Zachary Burton and Dr. Jon Kaguni

The textbook and lab manual (coursepack) can be purchased from the bookstore

Lectures: Monday, 12:40 to 1:30 p.m., 101 Biochemistry

Laboratory Periods: Tuesday - Thursday (Sections 001-003): 12:40 to 5:30 p.m.
Sections 001 and 003 meet in 111 Biochemistry (101 Biochemistry for Section 002) at 12:40 p.m. each lab day for pre-lab. Laboratory is in 113/117 BCH

Grade in BMB 472

Exams	2 x 100 points	200 points
Lab Notebooks	26 x 10-20 points	~500 points
Quizzes (LON-CAPA)	~13 x 8 points	~100 points
Success of Experiments	~25 x 5-10 points	~160 points
Laboratory Report	1 x 200 points	200 points
Computer Modules (LON-CAPA)	~13 x 3 points	~40 points
Total		many points

Students earning 90% or more of the total points will receive a grade of 4.0. The dividing line between 2.5 and 2.0 grades will be approximately 70% of the total points. The range between 70% and 90% will be divided into approximately equal parts for assigning grades of 2.5, 3.0, and 3.5. The dividing line between 1.0 and 0.0 grades will be about 50%.

Late Penalties and Student Responsibilities

1. The late penalty for notebooks is 15 points per day (including weekends). The late penalty for laboratory reports is 50 points per day (including weekends). Final notebook assignment is due at the beginning of the Final Exam; if not submitted at that time it must be handed in before the end of finals week to be evaluated.
2. Pre-lab Quizzes and Learning Modules are accessed through LON-CAPA. Quizzes are due by 12:40 p.m. of your lab day (Tue - Thur). Learning Module answers are due by 12:40 p.m. on the Monday indicated on the schedule. No late Quizzes or Learning Modules will be accepted.
3. Absence from a laboratory session must be documented in writing and, if possible, in advance. Medical excuses will be accepted up to 3 days after the missed class period. Other excuses must be authorized in advance by the instructor.
4. Unexcused absences will result in a penalty of 10 points with additional points lost for missing the TA initials for the pre-laboratory notebook write-up. No success of experiment points will be awarded for **any** missed lab period.
5. Students with 3 or more unexcused absences from laboratory periods will be assigned a failing grade (0.0) in the course.
6. Failure to turn an acceptable laboratory report will result in a failing grade in the course (0.0). To receive a grade in the course (above 0.0), laboratory reports must be handed in, even if the report is so late it does not receive a score.
7. Do your own work. Graphs, figures, or text that are equivalent between laboratory partners or others in the class will not be evaluated for either individual (grade of 0.0). No points will be given for such submissions in laboratory notebooks or laboratory reports. Feel free to work together and collaborate with fellow students, but do not plagiarize or allow your work to be plagiarized. Do not submit the work of others as your own or allow others to directly reproduce your work.

Assignments:

1. **Laboratory Notebooks**. Instructions for maintaining laboratory notebooks are in your textbook/coursepack (pp. 8-9). Read the protocol for each experiment and prepare a detailed pre-lab write up in your notebook before coming to each lab. As soon as your experimental data are available, complete your laboratory write up so that you can ask questions about aspects of the experiment that you do not fully understand. The laboratory notebooks are collected frequently during the term to encourage best laboratory record keeping. Proper maintenance of a laboratory notebook is a primary key to a professional career in science. Notebooks may be purchased at the University Stores Counter on Service Road. The catalog number is: 14042680 and the price is ~ \$13.00 plus tax.
2. **Laboratory Report**. Instructions for preparation of the laboratory report are in your textbook/coursepack (pgs. 10-11). Additional information will be provided as the due date approaches.
3. **Quizzes and Computer Learning Modules**. A set of pre-lab Quizzes and directed computer learning modules are available to test your level of preparation for the lab period and to supplement reading, lectures and class notes. These modules may be accessed through LON-CAPA.
4. **Class Data**. Class data, when needed, will be available on Desire2Learn (D2L). If your research team fails to produce interpretable data for an experiment, use the data from another team to complete your laboratory write up. Give appropriate attribution to your colleagues who prepared the data. Always analyze your own data and if they are not useful, explain why they are unsuitable.
5. **Success of Experiments**. Each experiment resulting in data that can reasonably be evaluated (assays, plates, gels, etc.) will be graded for the level of "success". The instructors will use their discretion in selecting which experiments will be subject to this evaluation. Points will not be awarded to students who are absent from class for **any** reason.

Date	Day	Lecture or Lab - Lecturer	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
Aug. 29	Wednesday	Lecture 1 - EMH	Course Introduction, objectives, expectations. Sterile technique, growing bacteria	Preface, Ch. 1-3	
Aug. 30	Thursday	No Class	No Class		
Sept. 3	Monday	Labor Day Holiday	No Class		
Sept. 4-6	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 1 - EMH	Expts. 1A, 1B		
Sept. 10	Monday	Lecture 2 - EG	Central dogma, cloning vectors and lambda phage introduction	Chapter 4	Module: Expt. 2A, 2B
Sept. 11-13	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 2 - EG	Expts. 2A, 2B		
Sept. 17	Monday	Lecture 3 - EG	Plasmids & lambda phage life-cycle	Chapter 5	Module: Expt. 3A/B, 3C
Sept. 18-20	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 3 - EG	Expts. 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D		
Sept. 24	Monday	Lecture 4 - EG	Recombinant DNA methods: restriction, ligation, transformation & selection	Chapter 9	Module: Expt. 4B
Sept. 25-27	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 4 - EG	Expts. 4A, 4B		Notebooks: Labs 1 - 3C
Oct. 1	Monday	Lecture 5 - EMH	Gene-to-protein: transcription, translation	Chapter 7	Module: Expt. 5A, 5B
Oct. 2-4	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 5 - EMH	Expts. 5A, 5B		
Oct. 8	Monday	Lecture 6 - EMH	Regulating gene expression – transcription factors, lac repressor, T7 promoter	Chapter 5	
Oct. 9-11	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 6 - EMH	Expts. 6A, 6B		
Oct. 15	Monday	1st EXAM	Lectures 1-6, Labs 1-6		
Oct. 16-18	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 7 - EMH	Expts. 7A, 7B		Notebooks: Labs 3D - 6A
Oct. 22	Monday	Lecture 7 - EMH	Protein expression & purification	Chapter 6	
Oct. 23-25	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 8 - NRB	Expts. 8A, 8B		
Oct. 29	Monday	Lecture 8 - NRB	How to write the lab report		
Oct. 30-Nov. 1	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 9 - EMH	Expts. 9A, 9B		Notebooks: Labs 6B - 8B;
Nov. 5	Monday	Lecture 9 - EMH	Topoisomerases. Mechanism and function	Chapter 6	Module: Expt. 10B
Nov. 6-8	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 10 - EMH	Expts. 10A, 10B	Chapter 10	
Nov. 12	Monday	Lecture 10 - EMH	Gel electrophoresis		Module: Expt. 11B, 11C
Nov. 13-15	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 11 - EMH	Expt. 11A, 11B, 11C (11B outside of lab)		Notebooks: Labs 9A – 10B
Nov. 19	Monday	Lecture 11 - EMH	Antibodies and immunochemical analysis		
Nov. 21	Wednesday		Lab Report Due by 12:00 noon (P2A-8B)		Place in wooden box – Room 113
Nov. 20-22	Tue-Thur	Thanksgiving Day Holiday	No Class		
Nov. 26	Monday	Lecture 12 - EMH	Bacteriophage M13 uses in molecular biology	Chapter 10	
Nov. 27-29	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 12 - EMH	Expt. 12		
Dec. 3	Monday	Lecture 13 - EMH	Complementarity test / Review session		Module: Expt. 13
Dec. 4-6	Tue-Thur	Lab Period 13 - EMH	Expt. 13 - Lab Check-out		
Dec. 11	Tuesday	2nd EXAM (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.) Location to be announced	Notebooks due by 3:00 p.m.		Notebooks: Labs 11 -13