MOLECULAR BIOLOGY - BIMM100
FALL 2004, 4 UNITS

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OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS 6:00-7:00PM, BONNER 4146
AFTER LECTURES TUES, THURS UNTIL 8:30PM

TEXTBOOK: "Molecular Cell Biology, 5th Edition," Lodish et al., 2004, which will be referred to as MCB. The text website is http://bcs.whfreeman.com/lodish5e/

LECTURES: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:50PM
Center 119 lecture hall

MIDTERM: October 26, Tues. in class 6:30-7:50
FINAL: December 9, Thurs. 7-10PM

WEBSITE: http://www.biology.ucsd.edu/classes/bimm100.FA04

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COURSE GOALS: Molecular biology is the study of gene structure and function at the molecular level. It fuses knowledge and discoveries from various disciplines, including Genetics, Biochemistry, Basic Biology and Organic Chemistry (hence all the prerequisites!). You should enter this class
with a solid understanding of general biology and chemistry and finish this course with a sophisticated understanding of genes and the molecules that regulate their expression and function. You will be introduced to the scientists and their amazing experimental deductions that shaped molecular biology and appreciate that this is an evolving field with frequent novel discoveries and even upheavals in dogma. If you are curious to understand how life functions at the molecular level and how scientists tackle this daunting problem, then welcome to the class and I expect you will do well in this challenging course!

PREREQUISITES: You should have successfully completed the prerequisites to register for this course: BICD100; BIBC100[02] or BIOL100[01] and their prereq's: BILD1 and organic chemistry. If a prereq has been waived, it is your personal responsibility to make up for deficiencies in background information.

TA DISCUSSION SECTIONS: Sections are a valuable part of this course and, although it is not mandatory, I very, very highly recommend you take part in them. A team of dedicated students who have recently aced this course will lead 1 hour sections/week. The discussions will be based on homework assignments, which will be posted on the website Thurs. after class on the indicated dates on the schedule. You should attempt the problem sets yourselves, or with friends in the class, and be prepared to go over your answers in the discussion sections. Undoubtedly, you will get the most out of the discussions if you participate in them instead of just attending to hear the answers to the problems (see tips below).

There will be no sections the first week of class (Sept 20-24), but you will need to sign up for a section on the sheets posted in the lobby of Pacific Hall. Sections will begin the second week of class at the time and locations indicated on the sign-up sheets. Although you will not have received the first homework assignment yet, I recommend you attend the first section meetings to get acquainted with your TA and discuss the lecture material presented thus far. TA's will announce their personal office hours at the first meeting of the sections.
CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Please refrain from talking, eating, or anything that might distract others from paying attention to the lecture. Your cell phones should be shut off and text messaging is not allowed. If you must use your phone or leave class early, please sit in the back in an aisle seat so you can leave with the least amount of disruption.

EXAMS AND GRADING: Your performance in the class will be determined by your scores on the midterm and final exams. The midterm will be in class on Tues. Oct 26, 6:30-7:50PM and it counts for 40% of your final grade. The final is at the scheduled place and time and will make up the other 60% of your grade. Additionally, an extra credit assignment will provide an opportunity for you to potentially improve your final grade. Exam and grading policies are as follows:
- questions, which will include short answers and multiple choice, must be answered in ink
- pens and an ID card (student or driver’s license) are the only personal items you may have with you during the exam (backpacks, cell phones turned OFF, etc., can be stored in the front of the class)
- failure to take the exam at the assigned time and place will result in a grade of zero. Extraordinary circumstances preventing you from taking an exam at the scheduled time must be submitted in writing and include official documentation of the excuse as far in advance as possible to the instructor (Dr. Amy Pasquinelli) or to Student Affairs Office Room 1128 Pacific Hall. Make-up for the midterm will be an ORAL exam with Dr. Pasquinelli.
- requests to reconsider any grading or re-grading must be submitted in writing along with your original exam. You can personally deliver these documents to me (Pasquinelli) at the lectures or during my office hours. I must receive your full request within a week of the exam return date. Please be advised that a random sampling of exams will be photocopied. Thus, do not alter ANYTHING on an exam that you are submitting for re-grading. Any inconsistencies will be considered a breach in academic honesty and will be grounds for failure of the course. The entire exam will be re-graded by me.
- I encourage you to review UCSD’s policy on Academic integrity: http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/app2.htm Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in failure of this course, as well as any additional disciplinary actions as indicated by the policy to maintain academic honesty. Actions may be taken for looking at your neighbors’ answers or talking during the exam, using your cell phone in any way during
the exam, failure to establish your ID when turning in your exam, or altering your exam prior to submission for re-grading.

- Final grades will be determined at the end of the course, based on exam scores. Grades will be calculated based on $T=0.4[\text{midterm}]+0.6[\text{final}]$. Points scored on the optional extra credit assignment will be added to the score of your final. Natural breakpoints in the score distribution of the class will be used to assign letter and plus/minus grades. Additionally, input from TA section leaders may be used to determine exact breaks in the grading.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:
- read the assigned pages in MCB before class to prepare you for the subject material to be covered. Pay particular attention to the "Key Concepts" at the end of each section.
- attend the lectures. Lecture notes will be posted on the website ~24 hrs. before each class. These are a guide, but not a substitute, for class. Everything presented in class is subject for examination. This will include topics and details not necessarily covered in your text or on the posted lecture notes.
- participate in class. I prefer interactive lectures and will often throw out questions. If you offer answers, not only will your attention be engaged, but the question and correct answer will also more likely become embedded in your mind. This is true even if you get the answer wrong - just the act of participating improves your memory much better than a night of cramming.
- do the assignments. The exam questions will directly reflect the homework problems. I encourage you to work with friends and discuss the problems.
- attend discussion sections. If you attempt the problem sets before your discussion section meets, you will have a good idea of topics that need further explanation and you can take advantage of a small class setting with an expert to help you fill in the gaps.
- embrace the opportunity to understand the basics of molecular biology and, perhaps, one day to contribute to this relatively new and exciting field.

GOOD LUCK!