BSC 303 – Cell Biology (CRN: 80384)
Fall 2012

Instructor
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eCompanion Site: eCollege @ MyLeo
Mon, Wed, Fri, 9.00 AM – 9.50 AM

Lectures
@BA257
Tue & Fri, 12.00 PM – 2.00 PM and Thu, 1 PM – 2 PM
Or by appointment, include BSC 303 in subject line of E-mails.

Office Hours
Mondays, one 3 hr lab, 1 PM or 4 PM
@STC – 324

Lab

Course overview
This course will provide a rigorous foundation in current cell biology so that advanced level cellular and molecular biology courses will be more meaningful. Without the recommended prerequisites and a good grasp of basic fundamentals of chemistry, this course will likely prove very difficult.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)
At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify the structure and functions, of animal cells, organelles and their differences from prokaryotic cells.
2. Understand the chemical architecture of living cells and the functions of the major groups of biological molecules and how the information is passed from DNA to proteins.
3. Perform various cell staining techniques to observe cellular organelles under microscope.
4. Quantitate proteins and separate them on SDS-Gel.

Textbooks:


We will cover most of the subject matter presented in this book, but not necessarily in order. Chapter assignments are listed on the Course Schedule. For some topics, this book presents more detail than we need; however, it omits some topics that will be discussed in the course.

Attendance:

Attendance is expected in all classes and labs. You need to sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of class. **Because we will not strictly follow the text, it is important to come to class, if for no other reason than to determine what material and at what level we expect you to know it. Additionally, if you make more than 5 (Five) unexcused absences you won’t be able to drop**
your lowest test grade (for detail see exams and grades). You are responsible for all material and assignments covered in class whether you are present or not.

**Lecture Materials:**
Power Point slides that I use for delivering lectures will be available at eCompanion site for this course at eCollege. Power Point slides are meant for me to deliver the lectures. You may use it as a guide to read the book but not as a study material.

**Exams and Grades:**
The lecture part of the course will weigh 75% and lab part will weigh 25% of the total. For the lecture part there will be four exams including the final (200 points each). Final exam is cumulative and mandatory. Your lowest exam score excluding the final exam grade will be dropped. However, if you make more than 5 (Five) unexcused absences; you won’t be able to drop your lowest test grade, in that case all four test scores will be included for calculating the grade.

The exam will consist of three parts, multiple choice (50% of total score), short answer, correcting the statements or true or false etc. (50% of total score) and bonus questions (for 10% of total score). Multiple choice questions will test critical thinking, analytical ability, and the understanding of subject matter. Bonus questions will be chose from weekly problem sets.

**Grading Policy:**
3 exams including the final
(= 600 points (60%))
(after dropping your lowest score. If you have more than 5 unexcused absences, your score will be an average of 4 exams.)

**Assignments**
Weekly Quizzes
= 75 points (7.5%)
Weekly Problem Solving
= 75 points (7.5%)
Lab
= 250 points (25%)
TOTAL
=1000 points (100%)

**Grading Scale:**

A = 880 to 1000 points (>88%)
B = 780 to 879 points (>78%)
C = 680 to 779 points (>68%)
D = 580 to 679 points (>58%)
F = 579 or fewer (<58%)

**Overview of Assignments:**

**Weekly Problem Solving Assignments (75 points of total):**

At the beginning of each week’s class (Mondays), a set problem solving questions will be assigned, which are due in a week (next Monday), which will be worth of 5 points. Based on the
above questions and lectures there will be weekly quizzes (multiple choice) for 5 points. Therefore, it works for your advantage to answer solve these problems by yourself as you go along the week, which will increase your success in weekly quizzes. 10% bonus questions will be chose from weekly problem sets with some modification. Also, some of these questions may serve as the basis for multiple choices and for short answer questions of exams.

For completing the assigned problems in time you will earn 60% (3 points) of the problem solving assignment grade and 40% (2 points) of the grade will be awarded for correct answers with detailed steps.

To calculate where you stand:
You can find out up-to-date information from the gradebook available at the eCompanion site in eCollege. To manually calculate, find the average of your exam score (after dropping your lowest exam). To this add your final score of lab and assignment plus any extra credit points that you have, which will be your total score in 1000. Calculate the percentage. This will be your grade.

Course Calendar/Exam Schedule

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Academic Integrity:
A Texas A&M Commerce student does not lie, cheat, steal, and does not tolerate those who do. A violation of the Texas A&M honor code and academic integrity involves any of the following offenses: cheating, fabrication, falsification, multiple submissions, plagiarism, and complicity in any of these offenses. The first instance of cheating will result in "ZERO" on the exam and/or on the assignment. The second instance of cheating will result in "ZERO" on the course. Cheating
involves copying information from another student, non-allowable materials or source and plagiarism. Once again, violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. This class will be conducted in strict observance of the Honor Code. Refer to your Student Handbook for details.

**Conduct Policy:**
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

**Cell Phones/Pagers/Laptop/Tablets:**
Please turn your cell phone and/or pager (and other electronic devices) off during class. If you are on-call for your work, please place the cell phone or page on silent mode.

If you utilize a laptop to take class notes, please be aware of potentially distracting others around you and seat yourself accordingly. Additionally, you may be asked to leave the class if it is determined you are utilizing a computer to do outside work, surf the web inappropriately or communicate personal conversations.

Texting is prohibited and devices will be collected and kept until the end of class.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Students’ Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures).

**Tapes and Notes:**
While recordings of this class may be made for personal use recordings may not be sold or distributed to others. While you may make copies of these notes for your personal use, no copy of these notes may be distributed to anyone other than persons who are currently enrolled in the class; nor may any copies be sold.

**Lab behavior:**
If handled improperly, some chemicals used in the lab become dangerous. Drinking and eating are **PROHIBITED** in the lab! Disruptive behavior in lab that could be considered a hazard to another student will result in immediate removal from the lab. Intentionally damaging lab equipment may result in a **ZERO** for the class and possibly severe financial penalties as many pieces of equipment we will be using are expensive. **SEEK HELP** If you do not know how to use some instruments (see laboratory syllabus for details)

**Students with Disabilities/Reasonable Accommodation:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
**Behavior:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles can result in a score of zero for your assignment and may result in further disciplinary action. If you are copying material and citing references, you are expected to paraphrase and rewrite the sentences in your own words.

**Early Intervention for First Year Students:** Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University’s interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.