

General Biochemistry BB 450/550

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Ahern (I prefer to be called Kevin)

Office – ALS 2145

Office Hours – Feel free to call me anytime.

Contact: ahernk@onid.orst.edu or phone 541-737-2305

Examinations (must be taken in appropriate time windows announced on Schedule page)

(I) Exam #1 – announced on Schedule page through Blackboard

(II) Exam #2- announced on Schedule page through Blackboard

(III) Final Exam - announced on Schedule page through Blackboard

All campus exams are administered by a proctor approved by campus. See http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/services/proctoring/finding_proctor.htm

COURSE PREREQUISITES

CH 331 and CH 332 or CH 334, CH 335, and CH 336. Non-OSU organic chemistry credit is perfectly fine, though you may need the instructor's permission to register.

LEARNING RESOURCES

1. Textbook: Biochemistry, 7th Edition by: Berg, Tymoczko, and Stryer
2. Instructor notes, practice exams, and audio/video of lectures (when technical problems do not exist) will be available through the class web site below (on the Schedule page)
3. Emailed questions to the instructor are welcomed.

WEB MATERIALS

The tentative lecture and assignment schedule is on the Web. This syllabus can also be downloaded from the Schedule Page and is required reading for students in the course.

Topics Covered	Stryer (7th edition) pages
Introduction/Acids&Bases	1-24
Protein Structure	25-64
Protein Characterization	65-108
Hemoglobin	195-218
Enzymes	219-252
Catalytic Strategies	253-288
Regulation	289-317
Carbohydrates	319-344
Cellular Signaling	401-426
Metabolic Strategies	427-451
Glycolysis & Gluconeogenesis	453-496
Glycogen Metabolism	615-638

GRADING

Course Points Distribution - Exam 1 (25%), Exam 2 (25%), Final Exam (45%), Turning in assigned problems on time (5%). There is no extra credit possible beyond the occasional questions asked on exams and therefore I do not (and in fact cannot) take improvement during the term into consideration in assigning grades. No fixed grading scale will be used to assign letter grades and no fixed numbers of letter grades are set. Since there is no fixed grading scale (90/80/70/60, for example) grades are therefore "curved," since this is the definition of what "curved" means. If you ask if grades in the course are curved, you will lose points. If you ask for how to earn extra credit, you will lose points. Grades will be assigned on groupings as determined by the instructor at the conclusion of the course. In courses graded on a 90-80-70-60 basis, it is possible to calculate how many points you need to make on the final to make a desired grade. It is not possible to do this for courses like this one where grades fluctuate at the average on the exam fluctuates. You are in MUCH better shape being graded the way I grade than you are in a 90-80-70-60 system. It is your responsibility to check the online grade distribution prior to asking any question about grades. Failure to do so will result in a loss of points. Undergraduates will be evaluated and graded separately from graduate students.

COURSE POLICIES

I love teaching this course and enjoy discussion and meetings with you. I know that the subject of biochemistry strikes terror in the hearts of many, so I see my role partly as helping you to overcome that fear in order to do well. I will do everything I can to help you learn more of this exciting subject and help you overcome your fears of it. Some of the most rewarding experiences I have had in teaching this class are helping students in this very way.

I expect you to be involved and responsible for your own education, as much as possible. Students who ask questions that are answered in the syllabus are not being responsible. The aim of this statement is not to discourage students from discussing their standing in the class, but rather to have students participate more fully in their own education. I will gladly discuss any student's grade as it stands at any time in the course, but students need to use resources available to them to their fullest. Similarly, students need to consult exam keys and relevant videos and transparencies before asking questions or requesting regrades.

Students taking examinations are not allowed to use a calculator, books, or notes of any kind. Other than a pencil/pen, no other materials are allowed for student use on exams. The sole exception to this is that on the final exam ONLY, students are allowed to bring with them and use one note card with information on it handwritten by the student. The notecard must be no larger than 5x8 inches and printers may not be used to make it. All items on the card MUST be handwritten or hand-drawn.

One of the most common problems students have is waiting to the last possible hour to take the exam within the exam window and then having a problem, such as a flat tire,

catching a cold, or having a technical problem that is under your control. I am generally not sympathetic to these situations. The best way for you to avoid such problems is to schedule your exams earlier in the time window so that if something unexpected happens, you have additional time to fix it.

EXAM POLICIES

Preparing makeup exams requires a significant effort. There will be three exams given in this course (including the final). The final will be comprehensive. Exams will take place in the regular classroom. Reading and studying the assigned material before the lecture date is essential for success.

Excused absences will not be given for missing exams due to airline reservations, routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches), or other common ailments. Excused absences will almost never be given after the absence has occurred. Students therefore must notify the instructor if they encounter difficulties BEFORE the exam occurs. If I decide your reason for missing an exam is valid, I might allow you to take a makeup exam. Makeup exams 1) are of a different format from the classroom exam and 2) are designed NEVER to be easier than the classroom exam. The following situations are NOT grounds for missing an exam:

1. You misread the date of the exam on the syllabus.
2. You went to the wrong room.

It is the responsibility of each student to check that their exam has been properly graded. If errors are made, or if the student feels that more points should have been awarded for a particular question, students must write a CLEAR explanation stating their case. Requests for regrading must be made in writing within 3 school days after the examination is made available to the class. Failure to follow these instructions will result in automatic denial of the request. Frivolous requests involving “fishing for points” (for example – asking me to regrade simply to award you more points without a valid reason) will result in loss of points.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

I am frequently asked to write letters of reference for students from the class. Since I must know a student personally to write a letter of reference, it is almost never possible for me to do this in the e-campus, unless I know you through some other means. If you are curious, I do have a written policy for letters of reference – www.oregonstate.edu/dept/biochem/ahernletters.html

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

I expect students will meet all deadlines as appropriate for withdrawing from the class, should that be necessary. I do not routinely approve petitions to make changes after deadlines have passed, except in extraordinary circumstances. The deadline for dropping classes (no grade) during the academic year (fall, winter, spring terms) is the second week of class. The deadline for withdrawing from a class (grade of W) is the seventh week during the academic year. If you do not withdraw by Friday of the seventh week of

the term, you will receive a grade in the course. Summer deadlines are different and students are responsible for confirming such deadlines with the OSU Registrar.

POLICY ON INCOMPLETES

A grade of I is appropriate when 1) a course requirement has not been completed due to circumstances beyond the control of the student and 2) at least half of the work for the course has been completed at a level of C- or better. For medical problems that prohibited the student from fulfilling a requirement of the course, a note from a doctor is required. The request may be supplied without the note, and the request (if acceptable) will typically be granted, conditional on the note being provided later. For other circumstances, supporting evidence, such as a note from an advisor, will be helpful to the petitioner's case.

The following is a list of reasons that are **not** acceptable:

- The course proved to be more time-consuming or difficult than expected.
- Work in other courses ended up taking too much time.
- Work or travel associated with a job ended up interfering with course work.
- Time conflicts prohibited contact with the instructor or TAs during office hours.
- The student misunderstood the requirements or grading schemes of the course.
- The student wishes to avoid a low grade.
- The student wishes to retake the course at a later date

LEARNER OUTCOMES

The intention of the course is for students to:

1. Acquire the technical language used to communicate biochemistry information and use that language to describe proteins, molecules, signaling pathways, catalysis, and metabolism accurately
2. Recall key elements of basic biochemistry principles, including metabolic pathways, molecule names, molecular structures (as noted), enzyme/cellular control mechanisms, catalysis, and signaling pathways
3. Perform analyses relevant to the material presented
4. Communicate (through writing and speaking) key concepts relevant to biochemistry
5. Understand and apply general concepts of biochemistry to relevant, specific problems.
6. Predict the directions of metabolic pathways from an understanding of the control mechanisms and energy considerations of biochemical reactions.

LEARNER EXPECTATIONS

1. Advance preparation
2. No last minute studying
3. Questions to answer concepts/processes that the student does not understand BEFORE it is too late.
4. Recognition that an understanding of a complex topic like biochemistry requires considerable background prior to the class, a considerable amount of information to be acquired in the class, and sufficient time and effort to put these together to master the

material.

GENERAL OSU AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Please note: "Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term. In order to arrange alternative testing, the student should make the request at least one week in advance of the test. Students seeking accommodations must be registered with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities."

The Department of Biochemistry/Biophysics follows the university policies on student conduct. These can be found at <http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/regs.htm>.

Cheating or plagiarism by students is subject to the disciplinary process outlined in the Student Conduct Regulations. Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:

- * cheating- use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
- * fabrication- falsification or invention of any information
- * assisting- helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
- * tampering- altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents
- * plagiarism- representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own

Behaviors disruptive to the learning environment will not be tolerated and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

The goal of Oregon State University is to provide students with the knowledge, skill and wisdom they need to contribute to society. Our rules are formulated to guarantee each student's freedom to learn and to protect the fundamental rights of others. People must treat each other with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive. Behaviors that are disruptive to teaching and learning will not be tolerated, and will be referred to the Student Conduct Program for disciplinary action. Behaviors that create a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment based on gender, race, ethnicity, color, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation will be referred to the Affirmative Action Office.