BB 350: General Biochemistry Ecampus Syllabus

It will pay you to read this document. One question on the first exam may come straight from the syllabus.

INSTRUCTOR INFO - Dr. Kevin Ahern

Contact: ahernk@onid.orst.edu - Email is the best way to reach me.

Meeting Times

Academic year – all four terms 2020-21

COURSE PREREQUISITE - Organic chemistry

LEARNING RESOURCES

2. Most of the materials for the course are found in an external Web site. This includes video lectures, a schedule, and exam info. These are all available through the Course Materials link in the Announcements section of Canvas.
3. PowerPoint images are available in the Files section of Canvas.
4. Access the course Schedule page through Canvas.

COURSE POLICIES - Please note the date and time of the class exams. The instructor may, in the classroom class, give extra credit to students attending the lecture. This is not an option for ecampus students and they will not lose points relative to the classroom students. Reading and studying the assigned material before the lecture date is essential for success. Waiting to the last minute to study or prepare is a prescription for disaster. 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. Summer deadlines are different and students are responsible for confirming such deadlines with the OSU Registrar.

(Links to an external site.)

TOPICS COVERED

Water/Buffers

Amino Acids
Peptides/Proteins
Protein Structure
Hemoglobin
Protein Purification
Enzymes
Enzyme Controls
Membranes
Nucleic Acids
DNA Synthesis
RNA Synthesis
Protein Synthesis
Biotechnology
Viruses/Cancer/Oncogenes
Immune System
Energy
Carbohydrate Structure
Glycolysis
Carbohydrate Storage
Citric Acid Cycle
Electron Transport/Oxidative Phosphorylation
Lipid Metabolism
Photosynthesis
Nitrogen Metabolism
GRADING - Course Points Distribution - Exam 1 (20%), Exam 2 (20%), Exam 3 (20%) Final Exam (40%). You are graded solely by your performance on exams. For the record, there is NO extra credit possible in this ecampus course (even though it is mentioned in the videos). I do not (and in fact cannot) take into consideration improvement during the term in assigning grades. Ecampus students are NOT at a disadvantage for not having extra credit. This is taken into consideration in the calculation of your grades. No fixed grading scale will be used to assign letter grades and no fixed numbers of letter grades are set, so grading is, therefore, by definition, curved. Grades will be assigned on groupings as determined by the instructor at the conclusion of the course. These are also shown after each midterm exam.

If your grade is low and you wonder how to improve it, the answer is to improve your performance against the average compared to what you did previously. Since the average varies with each exam, it means you need to do your best. Because grades are assigned on a “curve,” there is no way for me to tell you “how many points” you need to get a desired grade. Please note this. This is only possible for grading schemes that use fixed percentages – 90% = A, 80% = B, etc.

Final course grades will be posted to your OSU student account, NOT to Canvas. If you're not sure how to access your OSU student account, please consult with ecampus.

HOW TO STUDY FOR THIS CLASS - This is a frequent question asked by students. The answer is that there are no secrets or "tricks". Everyone has their own way of studying and they tell me they have their own way of learning. Consequently, I have no "tips" for you. Everyone has their own approach and any approach I recommend may likely be different from what will work for you. This class isn't really any different from any other you may take. What works for you for other classes is what I recommend using here. That said, as it says in the lectures, exams are based on what I talk about. Focus your attention on what I talk about. Learn the principles of what I talk about. Good luck in your studies :-().

GENERAL EXAMINATION INFO – Exams have been taken by students from all over the world in this course, including war zones. This course uses Proctorio. Contact ecampus HERE or phone 800-667-1465 or 541-737-9204 if you have questions in regards to proctoring. It is required that exams be started and completed within the time windows defined on the Schedule page. No exceptions will be made for getting the time wrong or overlooking the correct times. The exams are multiple choice and are a different format from the classroom exams. Ecampus students are graded on a curve unique to their class – the grades of the classroom class do not affect grades for the ecampus class. Boundaries of material covered on every mid-term exam are precisely identified in the Highlights linked to the Schedule page.

EXAM PROCTORING

This course requires that you take exams under the supervision of an approved proctor and will use an automated online proctoring system called Proctorio, where your exam session is recorded for instructor review. You will not need to schedule proctoring appointments, and there is no cost to you to use Proctorio. Please note that a functioning webcam and microphone are required for using Proctorio. If you do not have these, you will need to locate and submit an
alternative proctor through the exams and proctoring form and pay for any associated proctoring fees.

Your security and privacy are important. You can read more about Proctorio’s privacy and data security policies on their website, and more information about using this tool can be found in the course site.

Proctored exams(s) may involve additional fees if, for some reason, you are unable to use Proctorio. Proctoring guidelines and registration for proctored exams are available online through the Ecampus testing and proctoring website. It is important to submit your proctoring request as early as possible to avoid delays. Please click HERE or phone 800-667-1465 or 541-737-9204 for additional information. The proctor gives exams to you under the conditions I set. Please be aware that you need to have this set up well in advance of the exam. The exam MUST be taken in the time window described on the Schedule page. There are no exceptions to this window due to incorrect scheduling or student oversight. Students should be aware that proctors' "windows" for taking exams may close before the window I give. Please be sure you have taken this into consideration in scheduling. I strongly advise you not to wait to the last minute to take the exam. Please note also that I have no knowledge of proctoring. Ecampus has all of the answers to that. The only way I can get involved about proctoring is if there is some problem with the ecampus. You are responsible for having ALL proctor issues settled well in advance of taking exams. After the window for an exam closes, I will open the exam to allow you to compare your answers to the correct ones. I will also post a grade distribution in the Announcements section of Canvas.

VERY IMPORTANT - When you use online proctoring services, you MUST follow ALL instructions of the online proctor, including LOGGING OUT PROPERLY at the conclusion of the session.

EXAM POLICIES

There will be three midterm exams and one final exam given in this course. The final will be comprehensive. Material covered on each exam is stated explicitly on the Schedule and Highlights pages. The only comprehensive exam is the final exam. The other two exams are not comprehensive. Excused absences will not be given for missing exams due to airline reservations or routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches). 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, you may be allowed to take a makeup 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 place.

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.

Students are also responsible for taking no longer than the allotted time for exams - 60 minutes for midterms and 120 minutes for finals (unless otherwise noted). Running over the allotted time for exams will result in lost of one point for every minute that the allotted time is exceeded.

No notes, books, cell phones, scratch paper or other devices are allowed on the midterm exams. The online Proctorio system you will be using provides an online calculator and an online scratch pad. On the final exam ONLY, students are allowed to use one 5x8 inch note card with HANDWRITTEN notes on it (both sides). Note cards with material from a printer or photocopier are not allowed. Students in this course do not have to get the card from me.

One of the most common problems students have with deadlines for exams/problems arise from 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. The best way to avoid such problems is to schedule exams earlier in the time window so that if something unexpected happens, you have plenty of time to request a fix. Further, telling me about a problem AFTER the window closes or near its closing means I will usually be unable to do anything about it.

OLD EXAMS

I get a lot of requests for practice or old exams. In my experience, students use these exams for all the wrong reasons and in all the wrong ways. A practice/old exam is useful for illustrating the format of an exam and for that purpose only. In the lecture version of this course, the exam format is a little unusual, so I provide a practice exam to show the format. You can hear me saying that in the videos. In this ecampus course, the exam format is simple multiple choice, so there is no good reason to give practice exams to "study from". The problems students run into with practice exams is that they use them as study tools. This is a very bad mistake because it leads students to study narrowly and study patterns of information instead of the content of the material itself. Questions change, but the content does not. Thus, when exam wording changes from one exam to another and students have been learning patterns, they answer according to the pattern they learned on an old exam, not according to the information they are being asked about. Often, when they answer according to patterns, they find they are wrong. It is one of the most common reasons students feel like professors are trying to "trick" them. While I won't say some professors don't have a bit of that in mind, I can say definitively that I do not. As noted on the class Schedule page, the format of exams in this ecampus course is multiple choice. This is a simple format and there is no need to illustrate it with a practice exam. Consequently, I do not provide practice exams for this ecampus course and by doing this, I (hope) I am doing you a favor by getting you to focus on the actual information and not on the pattern of information. I hope this is helpful to you and I wish you the best on your exams.

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 ecampus, unless I know you through some other means.

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 EXPECTATIONS:

1. Advance preparations, including reading notes before lectures are given.
2. Avoid 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.

**LEARNER OUTCOMES**

The intention of the course is for students to:

1. Acquire the technical language used to communicate biochemistry information.
2. Gain familiarity with basic biochemistry principles, including metabolic pathways, molecule names, molecular structures (where noted), enzymes, control mechanisms, and terms used to describe categories of molecules.
3. Perform analyses and basic calculations relating to solutions, energy, and catalysis and gain understanding of how they relate nutritional and physically to the human body.
4. Communicate (through writing) key concepts of biochemistry.
5. Understand and apply elementary concepts of biochemistry to relevant, specific problems.

**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 that the first week of the term. Students whose observance of religious holidays that conflict with class responsibilities must inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. Students with disabilities seeking accommodations in the course should 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://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/offenses-0

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.

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities**: “Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at [http://ds.oregonstate.edu](http://ds.oregonstate.edu). DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.”

Source - [http://ds.oregonstate.edu/facultyguidelines#before](http://ds.oregonstate.edu/facultyguidelines#before)

**Reach Out for Success**: University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it’s important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor. Learn about resources that assist with wellness and academic success at [oregonstate.edu/ReachOut](http://oregonstate.edu/ReachOut). If you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)