Biology 121 – Molecular Cell Biology
Spring 2015
Prof. Kimberly Mulligan
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Office Hours: Tues 8:40-10:10 am in HMB211E, Wed 2:15-3pm in SQU456, Fri 2:30-3:15pm in HMB 211E
(or by appointment)


Course Description: BIO 121. Molecular Cell Biology (3 units). Cellular and molecular biology of prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells (emphasis will be placed on eukaryotic cells). Topics covered will include membrane structures, transport phenomena, cell to cell communication, genetic architecture, gene expression and metabolism, as well as the eukaryotic endomembrane, cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix systems. Lecture three hours.
Prerequisite: BIO 1 and BIO 2.

Grading: The final grade is dependent on three 75-minute exams (80 points each), one comprehensive final exam (150 points) and four homework/in-class assignments (10 points each). Point total: 430

Grading Scale: Letter grades are given according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93.9 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 86.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 83.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 76.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 73.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64 – 66.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59.9</td>
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</tbody>
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NOTE: No extra credit is offered for this course & it is not graded on a curve.

Exams: The exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, and true/false questions and will require the use of scantrons (form 882-E)

Make-up exams: No make-up exam will be given, except in case of health-related emergencies. Please notify me as soon as possible in these instances. You will be asked to provide proof.

Testing Center: To be allowed to take your exams at the testing center, you must:
1. Show proof or reason for using the testing center.
2. Fill out ONE form for the testing center and turn it in to me no earlier than one week and no later than two days before each scheduled exam indicated in the syllabus.
3. I will only accept one form from you (and completed by you) at a time.
4. You will not be able to use the testing center if you fail to adhere to the above rules.

Homework/In Class Assignment: Each of the four assignments will be to write 10 multiple choice questions on the lecture content that will be on the subsequent exam (you should include your answer key on a separate piece of paper). The day the assignment is due, you will exchange quizzes with a classmate and take each other’s “quiz.” You will receive full credit if you complete the assignment. However, you must be present in class the day the assignment is due to get full credit. (If you have a valid excuse for missing class, you may receive half credit for writing the questions if they are emailed to me by 5pm on the due date, but the only way to obtain full credit is to participate in the in-class portion of the assignment.)
**Attendance:**  You will not be graded on attendance, but I strongly recommend not missing class. The days you absolutely should not miss are assignment days (when homework is due) and exam days. There are no make-ups for either (except in the case of health-related emergencies; doctor's note required).

**Add/Drop Policy:**  You cannot add after the end of the second week of classes. You cannot drop after the sixth week.

**Policy on Dishonesty:**  Cheating will earn an automatic grade of “F” for the exam and will be reported to the department chair.

CHEATING includes but is not limited to:
1. Communication between students during an exam
2. Looking at another student's work
3. Having written materials out during the exam
4. Providing answers to another student during exams
5. Changing answers after the exam is handed back & asking for a re-grade

**Classroom Conduct:**
1. Please be courteous to everyone in your class
2. Do not use cell phones during class
3. No disruptive behaviors during lecture (such as talking at inappropriate time and noise level, watching youtube on your laptop, using phone, etc)

*Please be respectful of everyone.*
4. Misconduct in any way will result in your being removed from the class

**Tips for success:**

1. **ASK QUESTIONS!!!**
   If you’re having a problem understanding something, ask me! I’m here to help you understand the material. Asking questions aids in everyone's learning experience because it makes me explain concepts in more detail and in different ways. (If you don’t want to ask questions in class, come see me during my office hours.)

2. **Review the lectures & review questions before coming to class**
   You will have access to lecture slides (in powerpoint format) on SacCT at least 24 hours prior to lecture. I will also post review questions for each lecture. Take 15-20 minutes to preview the slides and questions before coming to class. (My tests will draw directly from the topics covered on the review questions, which come directly from the lecture slides.)

3. **Use your textbook**
   Lectures will follow subject matter covered in your text. If you’re confused about a topic covered in lecture, chances are your book will help clarify things for you.

4. **Think critically!**
   Keep me on my toes by challenging me. Challenge the text. Challenge each other. Be sure to take time to reflect…each lecture will add a piece to the larger puzzle of cell biology. Put the puzzle pieces together in your head as the class proceeds.

5. **Form study groups**
   Study groups will always enrich your learning experience. Find another student or students and form study groups to help prepare for exams or, if time permits, have weekly or bi-monthly review sessions to discuss the material.

6. **Make outlines**
   Make weekly outlines to summarize and organize the lecture material.