

Cell Biology BIOL 300

Courtesy of Carl Zeiss Microscopy, LLC.

Fall 2023

When: Mon, Wed 12:30—1:45 Where: Bailey Building 101 Instructor: Dr. Travis Bailey E-Mail: baileyt@geneseo.edu

Phone: 245-5437 Office: ISC 350



Overview In this course we will explore how life exists at the cellular and molecular level. We will discuss how proteins and other macromolecules are regulated by cellular organization. This will lead us to an understanding how the cells regulate communication and cell organization. **Proteins** What determines the shapes of proteins and how is this related to their function? What are the roles of proteins in cells and how are they regulated? How can misfolding of proteins contribute to disease?

Cell membranes What is the composition of plasma membranes? How is transport across membranes accomplished and regulated? How does membrane transport enable physiological events, such as muscle contraction?

Cellular compartmentalization What are the functions of organelles and how do they accomplish them? How is material sorted and transported between intracellular compartments and how is this regulated? How are secretion and endocytosis accomplished?

Organization of cells into tissues How do cells interact with their environment and with each other? How do cells use adhesion and the cytoskeleton to regulate their shape, and accomplish functions such as muscle contraction, mitosis, and cell migration?

Signal transduction and cell-cell communication How do cells communicate with each other and interpret signals from their environment? How are these signals transduced into changes in cell behavior (such as cell cycle progression or apoptosis)? How does misregulation of cell signaling contribute to diseases such as cancer? What are stem cells, and what is the molecular basis of their properties?

Experimental approaches in cell biology Our knowledge of cell biology is based on experimental observations. In this class we will ask: how do we know what we know? What is the evidence? Much progress has been made towards understanding the structure and function of cells; however, there is still a vast amount to discover.

Textbook

Essential Cell Biology, 6th Edition Alberts et al., W. W. Norton https://digital.wwnorton.com/ecb6

Learning Outcomes

- Explain the basic facts, concepts, and principles in cell biology.
- <u>Use and apply</u> those facts, concepts, and principles appropriately, even in situations that you have not previously encountered.
- <u>Interpret and evaluate</u> evidence for hypotheses about cell structure and function.
- <u>Devise strategies</u> to address unsolved issues in cell biology.

How will you know that you are learning?

You will receive feedback on your progress with frequent assignments, including quizzes, as well as midterms, and a final exam. Each exam builds on previous concepts (is cumulative).

You can use the provided assignments to prepare for the midterms and the final exam. Please expect mistakes to be a natural part of the learning process. Midterms and the final exam are cumulative to provide you with multiple opportunities to improve your understanding of difficult concepts. Each exam will stress concepts covered during that quarter of the semester. Midterms and the final exam will contain a variety of questions, including multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and mini essay format, and ask you to recall, apply, and synthesize your knowledge. Midterm exams are designed to take 45 minutes individually and 30 minutes as a group.

Your grades are primarily determined by your work as an individual. In addition, a portion of your grade will be calculated by your work in a team. For each midterm, during the first 45 minutes you will first answer questions on your own. Then, you will immediately have 30 minutes to retake the midterm exam with your teammates. Working with your team will benefit you, because a portion of your team effort will be added to your individual score, as follows:

Your exam score = your initial score points + 1/2 (team retake midterm points- your team's average initial midterm points)

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For example.
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You earn a score of 90 points.

1st groupmate earns 70 points.

 2^{nd} groupmate earns 80 points. Thus: Initial Group Average = 80 points or 240/3

Team retake score is 85 points. \rightarrow ½(Team Retake – Initial Group Average) = ½(85-80) = 2.5 points

You earn 92.5 points (90 initial points + 2.5 retake points) 1st groupmate earns 72.5 points. 2nd groupmate earns 82.5 points.

The instructor exercises the right to deny any student this team midterm benefit if there is evidence that a student is not contributing fairly to the team effort. In the event of an excused absence on a midterm date, group points on the make-up midterm will be determined by taking the average of group points over the whole semester.

Please note that any challenges to any grades recorded must be made within one week of that assignment's or midterm's return date.

Makeup Exam policy

I accommodate makeup exams for students with a valid excuse. To be fair to everyone in class and to follow departmental and university policies, documentation for such emergencies will be required. Makeup exams are not necessarily the regular exam. Please contact me as soon as possible if you need to make alternate arrangements. Geneseo policy does not allow me to alter finals so that people can leave campus early.

How to get the most out of this course:

- Peruse the PowerPoint slides and read the assigned pages from each chapter before you attend lecture. Finish the Assignments and Textbook Extra Credit Activities.
- Be alert and take good notes while studying. Review your learning after you attend lecture and determine the gaps in your understanding.
- Take charge of your own learning. Study for understanding of the concepts, not just memorization of facts.
- Consider studying virtually with other students or your group members to discuss the material and prepare for the exams.
- Get help when necessary. Feel free to email me anytime and I will be happy to help as soon as I can.
- In addition to attending office hours, you are welcome to schedule appointments with me, as time permits.

Schedule The material for this course is divided into six units. Before each, a handout that gives learning objectives and reading assignments for that unit will be posted on Brightspace.

Unit 1: Proteins and Techniques

1	M	8/28	Course Overview; Cell Biology techniques
2	W	8/30	Cell Energetics Protein structure, folding, and regulation
3	M	9/4	Protein regulation, cont.
4	W	9/6	Protein folding diseases; Cell biology techniques

Unit 2: The Plasma Membrane - Structure and Function

5	M	9/11	Plasma membrane structure
6	W	9/13	Passive transport
7	M	9/18	Active transport
8	W	9/20	Transport in vivo: muscle as an example; Protein sorting overview
	M	9/25	Midterm Exam #1 (Units 1 and 2)

Unit 3: Protein Sorting and Vesicular Transport

9	W	9/27	Nuclear transport
10	M	10/2	Nuclear transport, cont.; Transport into the ER
11	W	10/4	Transport into the ER, cont.; Vesicular transport, overview
	M	10/9	No class - Fall Break
12	W	10/11	Transport between the ER and Golgi; sorting by the Golgi
13	M	10/16	Endocytosis; Lysosomes - roles in disease and ageing

Unit 4: The Cytoskeleton and Cell Adhesion

VV	10/18	Intermediate filaments
M	10/23	Microtubules
W	10/25	Actin filaments
M	10/30	Extracellular matrix and cell adhesion
W	11/1	Midterm Exam #2 (Units 3 and 4)
	M W M	M 10/23 W 10/25 M 10/30

Unit 5: Cell Signaling

18	M	11/6	Review Exam 2/introduction to cell signaling
19	W	11/8	G-protein coupled receptor signaling
20	M	11/13	GPCRs, cont.; Enzyme linked receptors
21	W	11/15	Ras signaling pathway; Intro to the cell cycle

Unit 6: Cell Signaling at Work - Cell Cycle, Apoptosis, Cancer, and Stem Cells

22	M	11/20	Regulation of the cell cycle Apoptosis and necrosis	
	W	11/22	Thanksgiving	
23	M	11/27	Cancer: cell signaling gone awry	
24	W	11/29	Cancer continued, stem cells	
25	M	12/4	Stem cells	
			Last Date to withdraw with a W	
26	W	12/6	wrap-up	
	W	12/13	Final Exam (3:30 pm) (Units 5 and 6)	
	VV	12/13	rinai Exam (3:30 pm) (Units 5 and 6)	

Accessibility

- SUNY Geneseo strives to provide an equitable and inclusive educational experience for all students. The Office of Accessibility coordinates reasonable accommodations for persons with documented physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities, as well as medical conditions related to pregnancy or parenting.
- Share with me your letter of accommodation at the beginning of the semester and discuss with me the specific arrangements that can help you succeed. Please <u>contact</u> the <u>Office of Accessibility Services</u> for questions related to access and accommodations.

Office of Accessibility Services Erwin Hall 22 (585) 245-5112

Safeguarding your mental health

- Diminished mental health, including significant stress, mood changes, excessive worry, or problems with eating and/or sleeping can interfere with optimal academic performance. The source of symptoms might be strictly related to your course work; if so, please speak with me. However, problems with relationships, family worries, loss, or a personal struggle or crisis can also contribute to decreased academic performance.
- SUNY Geneseo provides mental health services to support the academic success of students. Counseling Services, a part of the Lauderdale Center for Student Health & Counseling, offers free, confidential psychological services to help you manage personal challenges that may threaten your well-being.
- In the event I suspect you could be helped by support, I will express my concerns and the reasons for them, and remind you of resources (e.g., Counseling Services, Career Services, Dean of Students, etc.) that might be helpful to you. It is not my intention to know the details of what might be bothering you, but simply to let you know I am concerned and that help, if needed, is available. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do for yourself /and /for those who care about you.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

- Academic dishonesty includes cheating, knowingly providing false information, plagiarizing, and any other form of academic misrepresentation. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course.
- Please refer to the material in the "Plagiarism" pages on Geneseo.edu library website, which describes various types of plagiarism. Assignments containing plagiarism will receive no points.
- If you're struggling, please ask me for help before you resort to cheating! I would rather struggle with you than file a report, creating a record with the department chair, the Dean of the College, and at the Dean of Students Office.

Evaluation and Grading

Exercises: 50 points
Exam #1: 125 points
Exam #2: 125 points
Final Exam: 200 points

500 regular points total

Extra Credit: 50 points (Illumine and Smartwork) This is new to this course.

550 points to earn out of 500.

Grading scale

93% - 100%	A	77% - 79.9%	C+
90% - 92.9%	A-	73% - 76.9%	С
87% - 89.9%	B+	70% - 72.9%	C-
83% - 86.9%	В	60% - 69.9%	D
80% - 82 9%	B-		

Evaluation and Grading

Exercises will include in class activities and homework assignments. For the in-class activities, you must be present at the <u>beginning</u> of the exercise to earn points. Also note that there <u>are no make-ups for the in-class activities</u>; however, you can miss one with no penalty. Homework is due at the start of class on the due date (there will be a penalty for homework handed in late). Most homework assignments will be completed in groups. For group homework assignments, each person is required to fully complete the assignment before meeting with his or her group. Each group will submit one completed assignment, and each person will also submit their initial answers. Students will receive the group assignment grade as long as their individual assignment is complete, and they attended the group meeting(s).

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Note on letters of recommendation: Many students ask a letter of recommendation because this challenging course gives opportunity to demonstrate your critical thinking and groupwork soft skills. I write letters using examples from your coursework. If you plan on asking for a helpful letter, make sure your work is impressive not merely passing.

Group Assignments and Evaluation of Your Peers.

To practice and demonstrate interpersonal skills you will work on assignments together with a small group. You will also evaluate the contributions you and your group partners make to assignments. The kind of partner you are judged to be by your peers you will factor into your *Group Assignments* grade and has the potential to alter your grade up to half of a grade. There will be up to four people in each group. You will evaluate each other regarding professional

integrity not on capability. You should not divide up the work. Each person should understand every point of the homework. Group interaction is preparation for group work on exams. Unparticipating people who force the others in the group to take up extra work will not receive full credit for group assignments.

Wireless policy

Laptop and hand-held computers are fine tools for learning, but can easily become a great distraction. Don't allow the tool to become a disruption. I often use TopHat, which will use your smart phones or laptops to do in-class quizzes. Please keep them charged and handy. Participation is part of your grade. I request that during class you turn off sound, silence and ignore any distracting texts, and cell phone calls.