Course Objectives

This class covers all of the material commonly found in undergraduate biochemistry courses, with a special emphasis on using concepts from organic chemistry to help students better understand biological chemistry. Topics will include amino acids and proteins, enzyme structure, mechanisms and kinetics, primary metabolism, and nucleic acid structure and metabolism.

Prerequisites

CHM 3217 or CHM 2211 or permission of the instructor.

Grading

Three examinations (100 points each) will be scheduled during the semester (during the evenings of May 28, June 18 and July 16). The final examination (100 points) will be comprehensive, although it will concentrate (approximately 50%) on material presented after the third in-class examination (in class on August 5 and 7). No make-up exams will be offered. After each exam, approximate letter grade distributions will be posted so that you will have a feel for your performance relative to others in the class as the semester progresses. The lowest grade from exams 1 - 3 will be dropped before calculating your final grade (you may not drop the final exam score). Your final letter grade will be calculated in two ways:

1) Points method. After dropping the exam score (from tests 1, 2 or 3) with the lowest number of points, the remaining two scores will be added together with the final exam score and compared to the distribution of total points for the class in order to assign a final letter grade. The class-wide mean of grades assigned by this method will be at the B- / C+ border.

2) Letter grade method. After dropping the lowest exam letter grade (from tests 1, 2 or 3), the remaining two letter grades will be averaged with that from the final exam by assigning points in the following manner: A = 4.00, A - = 3.67, B + = 3.33, B = 3.00, B - = 2.67, C + = 2.33, C = 2.00, C - = 1.67, D + = 1.33, D = 1.00, D - = 0.67, E = 0.00.
The three best values will be averaged, then the following scheme will be used to convert this to the final course grade:

- 3.85 - 4.00 = A
- 3.51 - 3.84 = A -
- 3.18 - 3.50 = B +
- 2.85 - 3.17 = B
- 2.51 - 2.84 = B -
- 2.18 - 2.50 = C +
- 1.85 - 2.17 = C
- 1.51 - 1.84 = C -
- 1.17 - 1.50 = D +
- 0.84 - 1.16 = D
- 0.51 - 0.83 = D -
- <0.51 = E

For example, if your three best exam letter grades are A, A and A-, your average would be \((4.00 + 4.00 + 3.67) / 3 = 3.89\), which is an A.

*Whichever method (#1 or #2) gives you a higher grade will be used to calculate the letter grade reported to the Registrar.*

Current UF grading policies can be found at https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx.

**Class Attendance**

While attendance is voluntary, the lectures are an essential component of the experience for this class. Readings from the textbook serve as a starting point and the classroom lectures will explain and expand upon this material.

**Make-Up Work**

Since students are allowed to drop an exam score, no make-up exams will be scheduled.

**Required Textbook**


**Lecture Schedule**

A tentative schedule of lectures is available at the course e-Learning site (http://lss.at.ufl.edu).

**Academic Honesty**

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

**Students with Disabilities**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.