

BIOL/CHEM 327

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Course Information

- Office Hours: TBD
- Class meetings: M,W&F at 11:45-12:35, THURS at 10:20 -11:10am in HOSCI 202
- Laboratory: THURS at 12:45-3:45pm or FRI at 1:15-4:15pm in HOSCI 209

Course Goals

- To understand the chemical basis of the structure and function of the four main groups of biological molecules responsible for cellular function
- To become proficient in the visual rendering of biological macromolecules using common biochemical visualization programs to understand how structure informs function
- To gain hands-on experience with (and understand the basic theory behind) some of the laboratory methods used to isolate and investigate these biological molecules
- To become familiar with a variety of data bases that contain information about the structure and function of these biological molecules (bioinformatics)
- To gain more experience in scientific writing
- To develop more problem-solving and critical thinking in class and in the laboratory

Required and Suggested Materials

- Required Text: Lehninger's Principles of Biochemistry 5th Edition, ISBN: 0-7167-7108-X by David Nelson and Michael Cox. (2008), W.H.Freeman and Company
- Textbook website (free registration!) at <http://bcs.whfreeman.com/lehninger5e/>
- Recommended "Study Guide and Solutions Manual" to accompany the 5th ed (can be purchased in the bookstore or a copy is in the Biochem Lab for your access)
- A USB memory stick to save copies of lab data and other pertinent electronic course files
- A bound composition book for lab (if you do NOT want to keep an electronic lab notebook)

Black Board Web Site

Throughout the semester announcements, laboratory procedures, problem sets, answer keys, pertinent links, reminders and other material will be posted to the course blackboard page. Please access this page early and often! I highly recommend that you check email that I send via this site – be sure your Bb account is set up with an email that you receive and check!

Attendance Policy

Your presence is welcome and expected in all course meetings (class, problem sessions, and laboratories). As a reminder, the college policy on attendance can be found in the student handbook¹. If you anticipate an unavoidable absence (due to an extenuating and documented² circumstance), please notify the instructor as soon as possible, particularly since makeup laboratories or exams are likely not an option.

Academic Honesty Policy

Please be familiar with the college policy on academic honesty³ that applies to this course. In addition, throughout this course, each student may exchange experimental details and data with her/his lab partner and classmates. However, any work submitted in your name is to be your

¹ <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic.html>

² Your instructor will expect documentation from a health professional or academic dean regarding missed exams or laboratories.

³ <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>

BIOL/CHEM 327

work alone. You may discuss work with others on assignments and labs, but merely copying answers is not acceptable.

Policy on Use of Cell Phones/Mobile Devices

Please be considerate and turn off your cell phone or other mobile communication device during all course meetings (this includes laboratory!). Please do not make/receive calls during course meetings, or send/receive text messages during course meetings. During quizzes and exams, cell phones must be put away in your backpack (NOT in your pocket) and may not be used in any way or else a grade of zero may be assigned for that quiz/exam at the instructor's discretion.

Grading

Your grade in this course does not depend on the grade of any other student in the class. Instead, your letter grade will be determined by the percentage of total possible points you earn in this course, according to the following scale:

Percentage	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+

Percentage	Letter Grade
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
< 60	F

The total number of possible points in this course is *anticipated* to be as follows:

I.	Exams (3@100pts each)	300pts
II.	Quizzes (~5@10pts each)	50pts
III.	Problem Sets (~8@25pts each)	200pts
IV.	Laboratory	
	<i>Prelab, Performance & Notebook</i>	190pts
V.	Scientific Writing & Presentations	160pts
VI.	Final Exam	100pts
	Total for Course	1000pts

I. Exams: Three exams will be given during the semester. They are scheduled as 50-minute *in class* exams on Monday October 3rd, November 7th, and December 5th. MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN. At the discretion of the instructor, part or all of some exams may be take-home.

II. Quizzes: Short 10 min quizzes will be given periodically during the semester. These quizzes will cover structures, naming, and properties of key biomolecular building blocks.

III. Problem Sets

Problem sets (~biweekly) on material covered in class/lab/problem sessions will be assigned, collected, and graded. Due dates and times for each problem set will be posted on the blackboard course page and clearly indicated on each assignment. Late assignments may be accepted but with a penalty to be decided by the instructor (~10% per day deduction until the key is posted).

VI. Final Exam

This exam will be cumulative and given on December 14th at 1:30 pm in HOSCI 202.

BIOL/CHEM 327**IV. Laboratory**

Your performance in, analysis of, and scientific writing about laboratory experiments are the basis for a significant portion of your assessment in this course (~30% of your course grade). Since your work in the laboratory can only be assessed if you are present, and you will only have writing material for your research assignments if you actually perform the experiments, you should be present for and intellectually active every laboratory meeting of this course. Regarding laboratory absences, please see the attendance policy above.

All of the following are fair game for assessment in the laboratory:

Be prepared: Read each experimental procedure, including any posted references/resources, before coming to the Wed pre-lab session. Most weeks there will be pre-lab questions to help you focus on these readings, and your own individual answers to these questions should be recorded (either in an electronic file or in a hard-copy bound notebook) and a copy submitted to your instructor by the beginning of each Wed meeting.

- Have a plan for what you will do in lab that day (and in what sequence)
- Look up the MSDS (see blackboard link) for each potentially hazardous chemical that you have not worked with before

Be there: You need to show up to do chemistry. But that means more than just physically being in the room on time and for the entire time. You need to really “be there” mentally as well, so this means minimizing distractions and working hard to share tasks equally with your lab partner. Be an engaged lab partner, stay on task, be efficient, and use safe practices (see the Laboratory Safety Agreement).

Be organized: You need to keep a record of what you do during lab. This means more than just cutting-and-pasting the procedure into your notebook and saving electronic data. Record what you DID in lab, not what you should have done. You do not need to rewrite the entire procedure, but in all experiments there will be decisions you will need to make for the preparation of samples, the collection data, and when dealing with unforeseen obstacles – these are IMPORTANT and you need to record the details of your decisions. Another scientist needs to be able to read your notebook, understand what you did, see/find your data, and follow your data analysis.

Be thoughtful and reflective: You don't need to write a tome each week. Even bulleted phrases about interesting observations are great additions to your notebook record. You will do a lot of thoughtful reflecting (hopefully) in the analyses of data for your writing assignments.

You can keep either a hardcopy bound lab notebook or an **electronic laboratory notebook (ELN)**. An ELN will be a collection of files organized within the laboratory journal on the course BlackBoard site (your instructor will illustrate the use of this journal function of BlackBoard in the first problem session). Your lab notebook serves many purposes. It is a diary of your time spent in lab, and a complete record of your experimental procedure, data, observations and ideas. Proper documentation of your work could provide the information needed for publishing a paper, writing a thesis, obtaining an award (NOBEL ! \$), getting a raise from your employer (\$), or receiving a patent (\$ \$). While experiments in this lab are unlikely to result in any of the above, we must practice! Please observe the following in your laboratory record-keeping (any of these aspects are fair game for assessment):

- For an ELN, you can type or digitally ink on your Word documents.
- Write legibly with the stylus. Do not erase any mistakes. You may cross-out erroneous entries but they must remain legible. Be sure to explain any such errors.

BIOL/CHEM 327

- Write directly into your notebook. When preparing for lab, reading literature for lab, and during lab, be sure to take notes directly into your bound notebook or MS-Word document. A clear outline format, without full sentences, is just fine. Be concise!
- Include references. If you find an important/pertinent piece of information somewhere else (such as in a book, catalogue, journal article, or on a reputable web site) copy the reference information directly into your MS-Word document or write it into your bound notebook – Include enough information so you could find it again if you had to!
- Format. The notebook entry for an experiment write up will generally include:
 - TITLE, DATE, LAB PARTNER.
 - OBJECTIVES/GOALS. Outline the important aspects behind the experiment, its design, and what you hope to accomplish. **This should be original work from each lab partner.**
 - PROCEDURE. Outline what you DID in lab, not what you SHOULD HAVE done. For procedure details you may cut and paste the lab handout, but be sure to note any modifications of the procedure.
 - RAW DATA. Record all data directly into your MS-Word document and never on loose paper. Data should be clearly and neatly labeled. If raw data are in Excel or another program, then reference the file names in your Word document and update raw data files to your BlackBoard notebook.
 - RESULTS. Show sample calculations for all spreadsheets. Label all data tables and graphs clearly, including relevant units. When possible, insert images of all spectra obtained on other instruments.
 - DISCUSSION. This is the section for critical analysis. You can list the main conclusions (full sentences not necessary!) and support them by referring back to specific results. Where appropriate, identify potential sources of error and predict how each would affect your results, and indicate further work that could be done and briefly explain its impact on the study. **This should be original work from each lab partner.**

V. Scientific Writing and Presentations

Short **scientific writing assignments** will be given (weekly) throughout the semester. These assignments will be done in the format required by the journal *Biochemistry* (see the journal's "Guidelines for Authors" PDF posted on the blackboard page), will be based on data you collect in the laboratory portion of this course, and will be submitted electronically as described by your instructor. Following feedback on these short assignments, you will be asked to prepare and give presentations (a scientific talk and a scientific poster) based upon two multi-week experiments. Use of the primary literature (scientific journals, NOT web pages) is crucial to set the context of your work. Details and timelines for these scientific presentations will be posted and discussed later in the semester.

BIOL/CHEM 327

TENTATIVE Lecture/ Reading/Exam/Lab Schedule

<u>Week of....</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Chapters in Text</u>	<u>Laboratory</u>
8/29	Introduction&Water	1&2	Pipettors & EXCEL
	Labor Day – NO CLASS		
9/7	Water, Buffers, Acids/Bases	2	Buffers
9/12	AAs & Peptides	3	Amino Acids
9/19	Protein Purification&2° structure	3, 4	Amino Acids
9/26	Protein 2°&3° structure	4	Protein Conc.
	EXAM#1 – Mon 10/3		
10/5	Structure methods, Pro Function	4, 5	Lysozyme #1
	FALL BREAK		
10/12	Globins, Ligand-binding	5	Lysozyme #2
10/17	Enzymes-Intro&Kinetics	6	Lysozyme #3
10/24	Enzymes-Inhib/Mech/Reg	6	Lysozyme #4
10/31	Carbohydrates	7	Kinetics#1
	EXAM#2 – Mon 11/7		
11/9	Carbohydrates	7	Kinetics#2
11/14	Nucleic Acids	8	Kinetics#3
	THANKSGIVING BRK		
11/28	Lipids & Membranes	10 & 11	Carbohydrates
	EXAM#3 – Mon 12/5		
12/7	Poster Presentations		
	FINAL EXAM – 12/14		