

Welcome to Biology 205 Section 6 – Introduction to Cell and Developmental Biology

Instructors:

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Textbooks:

Essential Cell Biology, 5th edition with Smartworks by Alberts et al.
Principles of Development, 6th Edition by Wolpert and Tickle.

GOALS OF THE COURSE

1. To provide you with the core principles of cell and developmental biology. The lectures and the book will introduce you to the fields of cell biology and developmental biology. After this class, you will have a basic understanding of cell and developmental biology and will be equipped to build upon this content with upper level courses in biology.
2. To gain higher level thinking skills that are necessary for scientists. You should be well –equipped at remembering facts and content with good study habits. We are looking for you to apply and analyze. You are UNC students, we KNOW you can memorize! Move beyond this level of thinking. How can we achieve this? We will have in-class questions to practice this immediately. We will also explore classic experiments as a way of thinking through the logic of experiments and to see where the foundations of this content come from. While these may be new ways of thinking for you, practice is the most important way to gain these skills. FYI: UNC's medical school sees this is an excellent pre-req course for medical school because it teaches students to think.
3. This course should excite you about basic science and its applications!

ONLINE LEARNING STRATEGIES

We are facing unprecedented challenges this school year for teaching at UNC that impact both faculty and students. This semester UNC is offering a mix of in-person and online teaching. This class has been designated as online only per official UNC policy. It is possible that conditions on campus might change during this semester and create further challenges. As such, this course has been designed to reflect this very real possibility. Our guiding principles are fairness, flexibility, accessibility, and educational needs. Where possible we delineate the reasoning behind these changes for transparency. We ask that you recognize that there is a wide diversity of student situations during this time that will all need to be accommodated and that situations could change rapidly. We may choose to revisit some of these approaches as needed and will be clear about any changes in advance. This document will provide you with a guide to some of the strategies we will employ for remote instruction of BIO205. You will need internet access during this time and the ability to access and download materials from the class Sakai webpage. At the end of this document there is a course schedule and key due dates.

LECTURES

There will be NO face to face lectures for this course. As such, do not come to Coker 201 or any other location during this time.

We considered several options for delivering lecture material. The key criteria were accessibility to information, scope of information, and the ability to ask questions. We decided that the simplest, most effective, and flexible method would be to post full lecture slide sets on Sakai with text annotations on them for students to follow at their own pace. These will be accompanied by recorded lecture material to review. We would then provide online opportunities to ask questions.

We decided NOT to live stream lectures during our normally scheduled lecture as we cannot ensure that every student will be able to robustly stream or be in the correct time zone to do so, especially if the situation on campus changes mid-semester. Instead, we will provide two ~20 minute video lectures for each section.

The lecture notes that will be posted will be full slides and will contain all the information for that class. In the notes section for each Powerpoint slide will be points for that slide which would have been talked about in the traditional lecture.

Again, there will be opportunities to ask questions and make comments on the material (see below).

SAKAI SITE

Note: you must have an onyen to log on – go to <https://itsapps.unc.edu/improv/#UserCreateOnyenPlace:createOnyen> if you do not have an onyen.) The Sakai site will have lecture videos, PowerPoint slides, guided reading questions, and supplemental material we mention in lecture. We will also post announcements regarding student concerns on this site. It is your responsibility to check it regularly. **Note: the weekly assigned readings, videos, and GRQs may be found in the “Lessons” section of the course Sakai site.**

EXAMS (80% of your final grade)

There will be three tests and a final exam given during the semester. The format will include both multiple choice and open-ended questions. These are not cumulative tests and will only cover the material specified on the course schedule. However, each part of the course builds on the knowledge from earlier sections, so do not “mentally erase” fundamental concepts from earlier in the semester. Test material to study: guided readings, outlines, homework, lecture notes and activities, recitation assignments, and power point slides. Therefore, to succeed in this class, it behooves you to take each reading/homework seriously and actively engage in all class discussions. There is no option to drop a test grade and there are no extra credit options. Exams will be taken online and on the dates posted on the syllabus. More information on the online exam format will be provided at a later date. Exams must be taken on the dates indicated during the regular class period; no makeup exams except in special circumstances, i.e., medical or family emergency documented in writing prior to missing the exam. If you have a question related to points deserved, you must put it in writing no more than 5 days after an exam has been returned to you and turn it in to your instructor.

- Exams will be offered in a 12 hr window from 10 am – 10 pm Eastern US to start and complete the exam, however the exam will be timed at 75 minutes. Once you start the exam during the 12 hr period you will have 75 minutes to complete and submit it. You will be required to complete the exam all in one sitting of 75 minutes and will not be able to pause or restart. I recommend you do not wait until the end of the day to start.
- Please let us know THE WEEK BEFORE the scheduled exam date by email if you have any issues that would prevent you from taking the exam at any point during those 12 hours. If you know that your internet connection will be problematic let us know. We have also reached out to the ARS center but please contact them directly should you need to.
- The exams will be open book, you may use your notes, class lectures, and text readings during the exams. But please work on your own and refrain from using Piazza or any other methods to discuss the exam. Honor code will apply here.
- We will not be able to field exam questions during the 12 hr exam window. We will be monitoring the results of the exam, including the outcome of individual questions. At the end of the exam there will be a place to briefly add in comments about specific questions and we will take this into account. I would reserve this for special instances however as it will cost you time during the exam to add in comments.
- Unlike quizzes, feedback and score release will be delayed until after the exam window has passed and we have had a chance to look at the collective results.
- Studying tips: As the exam is open book but timed you should still study the material as you would. I would not ignore the material and plan to look up everything the day of. As stated earlier the exam will focus largely on the material in the lectures. There might be questions that require you to apply what you have learned to new situations. As previous exams have comprised of short response answers as well as multiple choice, we will post a subset of appropriate past test questions to the Sakai page for practice rather than an entire exam.
- **Note:** We have not yet received specific information about final exam dates from UNC for this class. We will update the class with this information and times and dates when this becomes available.

PARTICIPATION (10% of your final grade)

Staying connected with the class is important as is the ability to ask questions. However, we recognize that this might be a challenge for some students, or might not be possible each week, especially if conditions on campus change. As such, we are diversifying the ways students can participate each week and full participation credit will be awarded for participating in one of these activities per week. Participating in more than one will not confer extra credit.

Students can participate via the following ways:

1. Piazza: Post questions to the forum. See section on Piazza. OR
2. Attendance in Video Review Sessions with Prof.s. Nimchuk and Rogers: See section on Video Reviews OR
3. Participation in Recitation. See section on Recitation.

PIAZZA

There are hundreds of you and your questions are important to us. However, it is often difficult for a single instructor with so many students to address all of the e-mails that are received throughout the course of the semester. Therefore, in order to address your questions and

concerns more efficiently, we will be using an online platform called “Piazza” this semester. You may post any questions that you have about the course to this site at any time and they will be answered by either a fellow student, a TA, or your instructor. Your questions may be more general and may relate to the course itself or they may be more specific and instead relate directly to content and/or material from class. In any case, Piazza will help you get them answered ASAP. With the exception of private/personal questions and concerns (which are always welcome in our inboxes) please direct all questions to this discussion board. You will receive a welcome e-mail from your instructor granting you access to the course within the first week of the semester and can start using Piazza right away. Please always respect forum decorum and remember that these are not anonymous to Drs. Rogers and Nimchuk. If something is frustrating or unclear, please be patient and we will try to help. Do NOT post personal matters to the PIAZZA forum.

Please use this link to enroll in the class Piazza forum: piazza.com/unc/fall2020/bio205006

Posting a question (1) to Piazza can be used for full participation credit that week.

RECITATION

Attendance and participation in one of the recitations sections is strongly encouraged, but we recognize it may not always be possible. These recitations are an extension of the class and allow time to go beyond material in class. They are not “help sessions”, but they will extend your knowledge of the field of cell and developmental biology. Material covered in recitation may be covered on exams too. Attendance will be taken at these meetings automatically by Zoom and can count towards your overall participation grade.

Joining one (1) Recitation Zoom session per week can be used for full participation credit that week.

VIDEO REVIEW SESSIONS

In place of our regularly scheduled lectures, we will be holding live Zoom review sessions beginning the second week of the semester - these will not be recorded and will be optional. However, attendance will be taken through Zoom and this can be used to count towards your final participation grade. **We will use these sessions to answer specific questions about the material, however, these questions must be provided to us by the day before the review sessions through Piazza (piazza.com/unc/spring2020/biol205section6/home). Please place questions in the “questions_for_review_sessions” folder.** This will allow us to prepare relevant slides, and also help organize the sessions better. Remember—if you miss a review session, you can always post a question on Piazza.

Joining one (1) Review session per week can be used for full participation credit that week.

QUIZZES (10% of your final grade)

Quizzes for the first half of the class will be administered through the Smarkwork5 web system (<https://digital.wwnorton.com/ecb5>). Note the assigned weekly quizzes must be completed by each Friday. The format for quizzes for the second half of the course will be announced later in the semester.

HOW IS YOUR GRADE DETERMINED?

(Note: there will be no changes to HOW your final average is calculated at the end of the semester and THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT...so please don't ask! You will get the grade you EARN!) Your final average is calculated:

Total for the semester =
(0.2 x Exam 1) + (0.2x Exam 2) + (0.2 x Exam 3) + (0.2 x Exam 4) + (0.1 x quiz score) + (.1 x recitation)

CONTACTING PROFS. ROGERS AND NIMCHUK

1. Email: For urgent and/or personal matters that cannot be addressed in other forums please feel free to email the instructors. Please DO NOT email general biology or general class format questions, use the Piazza forum for those.
2. Video Review Sessions: In place of our regularly scheduled lectures, we will be holding live Zoom review sessions beginning the second week of the semester. We will use these sessions to answer specific questions about the material, however, these questions must be provided to us by the day before the review sessions. Having these questions beforehand will enable us to prepare slides on the relevant material and be able to better structure the review session (compared to attending to 100 questions in the chat boxes).

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The Department of Biology values the perspectives of individuals from all backgrounds reflecting the diversity of our students. We broadly define diversity to include race, gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, religion, social class, age, sexual orientation, political background, and physical and learning ability. We strive to make this classroom and this department an inclusive space for all students.

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