

BIOA11H1

Introduction to the Biology of Humans

Lectures: Thursdays 5 - 7 pm, check Blackboard for location

Instructor: Dr. Christine Wong

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Office Hours: Thursdays 3-4 pm by appointment

Tutorials: Check Blackboard for times and location

Course Description: This course explores how molecules and cells come together to build and regulate human organ systems. This will provide a foundation for understanding genetic principles and human disease, and applications of biology to societal needs. This course is intended for students that did not major in the sciences in high school.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the course, students will:

- i. Be familiar with basic biological concepts
- ii. Have a foundational understanding of human biology
- iii. Be able to apply evidence-based critical thinking
- iv. Understand the biological basis for current social issues

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Textbook: Custom text available at the bookstore (compilation from Belk & Maier Biology Science for Life with Physiology. 5th edition; Pearson Education) + Mastering Biology access.

COURSE EVALUATION:

In-class Tutorial assignments	(5 X 3%)	15 %
On-line Mastering Biology quizzes	(5 X 1%)	5
Midterm Exam		35
Final Exam		45
Total		100%

MIDTERM EXAM

The midterm exam focuses on material from in the first half of the course, covering material from January 7 through to the end of tutorial classes February 10. Where possible, the midterm exam will be held during normal lecture time. The format of the makeup midterm will not necessarily be the same as the original midterm exam. Additional information will be discussed in class and posted to Blackboard.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam is cumulative, covering all lecture and tutorial material from January 7 through to March 31, inclusive. While the final exam will primarily focus on material from the midterm to the end of term, approximately 30% of the test questions will cover material prior to the midterm. This exam will be held during the final exam period as scheduled by University of Toronto Scarborough.

ON-LINE QUIZZES

Quizzes will be administered on the Mastering Biology on-line platform. These are to be used as study aids, reinforcing material that has been presented in lecture. There will be a total of five quizzes, running on alternate weeks to tutorials. Access times to these quizzes will be limited, so watch the course timetable carefully for the quiz schedule. Quizzes will not be made accessible outside of the scheduled time. While you can use a gmail (or alternate) account register, be sure to use your full name as appears on your student record to ensure proper identification in the course. Additional information will be discussed in lecture and posted to Blackboard. Please use a browser that allows Shockwave to be used as a plugin, such as Firefox.

TUTORIALS

Tutorials will run in the times and locations as posted to Blackboard, with a total of five tutorials scheduled throughout the term. Watch the course timetable for tutorial dates. Please attend the tutorial time for which you enrolled to avoid over-crowding in the tutorial rooms. Group work will be provided in-class and you are expected to participate fully in your group. Assignments will be collected at the end of each tutorial class; failure to submit the work will result in a grade of zero.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently.

According to Section B of the University of Toronto's [*Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*](#) (August 1995), which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students:

- To use someone else's ideas or words in their own work without acknowledging that those ideas/words are not their own with a citation and quotation marks, i.e. to commit plagiarism;
- To include false, misleading or concocted citations in their work;
- To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment;
- To provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work;

- To submit their own work for credit in more than one course without the permission of the instructor;
- To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This includes, but is not limited to, medical notes;
- Misrepresenting your identity; and
- To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam.

There are other offences covered under the *Code*, but these are by far the most common. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour, you can seek out additional information from your instructor or the link provided above.

BLACKBOARD

You are responsible for information posted to and through the course Blackboard site, which includes announcements that will be sent to your U of T Email account. Be sure to check your U of T Email account regularly for any correspondence from the teaching team. To gain access to the BIOA11 course notes, lecture schedule, discussion board and announcements, go to the Blackboard site: <http://portal.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password.

DISCUSSION BOARD

Students are required to use the course discussion board for all content-related questions. Queries for the teaching team can be posted regarding lecture and tutorial material, but it is preferable that other members of the class answer the questions. This creates the best learning situation for all concerned. The teaching team will respond only when the answers are 'off-base'. Please allow 72 hours for a response to your questions from the teaching team.

The discussion board is not a place to denigrate individuals or 'badmouth' the course; if you have a personal complaint, send an e-mail to the course instructor. Please maintain appropriate decorum on the Discussion Board. The following is a partial list of the kind of content that is offensive and prohibited on the site. It includes content that:

- promotes racism, bigotry, hatred or physical harm of any kind against any group or individual;
- harasses or advocates harassment of another person;
- involves the transmission of "junk mail", "chain letters", or unsolicited mass mailing or "spamming"
- promotes information that you know is false, misleading, or promotes illegal activities or conduct, is abusive, threatening, obscene, defamatory or libellous;
- is or promotes an illegal or unauthorized copy of another person's work, such as providing pirated computer programs or links to them, provides information to circumvent manufacture-installed copy protect devices;

- contains restricted or password only access pages, or hidden pages or images (those not linked to or from another accessible page)
- displays pornographic material of any kind;
- provides instructional information about illegal activities such as making or buying illegal weapons; violating someone's privacy; providing or creating computer viruses;
- solicits passwords, personal identifying information for commercial or unlawful purposes from other users.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

The University of Toronto provides reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious high holidays in addition to those already accommodated by scheduling and statutory holidays. Should any dates specified on the syllabus for an assignment, quiz, or examination pose a conflict for you, please contact the instructor within the first three weeks of class.

MISSED EVALUATIONS

If you miss any evaluations for medical reasons, a U of T Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (https://www.utoronto.ca/~registrar/current_students/petitions#VSII) must be submitted within 7 days of the missed test or assignment; completion of the form does not guarantee special consideration will be granted. Medical notes have to be submitted to Dr. Wong; Emailed or scanned documents will not be accepted.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Correspondence sent between peers and with the teaching team should be courteous in nature. Please do not disrespect those sitting around you in lecture by chatting with friends, playing video games, talking or texting on your phone, or checking your Facebook status during lectures or tutorials; students that are distracting others from learning will be removed from the classroom. Students are responsible for their own learning. Plan to come prepared for lecture so you can take effective notes, participate fully with your peers in tutorials, and complete lecture readings within 48 hrs of the lecture in preparation for the on-line quizzes and tutorial assignments.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Topics and readings may change throughout the term; please check Blackboard for changes

	Date	Lecture Topic	Quiz Topic	Tutorial Topic
Week 1	January 7	Chemistry of Life & Scientific Method		
Week 2	13		Chemistry of Life/Scientific Method	
	14	Cell structure & Scientific Method		
Week 3	20		Cell Structure/Scientific Method	
	21	Gene expression		
Week 4	27			Gene expression
	28	Tissues & Organs		
Week 5	February 3		Tissues and Organs	
	4	Chromosomes & cell division		
Week 6	10			Cell division
	11	Genes & Inheritance		
Week 7	Reading week	No classes		
Week 8	25	Midterm Exam *		
Week 9	March 2			Inheritance
	3	Codominance, sex linkage		
Week 10	9		Codominance, sex linkage	
	10	Reproduction/ Development		
Week 11	16			Reproduction
	17	Nervous system		
Week 12	23		Nervous system	
	24	Digestion/renal		
Week 13	30			Digestion
	31	Immunity		
Exam Period		Final Exam **		

*Midterm exam will be held during lecture time if possible.

**Final exam will be held during the April exam period. Do not plan for holidays until you know the final exam date.

January 7, 2016