

BIOC23H
Summer 2015
Practical Approaches to biochemistry
Course outline

Instructor:

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Communication

The best way to reach me is, to **drop by and see me**, or **come by during my office hours or at any other time**. If I am in my office the door please come in and I will answer your questions at any time. If the door is closed it usually means I am not in my office and likely in lecture, meetings or checking on the teaching labs. If you wish to see me at a specific time outside of the office hours then email me and request an appointment, I will do my best to accommodate you. Ideally I prefer to meet with you to answer your questions as we usually end of more clearly solving any issues you have. **I encourage you to ask questions during lecture**. If you have a question about the material, whether it be lecture or laboratory material I encourage you to talk to me during the laboratories as I will be around for much of the lab period or to visit me in my office. It is not feasible to give detailed answers to questions regarding material covered in the lecture or laboratory via email.

I have an open door policy and in addition I hold scheduled office hours and I encourage you to come and see me

I will answer emails predominately when I am on campus. I am on campus generally Monday through Friday between 9 and 6 pm. If you send me emails on the weekend I will respond no later than following Monday. **Please use a utoronto account for email (I will not answer emails from non-U OF T accounts) and please indicate the course in the subject heading.**

- General announcements and any material needed for the course will be posted on blackboard

Office hours:

- Tuesday 10 to 11 am and 2:15 to 3 pm.
- Wednesday 4 to 5 pm
- Thursday 1 to 2 pm
- Drop by or by appointment (email me and we can arrange an alternative time).
- If you like come as a group and ask questions as a group

The objective of this course is to provide the student with the practical experience in biochemical techniques that are used in industry, research and government laboratories. In addition we will provide the background necessary to understand and trouble shoot the techniques used as well as related techniques. Students will gain experience in data analysis and interpretation, with emphasis on scientific writing, oral presentation and critical thinking. Application of biochemical techniques to biological studies will be a major focus. You will be learning skills that are useful in the job market as well as skills that will be useful in graduate studies.

This is a laboratory course with a 2 hour lecture component. The emphasis is on the laboratory component, therefore work in the laboratory and laboratory based material on the midterm and final will **represent over 50% of your grade.**

Textbook:

Biochemistry laboratory Modern Theory and Techniques
Boyer R 2012 Publisher Pearson, available in bookstore

This book is an excellent resource for theory and provides many practice questions and I highly recommend you purchase this text. If you take any other advanced lab in molecular biology it will also be valuable.

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the *AccessAbility* Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and *AccessAbility* Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC *AccessAbility* Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.

Academic integrity/plagiarism (taken from code behaviour)

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

(source http://www.utoronto.ca/~vpdean/academic_integrity.html)

Good tutorial

<http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from myself as your instructor or from other institutional resources

For the laboratory:

Students require:

1. **lab coat** (no exceptions) and closed toed shoes. You will be asked to leave if you come with inappropriate attire and no lab coat: **this will also lead to a loss in associated marks**

2. safety glasses for most labs
3. a permanent black marker (Sanford :sharpie fine point)
4. a book for recording your work (your log book). This book can be hard or soft cover, or a binder.

Safety

1. **Eating, drinking and use of cell phones is prohibited in the laboratory**

Breaking this rule will lead to expulsion from the laboratory and loss of marks associated with the laboratory for which you have been asked to leave

2. **Please do not bring** coats, hats, etc. into the laboratory.
3. **You must Always wear a lab coat** (done up) in the laboratory with the sleeves rolled down and **closed shoes**
4. Wear gloves or safety glasses when instructed to do so.
5. Keep paper, pencils, fingers, etc. out of your mouth.
6. At the beginning and end of the laboratory, follow procedure 13
7. Discard chemical waste in appropriate containers
8. Discard bacterial culture material into autoclave bags and wipe benches with alcohol
9. Discard pipets point-down, in the upright plastic pipet holders. Make sure the pipet tips are covered with disinfectant.
10. Place all *test tubes* containing living cells in the designated racks/pans;
11. discard pipet tips in the appropriately marked container
12. **Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water** once or twice during the lab, at any time you come in contact with chemicals/live cells and **also just before leaving the laboratory.**
13. When leaving the lab, **Wash your hands** and REMOVE YOUR LAB COAT. DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES wear your lab coat in any public area.

Course schedule:

Lectures:

BIOC23 is a laboratory course. The material covered will relate to the laboratory techniques carried out throughout the course. It will include discussion of methodologies, theory behind the methodology and relevant applications for the particular techniques used. I will also cover the data obtained from the labs carried out. I will address specific aspects of the protocols in each lecture. Lecture gives you a chance to also ask questions regarding the theory behind the labs you will be conducting as well as how these techniques can be applied to various biological questions. Therefore come with questions. Lecture material will be posted by the day of the lecture.

Laboratories :

- **attendance in labs is mandatory.** If you miss a lab you must provide a **UTSC medical certificate or other acceptable reason cleared by Dr. Brunt** to be excused from the lab and to be able to hand in any assignments related to that lab. There is no possibility to makeup labs. **Each unexcused missed lab will result in a loss of 4% of your grade. If you miss more than 2 laboratories without proper documentation you will not be given credit for the lab component of the course. If you miss more than 4 labs even if they are excused absences you will be asked to leave the course as this is a laboratory based course.**
- Laboratories are posted on blackboard a week before the lab is scheduled to be carried out.

. **It is your responsibility** to come prepared each week to carry out your laboratory. To have completed **an introduction** to each lab (a paragraph) explaining the purpose and to have written out your own **flow chart** (this is what you should refer to when doing the lab). When carrying out experiments you must take complete notes. Therefore, as you do the experiment you will **“log it”**. This means writing down in detail what you did, what you observed, times of incubations. You will have **data analysis** (including standard curve construction) **summary / conclusion**, where you analyze the data, do any graphs etc that are required. To ensure you are prepared for the lab there will also be **quizzes** before certain lab topics which will test whether you have adequately prepared for the lab

- The use of a laboratory log book is protocol in any laboratory setting and work **learning how to properly document data and experiments is critical and therefore you will be rewarded with grades for doing this**
 - Equipment in the lab is expensive. You are responsible for your equipment. Accidents can happen but most “accidents” are avoidable with proper preparation and attention to the task at hand

Grade Breakdown

Midterm in class Thursday June 25, 2015

(multiple choice , short answer, short and long essay)

21%

- You must contact me within 48 Hours of missing the midterm and provide me with the UTSC medical certificate filled in by your doctor to be able to write midterm. The same medical certificate is required for missed labs

Final exam TBA in final exam period(multiple choice , short answer, short essay) (cumulative for laboratory material) 3 hrs

32%

Date of Quizzes (6 X 0.5%)

3%

Week 1 (differential centrifugation/ mitochondrial isolation (May 7, 2015)

week2 (ion exchange) (May 14, 2015)
 week 3: (gel permeation) (May 21, 2015)
 week 4-6: (IgG) (May 28, 2015)
 week 6-8 (GST/Western) (June 11, 2015)
 week 10 (alkaline phosphatase) (July 10, 2015)

One-minute writes/case studies/reflective writing in lab and lecture (occur randomly, summaries/data presentation in lab/concept maps

must complete a minimum of 80% in lecture and all assignments in lab for full credit)

lecture	4%
lab	4%

Lab performance: 10%

Preparation (intro and flow chart) 2.5%
 Laboratory log/ summary/data analysis and
 Technical performance 7.5%

Your book will be initialed each week and collected at the end. This is a cumulative process if you do not keep you book up to date this will be reflected in your grade. You may be asked to do small Pass/Fail assignments during class that may be used in the determination of you performance grade

Lab assignments: 26%

- 1. mitochondrial isolation: (3.5%)** (maximum 2 page double spaced not including figures, legends, tables, references)
- 2. formal report 1: IgG (8.5%)** (maximum 5 double spaced pages of text not including figures/figure legends/ reference page)
- 3. formal report 2: GST and western (9.5%)** (maximum 7 pages of double spaced pages of text not including figures/figure legends/ reference page)
- 4. Alkaline phosphatase, (4.5%)** will not require materials and methods requires brief introduction, graphs/with appropriate legends and data analysis (**maximum 1 pages double spaced** of text not including graphs, legends or references)

- the content required for each assignment will be explained during the appropriate lecture and laboratory class. It is also addressed at the end of each laboratory exercise that is posted.
- **Due dates:**
 - Mitochondrial isolation : May 14, 2015
 - formal report 1: IgG: July 2, 2015
 - formal report 2: GST and western July 23, 2015

- assignment: alkaline phosphatase July 30, 2015
- formal reports IgG and GST must be submitted electronically TO TURNITIN (SEE Below) as well as a paper copy with your name on each page and initialed
- If you wish to opt out of turn it in you must inform Dr. Brunt in writing and provide an electronic copy to Dr. Brunt

"Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site".

Lecture schedule

(I have given topic numbers rather than dates). Lectures relevant to the particular lab will occur either the week before or the week of the laboratory. Some topics will overlap multiple weeks

Topic 1: pH and buffers (will be posted, and you are responsible)

Topic 2: cell fractionation/protein isolation/ purification

Topic 3: chromatography

Topic 4: protein quantification and gel electrophoresis

Topic 5: Immunochemistry/ western analysis

Topic 6: enzyme kinetics

Topic 7: Mass spectrophotometry and information science : use in protein identification, related protein technologies

Topic 8 Use of isotopes in biochemical studies

Laboratory schedule for 2015

May 7, 2015: Week 1:

Experiment 1: differential centrifugation/ mitochondrial isolation, go over data before you leave the laboratory

May 14, 2015: week 2

Experiment 2: Ion exchange chromatography

In class reflective practice

Differential centrifugation assignment due

May 21: Week 3:

Finish experiment 2: thin layer chromatography

Experiment 3: gel permeation

In class reflective practice

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May 28: Week 4

Experiment 4 part 1: IgG: salting out via ammonium sulfate/dialysis

- write a figure legend for the thin layer chromatography per bench and do group critique and class discussion

June 4: Week 5:

Experiment 4 part 2: IgG: DEAE Sephadex and protein quantification

-finish protein quantification table and determine volume to load on the gel

June 11: Week 6:

Experiment 4 part 3: IgG: SDS gel electrophoresis and staining (picture posted by the following day).

Experiment 5 part 1: Purification of GST fusion proteins from *E.coli* (isolation and affinity chromatography)

Reading week June 18

June 25 : Week 7

Experiment 5 part 2: GST fusion protein: gel electrophoresis and Western transfer

Experiment 4: discussion of gel IgG data by each pair: present your gel figure and discuss, one-minute write to summarize the data, go through a example figure legend: do in pairs and critique

July 2: Week 8

Experiment 5 part 3: GST fusion protein: immunoblot with GST antibody/dark room, data returned via blackboard

IgG report due

July 9: Week 9

Experiment 5: group powerpoint presentation: full analysis of GST presented,

July 16: Week 10

Experiment 6: enzyme kinetics: alkaline phosphatase

July 23: Week 11

***Data analysis of enzyme kinetics, in class presentation of data
GST lab report due***

July 30 : Week 12

***No lab: Alkaline phosphatase assignment due along with your note books
at a time to be arranged with your TA today***