

BIOL 4471–110, CRN: 80363, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Fall 2021

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

Course Dates: August 23rd -December 10th, 2021

This course meets face-to-face, with supplemental materials made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

Lecture - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM, at Heritage Hall 315.

Laboratory - Thursdays from 11.15 AM – 2.15 PM, at Heritage Hall 315.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Chamindika Siriwardana

Office: 302G Heritage Hall

Phone: 254-519-8717

Email: c.siriwardana@tamuct.edu

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 10.00 AM – 12.00 noon, or by appointment.

Student-instructor interaction

Email: Important information about the class will be communicated via email. All students must have an active email account that is checked daily. I try to answer all emails the day I get it, but if you get no answer in 24hrs please resend it. Please write “BIOL 4471- (type your specific topic here)” in the subject line of the email. This tells me to prioritize your message because it is course related.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt-out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan. For the most recent campus information regarding COVID-19 see the Texas A&M University-Central Texas Fall 2021 Return to Campus Plan [<https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/>]

If at any point during this semester this course needs to meet online, we will use the synchronous online format (with all meetings recorded and available for students). The meetings will be held on WebEx on the course Canvas page.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description

Molecular Biology (BIOL-4471-110) is an undergraduate level, 4-credit course, offered by the Department of Science and Mathematics. It is a combined lecture and laboratory course.

In the course, students will study the core concepts of molecular biology with an emphasis on the central dogma of molecular biology, gene regulation, and biotechnology applications.

Prerequisite(s): BIOL 1470 and BIOL 4470.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

At the end of this course students will:

1. Have a clear understanding of the experimental methods used to elucidate the theories of molecular biology.
2. Understand the molecular/biochemical mechanisms of transcription in both prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the mechanisms that control translation.
4. Have a clear understanding of the mechanism of DNA replication.
5. Understand biochemical/ molecular basis of homologous recombination.
6. Be introduced to the rapidly growing fields of genomics and proteomics.

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

- a. Zlatanova J. and van Holde K. E. 2016. Molecular Biology: Structure and dynamics of genomes and proteomes. Garland Publishing. ISBN: 978-0815345046
- b. Carson S. Miller H. and Witherow S. 2012. Molecular Biology Techniques: A classroom Laboratory Manual, 3rd edition. Academic Press. ISBN: 978-0123855442

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements:

| Assignment/ Assessment Type | Percentage | Assignment/Assessment | Points | SLOs |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------|------|
| Exams | 65% | In-class Exam 1 | 15 | 1-2 |
| | | In-class Exam 2 | 15 | 2-4 |
| | | In-class Exam 3 | 15 | 2-7 |
| | | Final Comprehensive Exam | 20 | 1-7 |
| Participation | 10% | Midterm Presentation | 10 | 1, 6 |
| Laboratory | 25% | Lab Reports (5 X 5 points) | 25 | 1-7 |
| Course Total | 100% | | 100 | |

Exams:

There will be three non-cumulative lecture exams and one cumulative final exam. The three non-cumulative exams will be administered during the normal lecture time. The cumulative final exam will be administered in the lecture classroom during finals week.

Midterm Presentations:

Each student will make a 10 - 15-minute presentation. You will select and present a paper of your choice from a high-ranking Molecular Biology journal. You will have to submit your paper two weeks in advance and must be preapproved.

Lab Reports:

At the end of each lab, you will write a lab report based on your independent project. Instructions about the lab reports are posted on Canvas. You will upload the lab report to Canvas. You will have a total of five lab reports during the semester. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and any instances of plagiarism will result in action against the offending student(s).

Extra Credit:

Extra credit is an optional assignment. The maximum extra credit you can earn is 3% of your total grade. Note that your total grade cannot exceed 100 points, therefore if you have a perfect 100 points score, the 3% extra credit will not be applied. The extra credit option will be posted on the Canvas homepage and students will submit the assignments on Canvas on or the last day of class.

Writing in the Biological Sciences Tutorials:

The writing in biological sciences tutorials are posted on the Canvas home page. These tutorials are uniform across the Department of Biology at TAMUCT. Please refer to these tutorials for writing assignments such as the lab reports and extra credit.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

A 4.00 (90 +) Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B 3.00 (80-89%) Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C 2.00 (70-79%) Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.

D 1.00 (60-69%) Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully course requirements.

F 0.00 (less than 60%) Represents failure and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an "I" (incomplete).

I (Incomplete) The "I" shall be assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, the student was prevented from completing the work of the course on time. The assignment of an "I" requires a written agreement between the instructor and student specifying the time and manner in which the student will complete the course requirements. In no event may any such written agreement allow a period of longer than one year to complete the course requirements. For graduate and professional students, an "I" is to remain on the transcript until changed by the instructor or department. For all other students, work to make up an I must be submitted within one year of the last day of final examinations of the term in which the "I" was given; if not submitted by that time, then the "I" will automatically change to an F. To obtain an incomplete you must have been doing passing work in the course

Posting of Grades

All grades will be posted on the Canvas grade book within one week of the due date for the exam/assignment.

Grading Policies

Read these carefully as I am strict with my policies.

Grading Policy and Point Breakdown: Grades in this course will be criteria-based on a number of activities including exams and projects. This means that grades will not be curved and anyone achieving a 90% or above will receive an A in this course.

Grade Dispute Policy: Grading disputes must be put in writing (with justification such as supporting statements from the text or another credible source) and given to me no earlier than 24 hours after the assignment has been returned. I will consider your request carefully but reserve the right to adjust your grade up or down.

Assignments: These will be varied in nature, but will consist of activities that cause the students to reflect upon the state of knowledge of the topic of the week, how that topic is perceived in the media, and/or analysis of specific research projects relevant to the subject. All assignments are to be turned in, on time (i.e. at class time on due date), to the Canvas website. I will not

accept e-mailed assignments of any kind.

Late Assignments: I expect all assignments to be turned in on time. Late assignments interfere with my ability to provide timely, detailed feedback, as well as with your ability to learn and process new material. Accordingly, any unauthorized late assignment will receive a 5% reduction in grade for each day it is late. No assignments will be accepted after it has been graded and returned.

Exams/Quizzes: The exams/quizzes will be a mixture of matching, multiple-choice and short answers, designed to provoke reflection, critical thought, and application of knowledge. You will receive a list of several samples or real exam questions ahead of time. You are encouraged to prepare for the exam by reviewing reading materials, outlining a draft of a response, and discussing these thoughts with your peers. You will then demonstrate your individual, integrated thoughts on the topic in a closed-book exam during the class period.

Missed exams: If you know you will miss an exam, please contact me BEFORE the exam. I will gladly give make-up exams if the student has an unavoidable reason for missing the exam (i.e. death in the family, severe illness). Keep in mind that I will expect documentation of your reason for missing the exam (e.g. doctor's note, obituary notice). Exams must be made up within a week of the originally scheduled date, with no exceptions regardless of excuse.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

| Week | Lecture Topic | Reading | Laboratory Topic |
|------------------|--|------------------|--|
| 1 (8/24-8/26) | Introduction to the course Review – Classical Genetics | Ch 2 | Safety Training, Introduction to Molecular Biology Lab Equipment (BSA Serial Dilutions). |
| 2 (8/31-9/2) | Molecular Genetics | Ch 2 | Experiment 1: Recombinant DNA Technology - Purification & Digestion of Plasmid DNA. |
| 3 (9/7-9/9) | Chemical Structure of Nucleic Acids & Proteins | Ch 3, 4, 8 | Experiment 1 cont. - PCR Amplification of egfp from pEGFP-N1 & Visualization. |
| 4 (9/14-9/16) | Central Dogma of Molecular Biology Exam 1 (9/23) | Ch 9, 10, 11, 12 | Experiment 1 cont. – Preparation of insert DNA (egfp)/PCR product. |
| 5 (9/21-9/23) | Transcription | | Experiment 1 cont. - DNA Ligation/ Lab Report 1a due |
| 6 (9/28-9/30) | Translation | Ch 16, 17, 18 | Experiment 1 cont. - Transformation of E. coli with Recombinant DNA. |
| 7 (10/5-10/07) | Translation Gene Regulation | | Experiment 1 cont. - Blue/White Colony Selection. |
| 8 (10/12-10/14) | Gene Regulation | | Experiment 2: Protein Extraction & Visualization - Protein Extraction/ Lab Report 1b due |
| 9 (10/19-10/21) | Exam 2 (10/19) DNA Replication | Ch 19, 20 | Experiment 2 cont. - Protein Gel & Transfer & Protein Gel Visualization. |
| 10 (10/26-10/28) | DNA Replication cont. Mutations, DNA Repair & Cancer | Ch 22 | Experiment 2 cont. - Development of Western blot & Visualization. |
| 11 (11/02-11/04) | Mutations, DNA Repair & Cancer | | Experiment 3: Protein Purification using a Glutathione Affinity Column - Protein Purification & Quantification by Florescence)/ Lab Report 2 due |
| 12 (11/09) | Exam 3 (11/9) | | No Lab (Veteran's Day) |
| 13 (11/16-11/18) | Recombinant DNA technology | Ch 5 | Experiment 4: Quantitative Real-Time PCR - DNA extraction & Quantification/ Lab Report 3 due |
| 14 (11/23) | Student Presentations | | No Lab (Thanksgiving) |
| 15 (11/30-12/02) | Methods in Molecular Biology | | Experiment 4 cont. - Quantitative Real-Time PCR |
| 12/7 | Final Exam/ Lab Report 4 due | | |

Important University Dates

Link to the current academic calendar: <https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),
[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)
[https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University—Central Texas (A&M—Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M—Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students’ ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students’ texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can

email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>].

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](#)

[<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

OTHER POLICIES

SCIENCE POLICIES

Lecture courses

Exams:

1. There will be no bathroom breaks allowed during any exam. Be sure that you address this issue before beginning an exam.
2. Any student needing to take an exam at a different time as rest of students due to sickness or other accommodations will receive a different version of exam. This includes sickness, special accommodations, etc...
3. All students needing special accommodations must submit an accommodation form from the Office of Access and Inclusion listing the specific accommodations needed. Students are responsible for scheduling their own exam times with the TAMUCT Testing Center.
4. Any student missing an exam in class for any other reason (i.e. illness, death in family, etc...) must provide documentation for missing the exam (e.g. doctor's note, obituary notice, etc...). Exams must be made up within one week of original scheduled date, no exceptions.
5. All backpacks and materials as well as cell phones, smart watches and other electronic devices, must be turned off and placed at the front of the room on test day.
6. Jackets, sweaters, etc must be placed in the front of the room on test day, unless otherwise indicated by teacher.

Laboratory courses

Attendance policy:

1. A maximum of 3 absences will be allowed; additional absences in lab will result in an “F” for the entire course, regardless of excuse. In extreme circumstances, discuss with instructor BEFORE you reach 3 absences.

Laboratory Safety training

1. All students are required to take the mandatory Laboratory Safety Training Module - found on in your Modules tab in CANVAS. You must take the training and bring the signed "Safety Agreement Form" to your instructor before you are allowed in lab!!! This is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY - any lab absences because you have not taken the training will be considered unexcused!

Laboratory Coats

1. Students are required to purchase a laboratory coat from the TAMUCT Hanik Bookstore in Founder’s Hall. Students must keep their laboratory coat in the laboratory room (you will be provided a storage bag); you cannot transport coats from lab to lab or bring outside the laboratory.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.

What I expect of you. To get the most out of this class, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner, which includes contributing to class discussions, being punctual, and notifying me of absences in advance.

Class Attendance. I expect that you attend each class session and arrive on time. If an unavoidable situation arises that prevents you from attending class, I expect that you also promptly contact me to discuss the missed material and get the notes from a classmate. I will not distribute my notes to students as they are often abbreviated and do not contain the detail needed to sufficiently understand the material.

What you can expect of me. You can expect me to start and end class on time, be available through office hours, e-mail, and by appointment, be responsive to student suggestions for course improvement, answer questions to the fullest extent possible and/or direct you to appropriate resources, return graded assignments and exams within a reasonable time frame, and treat you with respect as future colleagues.

Discussion. The topics in this class encompass a diversity of issues that merit in-depth thought and discussion. Since individuals will be expressing their opinions, I expect that will you respect others’ contributions, as you would want them to do for you.

Credits and Workload expectations. For undergraduate courses, one credit is defined as equivalent to an average of two hours of learning effort per week (over a full semester) necessary for an average student to receive an average grade for the course. A student taking a

four-credit class that meets for four hours a week should expect to spend an additional eight hours a week outside the classroom to earn an average grade.

Class Structure. Classes will involve a balance of active lectures and engaging learning activities. I believe that students learn the theories and concepts much better when they have an active role. I know that this may be new to some of you, but please keep an open mind and I know that you will get more out of this class because of it.

Copyright Notice

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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Grading rubric for mid-term research paper presentation

| Category | Exceeds expectations | Meet expectations | Below expectations | Does not meet expectations | Score |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|-------|
| Title Slide | All the following are included; (1) Title, (2) author(s), (3) your name, (4) name of the class. | All the following are included; (1) Title, (2) author(s), (3) your name, (4) name of the class. | Only two to three of the four components are included. | Less than two components are included, or no title slide is provided. | 5 |
| Introduction | (1) Appropriate background information to introduce the larger problem. (2) Cites relevant past publications. | Appropriate background information from the paper presented. Does not cite other relevant publications. | Background information is provided; however, it is inadequate for the listener to follow the presentation. | The background information provided does not correlate with the presentation. | 25 |
| Data Presentation | (1) Each slide presents one piece of data/ information from the paper. (2) Each graph, and table is carefully explained in detail in a sensible order. | (1) Each slide presents one piece of data/ information from the paper. (2) Each graph, and table is carefully explained. | (1) There are multiple pieces of data/ information in one slide (2) Graphs and tables are explained inadequately (no mention of x and Y axis etc.) | (1) there are multiple pieces of data/ information in one slide (2) Graphs and tables are not explained. | 25 |
| Overall Conclusions | Reinforce what the listeners have already heard logically. Do not exceed 1-2 slides. | Reinforce what the listeners have already heard. | The conclusion does not succinctly address the research paper that was discussed. | The conclusion does not correlate with the presentation. | 10 |
| Future Directions and Finality | Clearly defines future directions both (1) from the paper and (2) your thoughts. When the talk is over lets the audience know. | Clearly defines future directions from the paper. | Future directions are not clearly defined. | No future directions are provided. | 5 |
| Preparation and overall style | (1) knows the material, (2) prepared thoughts for each slide, (3) The talk flows with clear segues between slides (4) Speak clearly with your body, voice, and eyes directed towards your audience, (5) slides are attractive and easy to read, (6) Overall confident and assertive speaking style, (7) Timing is \pm 2 minutes of allocated time. | (1) Knows the material, (2) prepared thoughts for each slide, (3) The talk flows, however, some segues between slides are not clear (4) Speak clearly with your body, voice, and eyes directed towards your audience, (5) slides are attractive and easy to read, (6) Overall confident and assertive speaking style, (7) Timing is \pm 4 minutes of allocated time. | (1) Some knowledge of the material, (2) The talk flow, and segues between slides are not clear (3) Speaks clearly, however, only some eye contact is maintained. (4) slides are not very clear, (5) Somewhat confident and assertive speaking style, (7) Timing is \pm 5 minutes of allocated time. | (1) inadequate knowledge of the material, (2) The talk does not flow, and segues between slides are lacking (4) Does not speak clearly and eye contact is not maintained. (5) slides are not very clear, (6) Lacks a confident and assertive speaking style, (7) Timing is more than \pm 5 minutes of allocated time. | 30 |
| Total | | | | | 100 |

Grading rubric for Laboratory Reports

| Category | Exceeds expectations | Meet expectations | Below expectations | Does not meet expectations | Score |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|-------|
| Title & Date | Includes descriptive title and date | Includes descriptive title and date | Non-descriptive title and date | (1) Non-descriptive title. (2) The title and/or date are not included. | 5 |
| Purpose of Experiment | Clearly and concisely states the purpose of the experiment. Engaging and thought-provoking. | Clearly and concisely states the purpose of the experiment. | States the purpose of the experiment. | Incomplete statements or confusing. | 25 |
| Methods | The methods are written in such a way that, an independent researcher can read the methods and perform the experiment. | All methods are clearly written. | The methods are written in a way that an independent researcher will have difficulty in performing the experiment. | The methods are written in a way that an independent researcher will not be able to perform the experiment. | 25 |
| Results | (1) Tables/figures numbered consecutively in separate series. (2) Title is complete enough to be understood without referring to the text. (3) Legend, headings, and units of measure are included. (4) Footnotes used as necessary to provide clarity concerning: units of measure that do not fit in the heading, explanations of abbreviations and symbols, the statistical significance of entries. | Tables/figures numbered consecutively in separate series Title is complete. Legend, headings, and units of measure are included. Footnotes are used to provide clarity. | Tables/figures numbered, but not sequentially. The title is incomplete. Legend, headings, and units of measure are not fully included. Footnotes used but do not provide enough clarity | Tables/figures not numbered. No title. Legend, headings, and units of measure are not included. Footnotes are not used but are needed. | 10 |
| Discussion and Conclusion | In-depth discussion & elaboration in all sections of the paper. The conclusion is engaging and restates the thesis. Relates topic to 'real-world applications. | In-depth discussion & elaboration in most sections of the paper. The conclusion restates the thesis. | Omission of pertinent content or content runs on excessively. Quotations from others outweigh the writer's ideas. The conclusion does not adequately restate the thesis. | Cursory discussion in all the sections of the paper or brief discussion in only a few sections. An incomplete statement or confusing. | 5 |
| References | (1)A uniform standard format (e.g. CSE format). (2) More than three references. | (1)A uniform standard format (e.g. CSE format). (2) Three references. | Two references. | One or no references. | 30 |
| Total | | | | | 100 |

BIOL 4471 – Molecular Biology

Syllabus Contract

Directions:

- First, read the syllabus.
- Second, read the statement below to confirm your reading and understanding of the contents of the syllabus.
- Third, confirm by printing the document and providing your signature and date of completion in the space provided below.
- Last, submit/email this contract to me. Note that your grade for the first assignment will not be calculated until this contract is received.

I have received a copy of the syllabus. I have read and understood the policies of this course as stated in the syllabus.

Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____