

BB 350: General Biochemistry Syllabus

It will pay you to read this document. One question on the first exam generally comes straight from the syllabus.

CLASS MEETING TIMES - MTWF 4:00-4:50

INSTRUCTOR INFO - **Dr. Kevin Ahern**

Office – ALS 2145

Office Hours – Anytime I am in my office you are welcome to come to see me. You do not need an appointment, but I will gladly make one if you wish. See my calendar at

<http://www.davincipress.com/aherncalendar.html>

Contact: ahernk@onid.orst.edu or phone 541-737-2305

COURSE PREREQUISITE - CH 332 (from OSU) or equivalent

LEARNING RESOURCES

1. Textbook: Biochemistry Free and Easy, 3rd edition by Kevin Ahern and Indira Rajagopal - <http://biochem.science.oregonstate.edu/biochemistry-free-and-easy>
2. Instructor summaries and additional informational items will be available through the Schedule page URL below.
3. PowerPoint images are available through the class Blackboard site
4. Individual meetings with the instructor are encouraged.

WEB MATERIALS - The class Web page can be found at <http://oregonstate.edu/instruction/bb350/>.

Due to the need to ensure that the class is presented with material at a rate that is best suited to learning, the schedule may fluctuate slightly through the term.

EXAMINATION INFO (I)

Exam dates/times are shown on the class Schedule page. All exams will be given in the regular classroom. Exams 1-3 will be at the regular class time. The final exam time and date is noted on the Schedule page.

EXAM POLICIES - There will be four exams given in this course. The final will be comprehensive. Preparing makeup exams requires a significant effort on the part of the instructor. Excused absences will not be given for airline reservations, routine illness (colds, flu, stomach aches), or other common ailments with a doctor's note. Excused absences will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances. Students sometimes have confusion about the class exam policy. So that there is no confusion, it is as follows:

In the event of a pre-arrangement with the instructor due to unusual circumstances, a makeup exam MAY be given. Students wonder what constitutes unusual circumstances. We will take that on a case by case basis, but the following situations are NOT grounds for missing an exam:

1. You misread the date of the exam on the syllabus or wrote the wrong date down.
2. You went to the wrong room.

Students with airline tickets sometimes want an excused absence. This too will not be given routinely. Just as you would not want your instructor taking a week off during the term, so too I do not want you disappearing when I'm giving an exam. I recognize, however, that there are circumstances where a trip is sometimes necessary. If that is the case with you, you must report it at the beginning of the term and I will decide if the reason justifies other arrangements. No promises are made, however.

I recognize that errors are occasionally made in grading of examinations. It is the responsibility of each student to check that their exam has been properly graded. Regrades of exams will be performed when there is an error and the student requests it. All requests for regrading must be made within 3 weekdays of the day the exam is returned to the class as a whole. After that period of time, grades will be fixed and will not be changed. Requests for regrading after that time will be automatically denied.

GRADING - Course Points Distribution - Exam 1 (20%), Exam 2 (20%), Exam 3 (20%) Final Exam

(40%). When class attendance is lower than normal (especially on sunny spring days), extra credit quizzes will be given. These will change the percentages above. Extra credit/pop quizzes CANNOT be made up. There is no extra credit possible beyond the occasional questions asked on exams and therefore I do not (and in fact cannot) take improvement during the term into consideration in assigning grades. No fixed grading scale will be used to assign letter grades and no fixed numbers of letter grades are set. Since there is no fixed grading scale (90/80/70/60, for example) grades are therefore "curved," since this is the definition of what "curved" means. Grades will be assigned on groupings as determined by the instructor at the conclusion of the course. Undergraduates will be evaluated and graded separately from graduate students.

If your grade is low and you wonder how to improve it, the answer is to improve your performance against the average compared to what you did previously. Because grades are assigned on a "curve," there is no way for me to tell you "how many points" you need to get a desired grade. This is only possible for grading schemes that use fixed percentages – 90% = A, 80% = B, etc.

It is the responsibility of each student to check that their exam has been properly graded. To request a regrade, a student must write an explanation clearly explaining the error that occurred in the grading of the exam. This written request must be stapled to the original exam and submitted to the instructor within 3 weekdays after the examination is returned to the class. Failure to follow these instructions will result in automatic denial of the request. Frivolous requests involving "fishing for points" (for example – asking me to regrade simply to award you more points without a valid reason) will result in loss of points.

Letter grades at the end of the term are posted in the OSU student account that all students (even e-campus students) have. I don't know how to access student accounts. Questions about how to find your grade should be addressed to e-campus.

Students who ask questions about grading that are answered above or who ask questions about answers to exam questions without consulting the exam key will lose points.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

I am frequently asked to write letters of reference for students from the class. I am happy to do so if I know you and you made a good grade in the class. I have a policy for writing letters that is explained more fully at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/biochem/hhmi/ahernletters.html>

COURSE POLICIES - Please note the date and time of the class exams. Attendance of lectures is important for success. The instructor will, on occasion, give extra credit to students attending the lecture. This is most often done on days when attendance is lowest and these most often occur when the weather is beautiful outside. If it's nice outside, you may want to be sure to attend class. Extra credits given in this way will change the grading distribution of the course and cannot be made up. Reading and studying the assigned material before the lecture date is essential for success. Waiting to the last minute to study or prepare is a prescription for disaster.

I expect students will meet all deadlines as appropriate for withdrawing from the class, should that be necessary. I do not routinely approve petitions to make changes after deadlines have passed, except in extraordinary circumstances. The deadline for dropping classes (no grade) during the academic year (fall, winter, spring terms) is the second week of class. The deadline for withdrawing from a class (grade of W) is the seventh week during the academic year. Summer deadlines are different and students are responsible for confirming such deadlines with the OSU Registrar.

LEARNER EXPECTATIONS -

1. Advance preparations, including reading notes before lectures are given.
2. Avoid last minute studying
3. Questions to answer concepts/processes that the student does not understand BEFORE it is too late.
4. Recognition that an understanding of a complex topic like biochemistry requires considerable

background prior to the class, a considerable amount of information to be acquired in the class, and sufficient time and effort to put these together to master the material.

LEARNER OUTCOMES - The intention of the course is for students to:

1. Acquire the technical language used to communicate biochemistry information
2. Gain familiarity with basic biochemistry principles, including metabolic pathways, molecule names, molecular structures (where noted), enzymes, control mechanisms, and terms used to describe categories of molecules
3. Perform analyses and basic calculations relating to solutions, energy, and catalysis and gain understanding of how they relate nutritional and physically to the human body
4. Communicate (through writing) key concepts of biochemistry
5. Understand and apply elementary concepts of biochemistry to relevant, specific problems.

GENERAL OSU AND DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES - Please note: "Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term. In order to arrange alternative testing, the student should make the request at least one week in advance of the test. Students seeking accommodations should be registered with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. Students whose celebration of religious holidays conflicts with class responsibilities must notify the instructor of the course in the first week of the course to see if alternative arrangements can be made.

" The Department of Biochemistry/Biophysics follows the university policies on student conduct. These can be found at <http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/regs.htm>. Cheating or plagiarism by students is subject to the disciplinary process outlined in the Student Conduct Regulations. Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:

- * cheating- use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids
- * fabrication- falsification or invention of any information
- * assisting- helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty
- * tampering- altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents
- * plagiarism- representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own

Behaviors disruptive to the learning environment will not be tolerated and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

The goal of Oregon State University is to provide students with the knowledge, skill and wisdom they need to contribute to society. Our rules are formulated to guarantee each student's freedom to learn and to protect the fundamental rights of others. People must treat each other with dignity and respect in order for scholarship to thrive. Behaviors that are disruptive to teaching and learning will not be tolerated, and will be referred to the Student Conduct Program for disciplinary action. Behaviors that create a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment based on gender, race, ethnicity, color, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation will be referred to the Affirmative Action Office.

"Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities: Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098."