

Buffalo State College
Department of Biology

Biology 305/616
Molecular Biology

Fall 2007
Dr. Wadsworth

Course Policies

Lectures	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1:00 -1:50pm. Thursday 1:40 - 4:20pm SC 369 (Lecture room) and SC368 (Laboratory)
Instructor	Dr. Gregory Wadsworth (SC362) Office Phone 878-5215 e-mail: wadswogj@buffalostate.edu Internet: faculty.buffalostate.edu/wadswogj/
Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday 11:00am or by appointment
Required Texts:	Robert F. Weaver (2008) <i>Molecular Biology</i> , 4th ed. McGraw Hill, New York.
Course Description:	Composition Notebook to use as a Laboratory Notebook This course is an in-depth inquiry into eukaryotic gene function at the molecular level. It will emphasize the mechanisms of gene expression, modes of gene regulation, the structure and evolution of the genome and the role of gene expression in controlling morphogenesis of plants and animals.
Course Format	Monday, Wednesday and Friday sessions will be devoted to discussions of the above topics. Reading assignments from the textbook will be supplemented with handouts. Students are responsible for keeping current on the reading assignments and for being prepared for class. Three exams focusing on lecture material will be given during the course of the semester. Each of these exams accounts for 25% of final grade.
Laboratory Format:	Thursday will be devoted to laboratory exercises. The laboratory sessions will be organized around a semester-long project to quantify levels of specific mRNA's in <i>Caenorhabditis elegans</i> . The laboratory grade will be based on successful completion of experiments (30 %), interim reports during the semester (20 %), laboratory notebook (20 %), and a final written report (30 %). This laboratory grade will account for 25% of final grade
Attendance:	Students are required to attend every lecture. Two points will be subtracted from final grade for each unexcused absence from lectures. Students are also required to participate in each of the laboratory sessions as scheduled. Failure to participate in a laboratory session will result in a 5 % reduction in the laboratory grade.
Academic Misconduct:	All students at Buffalo State College are expected to display honesty and integrity in completing course requirements. "Academic misconduct" refers to plagiarism or cheating on examinations or assignments, and it is inconsistent with the aims and goals of Buffalo State. Specifically, students may neither use the work of another individual without proper acknowledgment nor perform work for another individual. Other examples of inappropriate academic conduct include prior acquisition or possession of an examination or submission of false data. As a result of a sustained allegation of academic misconduct, a low or failing grade for part or all of the coursework may be given to the student, at the discretion of the instructor. No penalty for an alleged instance of academic misconduct may be imposed unless the student has been apprised of the allegation, the penalty, and the procedures of due process that are available. Cases of

severe infractions of acceptable standards may be brought before the Academic Misconduct Board, chaired by the director of academic standards, and may result in academic dismissal.

Disabilities:

Any student who requires accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability is invited to make his or her needs known to the instructor and/or to Marianne Savino, coordinator of services for students with disabilities, South Wing 130, ext. 4500.

Laboratory Safety

Guidelines for safe laboratory practices in BIO305 are outlined below. These rules should be followed whenever students are in SC368. In addition to these general rules, each exercise will have special guidelines specific to that session. Failure to follow these guidelines will be considered a safety hazard and the student may be barred for the laboratory. Student absences from the laboratory due to failure to follow guidelines will be treated as unexcused absences.

1. Some form of eye protection will be required at all times. UV safe safety glasses with side shields are preferred.
2. Appropriate clothing will be required at all times. All students must wear knee length lab coats when in the SC368. It is also recommended that students wear clothing which covers the legs and feet.
3. Eating, drinking and smoking are strictly prohibited in the lab
4. Neatness counts. Lab benches should be cleaned at the beginning and end of each lab period. Working spaces should be clear and orderly. Extra books or winter clothing should be stored in the back of the lab.
5. Students must be familiar with the physical properties of all chemicals used in the laboratory. This includes their flammability, reactivity, toxicity, and proper disposal. Laboratory practices should be consistent with the potential hazard posed by the chemicals. Mouth pipeting is always prohibited.
6. Students should be familiar with the location and use of safety equipment, particularly eyewashes, safety showers, and fire extinguishers. Any spill, accident or injury should be reported immediately to the instructor.

Final Grade:

A final grade will be based on the mean of the three exams and the laboratory grade. The letter grade will be determined using the standard college grading scale.