

115:201
Contemporary Issues in Biochemistry
Spring 2017

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Office Hours by appointment.

Course Overview

This course is designed to familiarize students with current topics and methodologies in biochemistry research, and to introduce students to the areas of expertise of department faculty.

Specific Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to (among other things):

1. identify each step of the research process, from forming hypotheses all the way through to dissemination of information
2. critically evaluate peer-reviewed literature
3. identify ethical considerations regarding academic integrity
4. evaluate, analyze and visualize data
5. identify current topics and directions of biochemistry research and applications
6. research a specific topic in biochemistry and communicate the important issues regarding this topic to others with limited background

Course Policies

Email

When you email me, it is important that you put 115:201 in the subject line in order to ensure that your email will be read.

Grading

Attendance and participation: 20%

Quizzes: 30%

Dilution Problems: 10%

Written Assignments: 20%

Presentation and summary / assessment: 20%

Final grades:

- ≥90: A
- 87-89: B+
- 80-86: B
- 77-79: C+
- 70-76: C
- 60-70: D
- <60: F

Academic Integrity

All members of the Rutgers community are expected to adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy which can be found [here](#). Rutgers policy requires me to report any suspected violation of this policy to the office of student conduct using a form found on their website <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/>. What happens after that depends on a number of factors, including the severity of the violation and whether or not is considered a first offense. [Here](#) is some more information on that. One of the most common offenses is plagiarism, either from an outside reference or from another student's work. Although you are encouraged to discuss the data and exercises with each other, the work you submit must be your own. This includes any graphs of your data. I will be using the turnitin function on Sakai to manage your homework submissions this semester.

Students with Differing Abilities

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Details about individual assignments

Attendance and participation (20%)

This is self-explanatory.

Quizzes (30%)

Research Papers and Academic Integrity
Biostatistics and Data Visualization
Model Systems

Dilution, Solutions, Molarity Worksheet (10%)

This will be distributed early in the semester.

Written Assignments (20%)

Two writing assignments will be due before the end of the semester. Choose two of the specific topics presented by our department faculty or their representative. Your assignment is to write a short document that includes:

- a. a summary of the material presented
- b. an explanation of how the topic fits into the biochemistry "big picture"
- c. explanations of two reasons / ideas / etc. that make this topic of particular interest to you

Presentation and summary / assessment (20%)

You will be assigned one of the course topics and will put together a presentation for the class. Part of this assignment will be for you to write up the information you presented and to provide an honest assessment of your efforts. Specific details will be provided on Canvas.