CELL BIOLOGY

Course Description: A study of cellular structures and processes to explore strategies for cellular and organismal function. Emphasis will be placed on the biology and chemistry of basic cellular mechanisms. Topics include biomolecules, cellular architecture, gene regulation, catabolism, protein structure and function, membrane structure and function, transport, enzymes, cellular trafficking, cytoskeleton, cell communication/signal transduction, regulation of cell proliferation and cancer. Laboratory will emphasize basic techniques common to the overlapping fields of cell biology, biochemistry, and molecular biology. Hot topics include SiRNA, genomics, and regulation of chromatin structure. Critical thinking and analytical skills are practiced.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Knowledge: Students should be able to:
1. List the major macromolecules found in the cell and the monomers from which these polymers are constructed.
2. Understand the properties of each class of macromolecule and the roles that each plays in various cellular functions.
3. Understand the properties of water and the roles it plays in all cellular processes, eg. protein folding.
4. Describe the structure and differentiate the functions of the major parts of the cell, including:
   - cell (plasma) membrane
   - nucleus
   - chromosomes
   - nucleolus
   - mitochondria
   - chloroplasts
   - endosomes
   - lysosomes
   - endoplasmic reticulum
   - peroxisomes
   - ribosomes
   - golgi complex
   - cytoskeleton
   - Clathrin-coated vesicles
   - extracellular matrix
5. Describe the structure and properties of biological membranes.
6. Distinguish various kinds of transport across biological membranes.
7. Explain the roles of ATP and NADH (NADPH) in cellular activity and metabolism.
8. Describe how electron transport is linked to ATP generation.
9. Describe how proteins and lipids localize within cells
10. Understand information flow embodied by the Central Dogma, and how this can be used to study and manipulate gene expression.
11. Appreciate various cellular processes in terms of the energetics of the molecules involved.
12. List components of the cytoskeleton and describe how they maintain or modify cell structure.
14. Explain what siRNA is and its role in gene regulation.
15. Understand the approach and products of “genomics” or other “Systems Biology” approaches.
16. Describe examples of chemical signaling mechanisms in cells and organisms.
17. Describe regulation and control of the cell cycle.
18. Describe alterations to cell function which accompany cancer.

**Skills:** Students should be able to:
1. Formulate an hypothesis from available information and devise means for testing this hypothesis experimentally.
2. Propose practical experimental procedures to:
   a. fractionate, label or visualize specific cellular compartments or components.
   b. identify, quantify, and characterize protein and nucleic acid.
   c. determine DNA sequences and their polymorphisms.
3. Use the following equipment in a safe and professional manner:
   a. high power light and phase-contrast microscopes, including oil immersion lens.
   b. centrifuge
   c. spectrophotometers
g. standard laboratory glassware.
4. Take necessary safety precautions when dealing with electricity, hazardous chemicals, flammable solvents, acids or alkalies.
5. Graph and interpret the results of cell biology experiments.
6. Communicate experimental procedures, results and outcomes in a professional manner.
7. Perform basic laboratory mathematics including concentration and dilution calculations.

**Major Course Requirements**

**Tentative Evaluation:** Your final grade will be based on the percentage you earn out of the total possible points, weighted as specified below. Individual extra credit is not possible, but bonus points may be built into exams or other assignments. Statistical manipulations, if used (at the Instructor’s discretion), will be performed only once, at the end of the semester. A 10-point grading scale will be used:

A = 90 - 100 %
B = 80 - 89.9 %
C = 70 - 79.9 %
D = 60 - 69.9 %
F = 0 - 59.9 %

**Components of Course Grade (Tentative)**

I. Lecture (75 %)
   3 Exams @ 100 pts = 300
   Final Exam = 100
   Quizzes; Other Assignments = 100

II. Laboratory (25 %)
   Lab Reports/Assignments = 150
   Lab Quizzes = 100
The time schedule may require adjustment. Should this be the case, the assignments and weighting may change slightly. Additional assignments may or may not be provided at the Instructor's discretion. Such assignments might include homeworks, group projects, reading assignments, quizzes, seminar attendance, etc. **Regardless of any such changes, the lecture and laboratory weighting of your grade shall remain at 75 % and 25 %, respectively.** For example, if you make 90 % of total points available for the lecture and 80 % of total points available for the laboratory portion, then your grade would be calculated as:

\[(0.9 \times 75) + (0.8 \times 25) = (67.5) + (20) = 87.5/100 \text{ possible} = B\]

*An assignment will likely be due during the last week of class.*

Every attempt will be made to follow the time and evaluation schedules shown here. It is the student’s duty to 
attend each class session, read messages from the Listserv and to be aware of all assignments, deadlines, changes.

**Exams** will be a mixture of multiple choice, matching, fill-in the blank, short answer, labeling, calculations and essay questions. Some will require analysis and interpretation of data or experimental design to assess critical thinking skills. Some questions will be derived from laboratory activities. The **Final Exam (Wednesday, Dec. 10 from 8:00 - 10:30 AM)** will contain new material from the end of the semester.

**Quizzes** may be given at any time in class. There will be no makeups. **Homeworks and other assignments** may be given in class. The other assignments may include data interpretation, experimental design, calculations, opinion papers, research article summaries, etc. They will generally be due at the start of lecture class the following week. You are encouraged to get together and work on them as a group. However, unless specified otherwise, the assignments must be turned in individually and be written in your own words, **NOT COPIED.** An assignment grade of ZERO will be given if the work is not in your own words.

**Required Readings**


**Text-Associated Website with student resources:** [www.garlandscience.com/ECB4-students](http://www.garlandscience.com/ECB4-students)

**Laboratory handouts will be made available on BlackBoard.** A class announcement will generally be made when these are posted.

**BlackBoard:** Course-associated site for posting notes, readings, labs, data, announcements, etc.

**Course Listserv:** All students must subscribe to the class listserv, using your official University-mandated email account (firstinitiallastname@islander.tamucc.edu). You may ask questions of interest to the instructor or other students on the class listserv, eg. clarification of an assignment, as well as receive important class announcements. You are encouraged to subscribe to the Opportunities Listserv as well.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to “Cellbio-list-request@Listserv.tamucc.edu”. Make sure that your e-mail address appears in the “From:” heading, and that the word “subscribe” is typed in the subject line. You will receive a subscription acknowledgement confirming that you have done everything correctly. To post messages to the listserv, send to “Cellbio-list@Listserv.tamucc.edu”. Because of security concerns, you should post messages
from the official TAMUCC computer account (Islander) that is used to subscribe to the listserv. At the end of class, please send an e-mail to “Cellbio-list-request@Listserv.tamucc.edu” with “unsubscribe” in the subject heading. Please use this service to ask questions about class materials, dates, assignments, etc.

You should also subscribe to the Opportunities Listserv using the same procedure: “opportunities-list-request@Listserv.tamucc.edu” This service provides notification of scholarships, research and volunteer opportunities and science-related job opportunities.

**Recommended or Supplemental Reading:** Supplemental readings will be posted on the Blackboard course site.

**List of Supplies**
You will need a laboratory notebook, “sharpie”, calculator, laboratory coat, and safety glasses.

**Other Course & Lab Resources**

**Laboratory TA’s and Contact Info:**

- Section .101 Tues 2:00-4:50 ????????? EN 301 __?__@islander.tamucc.edu
- Section .102 Closed
- Section .103 Mon 2:00-4:50 Whitney Roberson Office Hrs: EN 301 12:00-2:00 Wed wroberson@islander.tamucc.edu

Supplemental Instruction (SI): An SI instructor will be available to assist you in your studies. Please take advantage of this resource, funded through the SOAR Program.

**SI Instruction:**

- Mon 9:00-10:00 OCNR 222
- Thurs 11:00-12:00 EN 107
- Fri 9:00-10:00 BH 128

**SI Instructor:** Daniel Cantu Office Hrs: Glasscock Bldg Wed 2:00-3:00 & Thurs 10:00-11:00 Dcantu5@islander.tamucc.edu

**Course Policies**

**ALL E-MAIL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE INSTRUCTOR OR LAB TA MUST BE MADE THROUGH YOUR OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY E-MAIL (@ISLANDER), BY UNIVERSITY RULE.**

**Attendance/tardiness, Late work and Make-up Exams:** You are expected to attend all classes and labs in a timely manner. Important new material, as well as schedule changes and quizzes may occur at any time. It is expected that you will take notes, ask/answer questions, and participate in group activities. You will not get credit for lab activities in the event of an unexcused lab absence.

**LATE WORK will not be accepted, except as below, or unless otherwise specified.**

Attendance is the student’s responsibility. You are responsible for the material covered, including last minute course change announcements, in every lecture, even if it is not in the book, regardless of your attendance. Nothing missed during an unexcused absence can be made up. An excused absence allows us to make alternative arrangements to complete an assignment. Only unavoidable absences are excused. Routine events (holiday travel, non-emergency medical visits, parent-teacher conferences, household or auto repairs)
should be scheduled to avoid conflicts with class. An acceptable excuse must be:
• from an appropriate source (doctor, dentist, funeral director) stating the nature of the event
• In writing, on official letterhead, and signed (it will not be returned)
• presented prior to, or within 1 week of, the absence
• It must state the dates for which the excuse applies

There are No make-up examinations: For some scheduled events, you may arrange to take a lecture exam before, but not after, its scheduled time. Quizzes cannot be made-up.

Expectations:
You are responsible for your own education. Take notes in class as some new information may be presented. Lecture notes from the instructor, when made available, do not represent everything you need to know. Read the book and handouts for further detail not covered in class, and to be prepared for laboratory. If you don’t understand, then please ask, or see the instructor after class. Don’t allow yourself to fall behind. Be diligent and thorough on written assignments and examination answers. If you are not sure of an answer, at least try. For many people, putting anything down on paper clarifies their thinking and helps with recall. Also:

• Be aware of university-imposed deadlines (ie drop dates)
• Be aware of test times and dates, including changes which may be announced in class
• Check your exams for clerical errors. The test score is not the end of the learning process. Review tests to determine why you missed an answer. Correcting your mistakes is an effective way to learn material (reflective learning).
• Work on all assigned homework problems in a timely manner. Seek tutorial help from classmates or the course/laboratory Instructors.
• Keep track of your progress in class.

The following procedures will be enforced:
• All major exams are the property of the instructor and may not be removed from class, copied, reproduced or photographed in any way. Violation will result in a grade of “F”
• You must be prepared to present a photo ID at all examinations
• If you leave an examination room–for any reason–you must hand in your test and you will not be allowed to resume the examination. Attend to personal matters (e.g., rest room visits) before the examination.

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage Policy on Disruptive Behavior:
As adult university students, you are expected to act with courtesy and common sense. Disruptive, disrespectful, or abusive language/behavior towards anyone in class (student, staff, faculty) will not be tolerated and could result in permanent removal from class. This includes tardiness to class, talking in class, insubordination, and electronic disturbances (cell phones, ipods, etc). Turn it off unless specifically being used for class. Hazardous materials are used in the laboratory so “play” or reckless behavior will not be allowed. Children are not allowed in class or lab.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism*
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in appropriate action at the discretion of the instructor, including failure of the course. Everything should be in your own words.
**Dropping a Class**
Be aware of the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **Friday November 7** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Preferred methods of scholarly citations** *(Format from J. Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology)*

**Statement of Civility and Classroom/professional behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering Version)**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage ([http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html](http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html)). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.
Disabilities Accommodations***
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity*
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Tentative Syllabus
(course schedule)

Wk1: Aug 27, 29  Cells, Organelles, Genomes, Microscopy (Ch 1); SOAR & SI Presentations
                   No Lab; Take-Home Lab Handouts To Work On

Wk 2: Sept 1, 3, 5  Labor Day Holiday; Microscopy, Water, Chemical bonds, Macromolecules (Ch 1, 2)
                    Lab Safety Presentation Wed Sept 3 (Mandatory)
                    No Lab; Take-Home Lab Handouts To Work On

Wk 3: Sep 8, 10, 12  Macromolecular interactions, Energetics, Enzymes, Prot Str & Catalysis (Ch 2, 3)
                      Lab 1: Intro, Lab Calcs, Pipetting; Microscopy I

Wk 4: Sep 15, 17, 19  Protein conformation & energy, Protein functions & motions; (Ch 4)
                       Lab 2: Pipetting; Organelle isolation; Microscopy II

Wk 5: Sep 22, 24, 26  Protein functions & motions; Catalysis; Antibodies & Regulation (Ch 4)
                       Lab 3: Enzyme analysis I

Wk 6: Sep 29, Oct 1, 3  Membrane structure (Ch 11); EXAM I
                          Lab 4: Enzyme analysis II

Wk 7: Oct 6, 8, 10  Membrane transport, membrane potential (Ch 12); Catabolism Overview (Ch 13)
                    Lab 5: TBD

Wk 8: Oct 13, 15, 17  Mitochondria: Ox Phos, E.T., Proton pumping, ATP synthesis (Ch 14; Media)
                       Lab 6: Evolution of proteins I. Protein electrophoresis
Wk 9: Oct 20, 22, 24  Intracellular compartmentation/transport (Ch 15)
Lab 7: Evolution of proteins II. Western blotting

Wk 10: Oct 27, 29, 31  Protein Sorting: translocations, vesicular, secretory & endocytic paths (Ch 15);
**EXAM II**
Lab 8: Fluorescence microscopy/subcellular localization I

Wk 11: Nov 3, 5, 7  Cell communication: Types & principles, G-proteins (Ch 16)
Lab 9: Fluorescence microscopy/subcellular localization II

Wk 12: Nov 10, 12, 14  Cell communication: G-prot- & enzyme-linked receptors (Ch 16)
Lab 10: Human Genomic Polymorphisms I: Genomic DNA & PCR

Wk 13: Nov 17, 19, 21  Cytoskeleton: Intermediate filament, microtubules, Actin (Ch 17);
**EXAM III**
Lab 11: Human Genomic Polymorphisms II: Microsat analysis

Wk 14: Nov 24, 26, 28  Cell cycle, division and control; Cell death (Ch 18); Thanksgiving Holiday
Lab 12: Cytoskeleton immunohistochemistry

Wk 15: Dec 1  Tissues/matrix/junctions; Cancer (Ch 20)
Lab 13: Lab wrap up

Wk 16: Dec 10  **FINAL EXAM; 8:00 – 10:30 AM**