



**Advanced Molecular Biology
(Biol 4331-001 & Biol 5331-001)
Syllabus**

Instructor(s): Dr. Shawn Christensen

Office Number: 333 Engineering Research Building (ERB)

Office Telephone Number: 817-272-0520

Email Address: shawnc@uta.edu

Office Hours: MonWedFri 1:50 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.; If you are planning to meet me in my office instead of talking to me after class, please let me know ahead of time so that I know to meet you there; If I am not in my office try ERB 374.

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title: Biol 4331/5331, sec 001, Advanced Molecular Biology

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Mon, Wed 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, 6:50 pm - 7:20pm.

Description of Course Content: Nucleic acid biochemistry, protein-nucleic acid interactions, molecular biology, and the RNA world..

Student Learning Outcomes: To have a grasp of nucleic acid biochemistry, the RNA World, nucleic acid-protein interactions, and a theoretical knowledge of the basic techniques used to study nucleic acids and proteins.

Requirements: BIOL 1441, 1442, 3315, General Chemistry (CHEM 1441 & 1442). Recommended, but not required: CHEM 2321.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials: Molecular Biology: Principles of Genome Function, Edited by Nancy Craig et. al., 2010, Oxford Press.

Course Schedule and Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

Schedule, notes, grades, and syllabus will be posted on the Blackboard® site for the class. Exam and other due dates will be announced during class.

Syllabus is also posted at <http://www.uta.edu/ra/real/editprofile.php?pid=1699&onlyview=1>

Undergraduates: Two exams and an *in silico* cloning project. Graduate students: Two exams, 2-3 presentations, and an *in silico* cloning project. Details and grading structure are subject to modification.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc. Some individuals will need more study time and some individuals less.

Grading Policy:

No makeup exams. Undergraduate students: Two exams (approx. 67% net) and an *in silico* cloning project (approx. 33%). Graduate students: Two exams (40% net), 2-3 presentations (40% net), and an *in silico* cloning project (20%).

90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, < 59% = F.

Details and grading structure are subject to modification.

Attendance Policy: **Attendance and class participation are required.**

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities

such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.