

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

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Christensen

Office Number: 333 Engineering Research Building (ERB)

Office Telephone Number: 2-0520

Email Address: shawnc@uta.edu

Office Hours: Mon, Wed 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm, 6:50 pm - 7:20pm

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title: BIOL 4331-001 and 5331-001, Advanced Molecular Biology.

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Mon, Wed 5:30 pm - 6:50 pm in Science Hall 331.

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 of the Gene (6th edition by Watson, et al.). Also review articles, primary literature.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

See grading policy.

Exam and other due dates will be announced during class.

Grading Policy:

No makeup exams. Undergraduate students: three exams (2 exams and a final, 33% each) and an optional *in silico* cloning project (details and grading structure will be announced in class after the first exam). Graduate students: Two exams (25% each), two presentations (20% each), and an *in silico* cloning project (10%).

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

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. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information. The last day to drop with a grade of W can be found at <http://www.uta.edu/uta/acadcal/>.

Important University Policies:

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: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Academic Assistance resource page of the Office of Student Success Programs, www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess/academic-assistance. To help students address personal, academic and career concerns, individual counseling is also available. For more information, students are encouraged to contact Counseling Services www.counseling.uta.edu at (817) 272-3671 or visit a counselor in 216 Davis Hall.

Electronic Communication Policy: [Suggested language] The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

Final Review Week: Not applicable.

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

After Hours Safety Escort

The Sam Mav Escort service provides a service to assist students, faculty, staff and campus visitors to reach their destinations after regular business hours. The hours of service are 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., Sunday through Saturday. 817-272-3381