BIOL 3300-001 Syllabus

Course Description

- Students will learn about biology, ecology, and diversity of microorganisms. Emphasis is placed on bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protists, and their role in the environment. It consists of two remote/distance learning lectures (Monday and Wednesday), one optional, in-person review session (Friday) and a laboratory (two days per week). 4 credits
- Prerequisites: BIOL 1610 and BIOL 1615
- Co-Requisites (One of the Following): CHEM 1120, CHEM 1220, CHEM 2300, OR CHEM 2310

Fees

- As part of your registration for this class, you are required to pay a lab fee ($140). This fee is used to pay for lab expenses for this course (e.g. reagents), including those associated with the provisioning and care for lab safety coats. In sum, these fees ensure a high-quality learning experience through exposure to common techniques in microbiology.

Instructor

Kirsten Butcher

Lab: BNR 257

Email: kirsten.butcher@usu.edu (mailto:kirsten.butcher@usu.edu)

Virtual and In-Person Office Hours by Appointment

Course Materials

- Auto Access eBook: Mastering Microbiology for Brock Biology of Microorganisms, 15e by Madigan
  
  This course requires all-inclusive digital materials that are provided to you at a lower price than traditional printed materials. These materials are paid for through an “Auto Access Digital Materials” charge placed on your student account when you registered for the course. To access the materials, visit the Canvas course site. For more details, including dates, deadlines, and opt-out info, visit your student Auto Access Portal: https://portal.verba.io/usu/login (https://portal.verba.io/usu/login)

- Laboratory Techniques in Microbiology (Laboratory Manual) (Digital copy of lab manual provided)
- Laboratory Coat (PROVIDED in lab)
- Splash- and Impact-Proof Goggles (REQUIRED, but NOT PROVIDED; can be purchased at the USU Bookstore)
Course Schedule/Outline

- Mondays and Wednesday will be completely remote. The recorded lectures will be posted to Canvas, usually at the beginning of the week, and you will schedule a time that is most convenient for you to view them. Ideally, you should read the required textbook sections prior to viewing the lecture slides.
- Fridays will be a completely optional, in-person review. To maintain social distancing, we have reserved a room size large enough to fit 40 of our 120 students in this course, with 6-ft spacing in between each student. **YOU MUST RESERVE A SPOT EACH FRIDAY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THESE REVIEW SESSIONS.** Review sessions will be Socratic in nature. I will not lead any type of formal discussion. Instead, the topics we discuss will be based on questions that you have. Additionally, this time can be a good opportunity to get help on the optional homework assignments (discussed later) should you have any. If no one attends, then no review session occurs.
- Refer to the **Syllabus and Tentative Schedule** folder under the Files tab for more detailed information, including assigned readings.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

![LectureSched.jpg](attachment:LectureSched.jpg)

Evaluation Methods and Criteria

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture Grade (2/3 of Total Grade)</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>23.33%</td>
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<td>Exam II</td>
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<td>Exam III</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Optional Homework</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Exercises (Pre-Lab; Post-Lab; Projects)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Practical I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Practical II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Lab Practical</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59.0% to 0.0%</td>
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\[
\text{Lecture Grade} = \frac{(0.2333 \times \text{Exam I}) + (0.2333 \times \text{Exam II}) + (0.2333 \times \text{Final Exam}) + (0.30 \times \text{Final Exam})}{1}
\]

\[
\text{Laboratory Grade} = \frac{(0.10 \times \text{TPC}) + (0.30 \times \text{Exercises}) + (0.20 \times \text{LPI}) + (0.20 \times \text{LPII}) + (0.20 \times \text{FLP})}{1}
\]

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\text{Final Grade Calculation} = \left( \text{Lecture Grade} \times \frac{2}{3} \right) + \left( \text{Laboratory Grade} \times \frac{1}{3} \right) \times 100\%
\]
Exam Structure

- Each lecture exam consists of multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions and are a total of 100 points each. Exams will be held in the USU Testing Center. You must schedule your exam with the USU Testing Center within the three days provided for each exam.
  - **ANY MATERIAL LEADING UP TO AN EXAM IS FAIR GAME (including material covered on a previous exam). Materials COVERED IN the TEXTBOOK, LECTURE PowerPoints, Articles, Videos, AND laboratory ARE TESTABLE MATERIAL AND WILL SHOW UP ON THE LECTURE EXAMS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- You can contest questions that you think were incorrectly marked wrong on your exams.
  - To get points awarded back on your exam grade, you must **justify** that your selected answer is better than my correct answer using evidence from your textbook, the lecture PowerPoints, and/or peer-reviewed publications (citations included in your written rebuttals). Science is often not about the correct answer, but the best answer we have. So, if you can provide evidence justifying the superiority of your answer on an exam, then you will get partial to full credit for your answer on the exam.

Optional Homework Assignments

- These assignments are **entirely optional**. However, there is a benefit to attempting them. These assignments will be extra percentage points that can be allocated to your final grade in this course. You can boost your grade a maximum of 10% (which can mean a difference in a letter grade!).
  - Questions will be posted as an assignment on Canvas and will cover topics in the order we discuss them in lecture (so, you can answer them as we progress through the material). There will be one set of questions posted per exam, and each set will have 5-10 questions each (We have four exams (including the final), so each set of questions can earn you a maximum of 2.5% back to your grade).
  - Answers to these questions will not be provided until after their due date.
- Some caveats about these questions:
  - They are painfully difficult and often open-ended (i.e. Google won't be of much use), and they require critical analysis and application of the concepts we discuss in this course (both lecture and laboratory), as well as previous, relevant coursework (General Biology, General Chemistry, Biochemistry, etc).
  - Questions **WILL BE GRADED FOR ACCURACY** and no partial credit will be awarded (i.e. questions are all or nothing). If you do not get the question correct on a given assignment, you do not get the proportion of points associated with that question allocated to the 2.5% total. Proper vocabulary, grammar, spelling, concision, showing your mathematical work (when applicable), listing your assumptions (when applicable), and citations (when applicable) are required for a question to be accurate.
  - You can work in study groups to complete these optional assignments (in fact, I encourage it if you are properly socially distancing) and use external resources. However, you must **submit your own answers (with citations when applicable)**. Any plagiarized answers will be reported to USU’s Office of Academic Integrity.

Attendance and Excused Absences Policy

- In the event you are unable to attend laboratory or take a scheduled exam due to COVID, you must **fill out the university’s COVID questionnaire form to be officially excused from the lab or exam. Failure to do this will make you ineligible for make-up laboratories and exams.**

Nonattendance Policy
Students May Be Dropped For Nonattendance

If a student does not attend a class during the first week of the term or by the second laboratory class meeting, whichever comes first, the instructor may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. *(This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.)* This option is typically used for classes that are full and the instructor is trying to make a seat available for another student, but may be considered for other courses. Requests must be made during the first 20 percent of the course and will be considered on an individual student basis. Students who are dropped from courses will be notified by the Registrar's Office through their preferred e-mail account (see 2018-2019 General Catalog [http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3955](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3955)).

Assumption of Risk

All classes, programs, and extracurricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel. The University provides opportunities to participate in these programs on a voluntary basis. Therefore, students should not participate in them if they do not care to assume the risks. Students can ask the respective program leaders/sponsors about the possible risks a program may generate, and if students are not willing to assume the risks, they should not select that program. By voluntarily participating in classes, programs, and extracurricular activities, a student does so at his or her own risk. General information about University Risk Management policies, insurance coverage, vehicle use policies, and risk management forms can be found at: [http://www.usu.edu/riskmgt/](http://www.usu.edu/riskmgt/)

Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at libguides.usu.edu/rc. ([http://libguides.usu.edu/rc](http://libguides.usu.edu/rc))

Online Course Fee

A fee of $15 per credit is applied to all online courses to sustain current digital technologies and support services required for engaging and effective online learning.

Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article V Section V-3 ([https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article5)) for more information.
University Policies & Procedures

COVID-19 Classroom Protocols

In order to continue to provide a high standard of instruction at USU, and to limit the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, students are asked to follow certain classroom protocols. These protocols are in place not only for your safety but also the safety of the rest of the campus community. You will be asked to clean your desk area at the start of each class, sit in designated seats, wear face coverings, and follow dismissal instructions. There may be individual medical circumstances that prevent some students from using face coverings. These circumstances will be rare, but if they do exist, we ask that everyone be respectful. It is imperative that we each do our part so that on-campus instruction can continue.

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code Policy #403 (http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating**: using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually;”
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  - Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  - Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
• Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.

- **Falsification**: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism**: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

**Sexual Harassment/Title IX**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and USU Policy 339 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/339) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU’s Office of Equity (https://equity.usu.edu/) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment (USU Policy 305 (http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

**Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term ‘extenuating’ circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (http://www.usu.edu/drc/) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu (mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

**Diversity Statement**

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: https://studentaffairs.usu.edu (https://studentaffairs.usu.edu/), (435) 797-1712, studentservices@usu.edu (mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services (https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
You can learn about your student rights by visiting:
The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University: https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode

**Grievance Process**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII.[1](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7)

**Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:**

- [Student Conduct](http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct)
- [Student Code](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)
- [Academic Integrity](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)
- [USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures](http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty-life/syllabus.cfm)
- [USU Academic Policies and Procedures](http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=546)
- [Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy](http://www.usu.edu/hr/files/uploads/Policies/403.pdf)

**Emergency Procedures**

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

**Mental Health**

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) [here](https://counseling.usu.edu).

Students are also encouraged to download the “SafeUT App” [here](https://healthcare.utah.edu/uni/programs/safe-ut-smartphone-app) to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.