

Bi252

Genetics and Molecular Biology

In this course we will examine the genetic and molecular mechanisms responsible for the inheritance of physical characteristics, cell division, the regulation of genes, and the development of different cell types from a common cell. We will begin with the key roles of DNA and RNA as informational molecules; we'll then explore the ways in which cells pass this information to subsequent generations, often in unique combinations. Later we will extend the discussion of proteins that was begun in Bi251, with an emphasis on proteins that regulate specific cellular characteristics, and how cells respond to changing conditions by altering their pattern of protein production. This will prepare you for Bi253, in which you will study development in complex organisms, the genetics of populations of simple and complex organisms, and how these serve as foundations of evolution.

Staff

Instructors

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Format

Lectures are held 10:00-10:50 AM in 123 Pacific Hall Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Laboratories are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and last 2 hours and 50 minutes. Labs begin during the second week of classes. **You must be registered for the lecture and a laboratory section for this course.** If you are unable to register for a laboratory section that fits your schedule, register for any section that is open and we will make accommodations for you in an appropriate section. Don't change sections through DuckWeb or the Registrar.

Exams, assignments, and grading

There will be two one-hour exams plus a comprehensive two-hour final exam. The one-hour exams will take place in the evening in 123 Pacific Hall. They will be written as one-hour exams, but by virtue of the evening time you will have two hours in which to complete the exams. A footnote about evening exams is attached to the Bi252 listing in the on-line version of the Winter Schedule of Classes. Students are thus expected to have made arrangements in their class and work schedules so that conflicts will not arise. The exams are not open book, but some factual information will be provided.

A problem set with answers is provided in the course packet. Working the problems will be your best form of preparation for the exams, so you are encouraged to make a sincere effort in solving them.

Your grade for the course will depend on the combination of your performance in the exams (400 points possible) plus your work in the labs (267 points possible). The total possible course points (exams + lab) is 667. Scores will be determined in two ways for each student:

Method 1

		<u>points</u>	<u>% total course points</u>
2 1-Hour exams	100 + 100 =	200	30
Final exam		200	30
Lab		267	40
Total		667	100

Method 2

		<u>points</u>	<u>% total course points</u>
Highest 1-hour exam	100 x 1.33 =	133	20
Final exam	200 x 1.33 =	267	40
Lab		267	40
Total		667	100

Points for lab work will be calculated as follows:

		<u>points</u>	<u>% total lab points</u>
Quizzes	105 x 1.383 =	145	22
Lab reports + Prelabs	88 x 1.383 =	122	18
Total		267	40

Letter grades will be assigned on the basis of a student's higher score of both methods. Letter grades are determined only after the **total** course points have been calculated, not for individual hour exams. Since grades are not assigned strictly on the basis of statistical distribution about a numerical mean, the opportunities to earn good grades in this course are not limited, and students are not in competition with each other for those grades.

P/N option: A grade of "P" is given when the calculated grade is "C-" or better; a grade of "N" is given when the calculated grade is "D+" or lower.

Exam re-grades: If you feel that a mistake has been made in the grading of your exam, you should write a logical explanation for why your answer merits a higher score, attach it to the exam, and submit both the explanation and the exam to the course instructors via the “re-grade box” in Room 15, Klamath Hall. Well thought-out arguments will be carefully considered, but other questions on the exam may be re-graded as well, and requests that we simply “look again” at an answer will not be honored. **Please do not abuse this system.** The deadline for submission of exams for re-grading is one week following receipt of the graded exam.

Early and make-up exams will not be administered: If you miss an exam for a valid reason (medical or family emergency), you must provide written documentation of the reason to avoid a score of 0. Your grade will then be based on the exams you have taken. A second missed exam will not be excused.

Textbook, laboratory manual, course packet and course web site

The text for this course is *Introduction to Genetic Analysis*, 8th edition by Griffiths et al. (Freeman). A required laboratory manual is available at the UO Bookstore. You must bring the manual to lab each week. A course packet containing lecture figures, problem sets, and supplemental reading is recommended, but not required. If a manual or packet is not available, request one at the Bookstore and they will have it for you within 24 hours. **It is your responsibility to order these if they are sold out;** we will not have copies available in class or lab. A text will be placed on 2-hour reserve in the Science Library.

The website for this course is <http://www.biology.uoregon.edu/classes/bi252w08>. The syllabus, lecture and lab schedules, staff information, lecture outlines, and current scores will be posted there. Instructors and teaching assistants can be reached via e-mail from the site.

Class conduct

Class starts promptly at 10:00 and ends at 10:50. Please arrive on time and do not pack up before the conclusion of the lecture. Arriving late and leaving early is disruptive to others around you and to the speaker. Do not talk during lecture in a volume audible to anyone but the intended recipient. Ringing cell phones will not be tolerated in this class. You may be asked to leave the lecture hall or lab if you are responsible for repeated disruptions. A disruption during an exam will result in a 10-point deduction.

All work submitted in this course must be your own. Instances of suspected cheating or plagiarism on exams, quizzes, and reports will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for consideration of sanction. You can view the student conduct code and the procedures for pursuing charges of academic dishonesty at:

http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/index.htm.