

Bi214 General Biology IV: Mechanisms

This course is about how stuff works: the mechanisms by which biological processes, practiced by all cellular life, operate. Through a combination of lectures, problem solving, and laboratory exercises we will explore amino acid chemistry, the structures and functions of proteins, the genetics of biochemical pathways, the structure, replication, and mutation of DNA, the structure and regulation of prokaryotic and eukaryotic genes, and the genetics and molecular biology underlying development. Bi211 and Bi212, or the equivalent, and a full year of General Chemistry are prerequisites.

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Current office hours are posted on the Staff page of the course website.

Text and course packets

The required book is a customized text that incorporates material from *Biochemistry* (Mathews, et al., 4th ed.) and *Molecular Biology of the Gene* (Watson, et al., 6th ed.). The general text used in Bi211-213, *Biological Science* (Freeman, 3rd or 4th ed.), may be helpful, but is not required. If you have *Biological Science* in your possession you should keep it for this term; however, I do not recommend that you purchase the book solely for this course.

A laboratory manual and a course packet that includes lecture figures and problem sets are required. The text, lab manual, and course packet can be purchased at the UO Bookstore. If a manual or packet is not available, request one at the Bookstore and they will have it for you within 24 hours. Note that it is your responsibility to order these; we will not have copies available in class or lab. Texts will be placed on 2-hour reserve in the Science Library.

Grading

Scores from the lecture portion of the course will comprise 60% of your course grade, with lab accounting for the remaining 40%. The course grade will be determined from the highest score calculated by three methods:

	Method 1	Method 2	Method 3
Exam 1	11%	14.7%	–
Exam 2	11%	–	14.7%
Final exam	22%	29.3%	29.3%
Quizzes	11%	11%	11%
Participation	5%	5%	5%
Lab	40%	40%	40%

The second exam is not cumulative, but the final exam is cumulative. **Make-up and early exams will not be offered.** Three lecture quizzes, each worth 35 points, will be administered at the beginning of three classes (see schedule). They will be based upon the reading, lectures, and relevant problems and material for that week. **Make-up and early quizzes will not be offered. All exams and quizzes must be written in pencil; use an eraser to remove mistakes and unnecessary writing.** Exams and quizzes are graded on the correctness of the answer for which the question is asked, and on correctly followed directions. Exams and quizzes with grading errors must be returned to me within one week of your receiving the graded assignment, and must be accompanied by a written explanation. Requests to look over an answer without a specific identified grading error, or claims of “I think I deserve more credit for my answer” will not be considered. The entire exam will be reviewed.

A problem set is provided in the course packet, but will not be turned in for grading. However, working the problems will be your best form of preparation for the exams and quizzes, so you are encouraged to make a sincere effort in solving them. Problem set answers are posted on the website.

Participation is in the form of i►clicker responses. There typically will be three to ten questions per lecture (excluding the first lecture) counted with clickers. Ninety percent of the responses will be counted for credit, but answers do not have to be correct for you to receive credit. Responses beyond 90% will not be counted, so that you won’t necessarily be penalized for a few missed sessions. If you forget your clicker for any session you will not be able to receive clicker points for that day (we will not count responses written on scraps of paper). See below for i►clicker policy and registration.

No other opportunities for points will be offered. Please do not ask.

Laboratories

Laboratories begin during the second week. We will do a total of 7 laboratory exercises. The exercises, background information, and report pages are contained within the lab manual. You must read the material BEFORE coming to your lab. Details of the lab format, assignments, and grading are included in the lab manual. This course is full, so you may not switch lab sections if a conflict arises for you in any given week.

Course website

The course website address is <http://biology.uoregon.edu/classes/bi214f13/>. This is not a Blackboard website, but is accessible through Blackboard under “Announcements.” It contains course information, schedules, staff contacts and office hours, i-clicker keys, lab announcements, problems set keys, links to relevant websites, and grade access. However, additional reading assignments will be posted on the Blackboard site under “Course documents.”

Accommodations for students with disabilities

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me as soon as soon as possible, and not later than October 7. Please bring a notification letter from the Accessible Education Center stating your approved accommodations.

Class conduct and academic honesty

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. Please do not use any electronic devices during class; they are of no help to your learning, and are distracting to those around you and to the instructor.

Computers will not be allowed in lecture or lab. If you have a requirement for using a computer to take notes, please make accommodations with me on the first day of class. Your use of the computer may be monitored by a teaching assistant.

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. I take such cases seriously, and pursue charges of academic misconduct and their sanctions to the fullest extent allowable, including but not limited to a failing mark for the course. For definitions of violations, a description of the hearing process, and a summary of penalties for findings of academic misconduct, go to

<http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/ConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx>

Bi214 i►clicker policy and registration

Since lecture participation via polling by i►clickers constitutes 5% of your total score in this course, it is recommended that you purchase an i►clicker from the UO Bookstore. Any version of the i►clicker will be sufficient. These can be sold back to the UO Bookstore at the end of the term for about 50% of the new purchase cost.

In order to receive credit for in-class use of the clicker, you will need to register your i►clicker online within the first two weeks of class. You must have come to class at least once and responded on all questions posed during that lecture in order to complete this registration properly. Once you have responded in at least one class meeting, go to the “Course Documents” section in the Bi214 Blackboard site. Complete the fields with your first name, last name, Duck ID (not student ID number), and clicker ID. Registration through iclicker.com will not result in registration of your iclicker in this course.

The i►clicker response system will be used every day in class (with the exception of the first lecture and the two exam days), and you are responsible for bringing your remote daily. Since the use of clickers in this course contributes to each student’s final grade, in-class misuse of these devices may be considered as an act of academic dishonesty; this includes the loaning your clicker to a classmate who registers responses in your absence from lecture. If a student is caught using two clickers, both that student and the owner of the loaned device will be penalized, and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards will be notified. A few points of the 900 or so possible of your course score is not worth the risk of a failing grade.