

Microbiology 405: Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology
Course Outline (4 PAGES) - Fall 2016

Course Instructor: Francis Nano

Office: 245 Petch

Office Hours: M-F 09:00-17:00. It's best to e-mail me for a specific appointment or to see if I'm free right before coming over.

Read carefully. The course is not presented and organized in the traditional manner, but rather is a “flipped classroom”. This format has students learn basic material on their own, and uses classroom time for projects. You will alternatively show up to rooms ECS108 and ECS128. See course calendar for your group's formal meeting dates. I will attend all of these and note students' attendance and participation.

1. All lectures are available both as PDFs and as audio presentations of the Power Point presentations. They are available at the M405 “Course Space” site.

Course Space can be found at

<https://www.uvic.ca/cas/login?service=http%3A%2F%2Fcoursespaces.uvic.ca%2Flogin%2Findex.php>

You are expected to view either the PDFs or the audio lectures (or both) on your own. The lectures are divided into groups to help you know what material will be covered on which exam.

2. The projects are meant to inspire both independent and group learning. A reasonable effort should result in a good grade.

3 Classroom time will be devoted primarily to smaller group meetings of a subset of the class. See the class calendar to determine which days you are expected to attend with your group.

The final grades will be determined as follows:

(30%) Midterm exam. October 20.

(35%) Group project.

(35%) Final exam.

See the document “How your grades will be determined” to understand what will be on the exams.

Supplementary/optional (free) Text book

Title: Bacterial and bacteriophage genetics [electronic resource] / Edward A. Birge.

Author: [Birge, Edward A. \(Edward Asahel\)](#)

Publisher: New York : Springer, c2006. Edition: 5th ed.

Web Link (from UVic or via sign on from your home):

<http://ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/0-387-31489-X>

For a review of basic concepts in bacterial genetics see Chapter 1. For a review of the basics of transcription and translation, see Chapter 4. Other chapters have information that may provide a basic review relevant to other topics in the course. You will NOT be examined directly on material from the textbook, but you will be expected to know the basics of bacterial gene regulation and genetics that you learned in lower level course in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology.

Section 1. Cloning, PCR & Sequencing.

Introduction.

Enzymes used in biotechnology

PCR basics

Plasmid cloning.

Making a plasmid clone bank

Specialized plasmid cloning vectors and systems.

Section 2. DNA sequencing and other technologies.

Generation of cDNA.

Fosmids, BACs and YACs.

Sanger DNA sequencing.

Sequencing strategies

Next-gen sequencing.

DNA amplification and genome walking.

Section 3. DNA and Genomic Assembly

Biobricks and Golden Gate

In vitro genome assembly methods (F-PCR, Gibson, SLIC, Pox)

In vivo genome assembly methods (red-gam/ TAR)

Approaches to Bacterial Genome Engineering

Bacterial Genome Assembly.

Sidebar: Counter-selection (a “side-bar” means an extra bit of information that is examinable for the concepts; e.g. what is counter-selection and how you use it, 1 example; but NOT the list of counter-selection genes.)

Section 4. Elements of genetic circuits.

Natural and synthetic promoters; attenuation and termination.

Codon usage, Operons, RBSs and their relevance to biotechnology

sRNA and ribolocks.

Hybrid systems.

Section 5 Recombineering and Genome engineering.

Recombineering for eukaryotes

CRISPR-based engineering

TetR regulation of genes.

Recombinases used in genome engineering.

iRNA used to control gene expression

Sidebar: CRISPR gone crazy.

Section 6. Making and expressing products.

Directed evolution

Recombinant expression

Metabolic Engineering

Bioreactors

Sidebar: Inclusion bodies.

Section 7. Examples of applications.

Proteins with Un-natural amino acids.

Recombinant antibody display

Recombinant vaccines

Sidebar: Expanding the genetic code with new nucleobases.

Sidebar: Intellectual property related to biotechnology.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A+	90 -100	B+	77 - 79	C+	65 - 69	F	< 50
A	85 - 89	B	73 - 76	C	60 - 64	N **	< 50
A-	80 - 84	B-	70 - 72	D	50 - 59		

** N grades

Students who have completed the following elements will be considered to have completed the course and will be assigned a final grade: **midterm exam, final exam, a portion of a group project**. Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. An N is a failing grade, and it factors into a student’s GPA as 0. The maximum percentage that can accompany an N on a student’s transcript is 49.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION AND POLICIES

1. The Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology upholds and enforces the University’s policies on academic integrity. These policies are described in the current University Calendar. All students are advised to read this section.
2. Cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices must be turned off at all times unless being used for a purpose relevant to the class. Students having a cell phone, tablet, or computer on their person during an exam will be assumed to have it for the purpose of cheating.
3. Any recordings of lectures may only be performed with written permission of the instructor, and are for personal use only. The instructor retains copyright to such recordings and all lecture materials provided for the class (electronic and otherwise); these materials must not be shared or reposted on the Internet.
4. Course materials, such as notes, problem sheets, quizzes, examinations, example sheets, or review sheets, may not be redistributed without the explicit written permission of the instructor.
5. Students are expected to be present for the midterm and final exams. Instructors may grant deferrals for midterm examinations for illness, accident, or family affliction, and students must provide appropriate documentation 48 hours after the midterm exam. The Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology considers it a breach of academic integrity for a student taking a deferred examination to discuss the exam with classmates. Similarly, students who reveal the contents of an examination to students taking a deferred examination are considered to be in violation of the University of Victoria policy on academic integrity (see current University Calendar). Deferral of a final exam must be requested with an Academic Concession form and submitted directly to Undergraduate Records. Deferred final exams for fall term courses will be arranged by the instructor. Deferred final exams for spring term courses will be arranged through Undergraduate Records and must be written before the end of the summer term as stipulated in the University Calendar.
6. Multiple choice scan sheets for machine scoring (bubble sheets) are considered the authentic exam answer paper and will be retained by the department for 1 year.
7. Professors may refuse to review/remark exams not written in indelible ink. In addition, requests for review/remark of a midterm exam must be made within one week of the exam being returned. Students are expected to promptly pick up midterm exams after marking has been completed, either in class or from the instructor.
8. Examination papers that have pages removed, or are mutilated will not be marked.
9. I reserve the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work.”

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Student rights and concerns.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, approach the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible (<http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>.) in order to assess your specific needs.

Standard UVic statement on the Course Experience Survey (CES)

“I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey you will receive an email inviting you to do so. Please ensure that your current email address is listed in MyPage (<http://uvic.ca/mypage>) . If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca> . You will need to use your UVic netlink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.”