

**BIOCHEMISTRY 403 CRN 10259: BIOCHEMISTRY OF SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION
COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2019**

Biochemistry of Signal Transduction

The objective of this course is to examine in detail the biochemical basis of the transmission of molecular signals from a cell's exterior to its interior and how this can bring about changes in cellular behavior and gene expression. The course emphasizes the biochemical concepts underlying signal transduction and the types of experimental analysis that are employed to study signaling pathways.

Instructors: Drs. Perry Howard (coordinator) and John Burke

Dr. Howard:

phoward@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 3:00 PM- 4 PM (or by appointment) in Petch 207b

Dr. Burke:

jeburke@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Monday Thursday 11:30-12:30 BIOC236

Schedule: Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00 am - 11:20 am, COR B143

Readings: Readings will be posted on the course spaces web site.

Topics (with approximate dates)

Dates important dates in bold	Topic	Instructor
Sept 5	Introduction – Principles of Signaling pathways	Howard
9, 12	Modular domains and components; Specificity SH2	Howard
16, 19	Specificity SH2 ; In class assignment 1	Howard
23, 26	Receptor Tyrosine Kinases	Howard
30, Oct 3	Quiz 1 ; cytoplasmic kinases	Howard
7, 10	Monomeric G-proteins GEFs and GAPs	Howard
14, 17	Thanksgiving holiday ; Rewiring	Howard
21, 24	Midterm1; Lipid signalling	Howard/Burke
28, 31	G protein coupled receptors	Burke
Nov 4, 7	GPCRs / Quiz 2	Burke
11, 14	Reading break 11-13 ; GPCRs	Burke
18, 21	PI3Ks	Burke
25,28	System approaches to signalling	Burke
Dec 2	Review	Burke

Student Evaluation:

Midterm Exam (Oct 21th):	25%
Quizzes (2) (Sept 30th; Nov 7th)	30%
Final Exam (comprehensive 2hours exam period):	35%
In class Assignments (2):	10%

There is no assigned text for the course; Topics will be drawn from primary and review literature, assigned in class, and posted on the course website. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments and the material will be included in the midterm, quizzes, and final exams. There will be 2 in-class assignments research or reading assignments made throughout the course. Students must be present and participate in the class to receive a mark for these assignments. Students are expected to attend all the lectures, take notes, and participate in classroom discussions. Students are expected to attend all midterm and quizzes exams on the specified dates. Late assignments will not be marked and given a grade of 0. The slides used for lectures will be provided on the website before class, however these should not be considered complete and students are responsible for all material presented in class.

Grading Scheme:

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 1; Quiz 1 or 2; Final Exam

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.

Course Experience Survey (CES):

We value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to both instructors regarding the course and our 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 for each instructor. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to your [CES dashboard](#). You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. We will remind you nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity.

Centre for Accessible Learning

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 Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible in order to assess your specific needs.

<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/index.php>

Expected learning Outcomes:

Diversity of signaling pathways: students should be able to recognize emerging patterns of pathway organization and give examples. They should be able to identify similarity and differences between pathways and apply their knowledge to novel problems.

How we study cellular signaling: students should be able to articulate how different types of experiments are performed and what information is gained from different experiments. It is expected that students will be able to apply this knowledge to novel biochemical problems.

Experimental basis for pathway summaries: students are expected to be able to describe how we know given information about a pathway. For example, what is the experimental evidence supporting a given claim?

Modularity of molecular components of signaling pathways: students are expected to be able to identify and describe the function of the major domains discussed in class. They should have an appreciation for why proteins are organized into domains, and how this type of organization facilitates the evolution of multicellular organisms.

Regulation of pathway components: students are expected to be able to identify and describe the biochemical mechanisms of how pathways are turned on and off including allosteric mechanisms. They should be able to appreciate the type of information gathered from structural approaches and how genetic and molecular approaches are used to test molecular models. They should be able to apply this information to novel problems.

Fidelity and specificity of signaling: students should be able to describe mechanisms of how the cell achieves specificity in signaling pathways. They should appreciate that pathways are interconnected and form networks. A basic understanding of how network regulation is studied is expected.

Critical Thinking: students should be able to interpret and critically review primary literature in the field. They will demonstrate this ability through assignments and exams. Student should be able to identify the hypothesis or questions being addressed in a journal article, determine whether the appropriate experiments and controls have been applied, and describe the strengths and weakness of the article.

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 midterms, quizzes, and final exams. Instructors may grant deferrals for midterm/quizzes 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. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software or other platforms to assess the integrity of student work.