BIOSC 1290 EXPERIMENTAL MICROBIAL GENETICS  
SPRING TERM 2017 (2174)  
COURSE POLICIES

Instructors
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Laboratory schedule  
Tues., Thurs. 9:00 – 10:50 a.m.  
146 Langley Hall

Course Objectives  
The goal of this course is to give students first-hand experience in performing experiments in modern microbial genetics. Experiments will employ the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* as a model system. Students will perform research projects with state-of-the-art experimental strategies, which will include a combination of classical and molecular genetic approaches.

Textbook  
Since students will be performing research experiments that will evolve over the semester, no textbook or standard laboratory manual is appropriate. Instructions and protocols will be provided in class.

Evaluation  
The final grade will be determined by performance in five areas:

- Laboratory notebooks, laboratory performance, and class participation 30%
- In-class presentations 10%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Final Exam 20%
- Poster presentation 20%

In-class Presentations:  
As a pair, students will give one oral presentation (with slides) on a topic chosen by the instructors. In most cases, these presentations will involve the description and analysis of assigned articles from the primary literature. Presentations are expected to take approximately 25 minutes, followed by a question and answer session. Presentations should include background information, clear descriptions of the experiments and conclusions, and a summary that includes a brief critique of the paper.
Laboratory Notebooks:

Your notebook should be a comprehensive, organized, and neatly written record of everything you do. The goal of any scientific notebook is to provide a complete record of the experiments performed, so that you or anyone else could return to the notebook years later and readily understand what was done, why it was done, and what was learned. In addition, anyone who reads the notebook should be able to repeat the experiments without reiterating mistakes. Text should be handwritten in ink and concise. Each experiment should be documented as follows:

1.) Introduction
This section should describe what you are going to do and why.

2.) Methods
This section will generally consist of protocols you are given in class. If a typed protocol is provided to you, you can insert it directly in your notebook. However, modifications to the protocol, specific problems that arise or other notes should be recorded on this protocol as you are performing the experiments. If there is insufficient space, record this information on a separate sheet. Get in the habit of writing things down as you do them!

3.) Results
In this section, record your data carefully. Be sure to use appropriate labeling.

4.) Conclusion
Provide an interpretation of your results and discuss how this information guides or modifies your next experiment.

Attendance:
Attendance is mandatory. If a student needs to miss a class for a legitimate reason, such as illness, proper documentation must be provided to the instructors.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Integrity
Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, from the February 1974 Senate Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom reported to the Senate Council, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz or exam will be imposed. View the complete policy at www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html.

Student Conduct
In keeping with the University of Pittsburgh Student Code of Conduct, all students are expected to behave as respectful and civil members of the university community. All instructors and students will act in a considerate manner in order to create and maintain a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to learning. In addition to being unacceptable on the grounds of common decency, disruptive and disrespectful behavior contributes to unsafe working conditions.

Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Examples of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, repeated tardiness, texting in class, speaking or acting in any sexually, racially, or ethnically harassing manner, cheating, misuse and abuse of laboratory equipment and material,
disregarding any safety guidelines. Disruptive students will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for mediation, discipline, or both.

**Disability Services**
If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890/412-624-3346 (Fax), as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, visit www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drsabout.

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**Accessibility**
Blackboard is ADA Compliant and has fully implemented the final accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. Please note that, due to the flexibility provided in this product, it is possible for some material to inadvertently fall outside of these guidelines.

**Statement on Classroom Recording**
To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use.

**E-mail Communication Policy**
Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to http://accounts.pitt.edu, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html.)

**Turnitin**
Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.