Instructor: Barb Crippes Trask, Ph.D.
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Class times: Lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays—9:30-10:15 a.m.
Lind Lecture Bldg., Room 130

Office Hours: Tuesdays at 10:30 am-noon, Wednesdays at 9:30-11:00 am, and by appointment.

Texts: Essential Cell Biology, 4th edition, Alberts, et al. Readings should be completed prior to attending lecture to provide for more fervent discussion.

Supplemental Reading: In addition, the popular novel, The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot is (ISBN-10: 1400052181) required reading for the class.

Course Objectives: The primary objective of this course is to impart an appreciation of the biological processes underlying the structure and function of predominantly eukaryotic cells. This will include the molecular mechanisms by which cells perform specific regulated functions, how these processes affect the function of multicellular organisms, and how aberrant function can result in the development of various pathological conditions.

Upon successful completion of this course the skills you will have acquired:

- An understanding of the origin and composition of cells
- A knowledge of common molecular techniques, and the ability to apply and interpret them when answering scientific questions
- An understanding of the Central Dogma of molecular biology and the ability to predict products of the various steps in this process, as well as an ability to predict the function(s) of those products
- An understanding of the mechanism by which the location of cellular components is regulated and an ability to predict the repercussions of aberrant localization
- A knowledge of the various means of intercellular communication and their application within multicellular organisms
- A knowledge of the influences on cell division and an understanding of the processes through which it is regulated
- The skills necessary to design a controlled scientific experiment
- An ability to read and interpret scientific literature relevant to cell and molecular biology
- An ability to present data in graphic form, as well as interpret data presented in this manner
**Exams and Grading:** Please read the Student Code for Weber State University at [www.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm](http://www.weber.edu/ppm/6-22.htm). In addition, you are encouraged to view the Statement of Student-Faculty expectations at [http://departments.weber.edu/zoology/expectations.htm](http://departments.weber.edu/zoology/expectations.htm).

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage (Possible Points)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture Section (65%)</strong></td>
<td>Exams:</td>
<td>50% (each one 10%)</td>
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<td>In class problems:</td>
<td>10% (each one 2%)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Writing Assignment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>65% (455 possible points in lecture)</td>
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**Laboratory Section (35%):** Please refer to information supplied in lab the first week of lab.

There will be five 70-point exams as outlined on the lecture schedule that will account for a total of 50% of each student’s overall final grade. The content of these exams will include exclusively material discussed during the lecture section of the class since the previous exam, again as outlined on the syllabus. The majority of each exam will be in a ‘short answer’ or ‘essay’ (i.e., longer answer) format, and often include interpretation and/or presentation of data. Many questions will require application of knowledge discussed in class rather than simple memorization. Exams will be taken in the Science Lab Testing Center on the dates listed; you will have four days during which to take each exam, again as outlined on the syllabus. Testing Center hours are 7:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:30-5:30 p.m. Friday, and 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday. Remember that you must begin taking each exam at least one hour prior to when the Testing Center closes. There will be no make-up exams without PRIOR consent of the instructor. If the instructor is informed (prior to the first day of the exam) of an inability to take the test during the allotted time, it can be completed within a mutually agreeable timeframe, although possibly (at the instructor’s discretion) with a maximum penalty of 10% (i.e., 7 points) for each day after the exam’s scheduled closing date. *No exceptions to this rule will be made.*

Answer keys for exams will be posted within one day of their return following grading. If, after comparing your answer to that on the answer key, you are unhappy with the way a short answer or essay exam question is graded, it is possible to submit the exam for re-grading. To do so, a typewritten request explaining the reasoning behind the re-grade must be submitted to me along with the graded exam and any supporting documentation no later than one week after receipt of your graded exam. I will consider your resubmission and you will be made aware of any grade changes when the exam is returned to you.

In addition to exams, 10% of each student’s overall course grade will be derived from points earned on exam-style problems solved in-class. Each in-class problem or problem set will be given at the beginning of class on the Thursday before each exam (see lecture schedule for dates) and will be worth a maximum of 14 points. Students who are not in attendance on class days when in-class problems are given will have the opportunity to complete them by noon the Friday after the problem/problem set was given. Please contact your instructor to make arrangements if you plan on taking advantage of this opportunity to verify her availability. No problems/problem sets completed after this time limit will be graded.

Points earned on a writing assignment that is due by midnight, 4/22/2016 constitute the final 5% of your overall course grade. This assignment, worth a maximum of 35 points, is to be a thoughtful review of the popular novel, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This review is to include answers to specific questions that are posted on the instructor’s web site (url above).
Although discussions of the book’s content among classmates is encouraged, all assigned reviews are to be completed INDEPENDENTLY and should be written in each student’s own words.

Finally, in addition to exams, problem sets and the writing assignment described above (together totaling 65% of the final course grade), 35% of each student’s overall course grade will be based upon material covered in the laboratory section of this class. More information on this aspect of your course grade will be discussed during the first weekly laboratory session.

The total number of points earned throughout the semester will be used to calculate the final course grade for each student using the grading scale listed below. In the calculation of the final course grade, if a grade requires “rounding”, a student’s grade may be rounded either up or down dependent upon attitude, class attendance and other subjective criteria per the instructor’s discretion.

**Grading Scale:** A maximum of 700 points can be earned in this class. The following grading scale will be used as a guideline. Modification of this scale may be made if necessary.

A >93%
A- 90-93%
B+ 88-89%
B 84-87%
B- 80-83%
C+ 78-79%
C 70-77%
C- 67-69%
D+ 63-66%
D 58-62%
F <58%

**Important Dates:**
- February 1st       Last day to withdraw without a “W”
- March 7-11th       No Class-Spring Break
- March 29th        Last day to withdraw from class
- April 25th        Last day of class

If you have a disability for which you will need accommodations in this class or for examinations, please contact the office of Services for Students with Disabilities program at 626-6413.