BIOL 2323: GENERAL GENETICS - SPRING 2007

SYLLABUS

Class meets: MWF 9:30-10:20 a.m.; Kimpel Hall Auditorium (Room 102)

Instructor: Dr. Michael Lehmann
Office: SCEN 621
Email: mlehmann@uark.edu (please enter BIOL2323 in subject line)
Office Hours: see me immediately after class or by appointment
Course web site: http://comp.uark.edu/~mlehmann/courses.html
Textbook web site: http://www.prenhall.com/klug/


Objectives: This course provides an introduction into both classical and molecular genetics. By the end of the course you should have a basic understanding of:
• how genetic information is stored (i.e. the physical nature of genetic information)
• how genetic information is replicated, transmitted, and changed
• how genetic information is realized, i.e. how it determines the phenotype
• classic and modern experimental approaches to genetic analysis
• ways in which genetic analysis contributes to our understanding of basic biological processes such as evolution and development

Lectures: Attendance is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. Changes in lecture topics, dates of exams, or specific reading assignments will be announced during lecture time. Readings for each class period should be done prior to coming to class. The lectures are intended to (1) clarify concepts presented in your reading, (2) focus your study time outside of class by providing specific learning objectives for each lecture topic, (3) provide a forum for questions and class discussions, and (4) to demonstrate problem-solving strategies.

Problem sets: Homework problems will be assigned from each chapter. These are not to be turned in. However, it will be to your great advantage to solve the problems, as they will be similar to those in the exams. The solutions to the problems at the end of each chapter are in the Appendix to the textbook and in the Solution Manual. Solve the problems before looking at the answers!

Exams: Exams will emphasize reasoning skills, problem solving, and comprehension of the basic concepts of genetics. There will be four non-comprehensive exams. Each exam will emphasize information covered since the previous exam, but may include material from previous units. The format will be multiple-choice. The first three exams will be held during scheduled class hours, and the fourth exam during the two hours scheduled for the final exam. Each exam will be worth 25% of the final grade. There will be a fifth, optional comprehensive exam during the second hour of the final exam day. Students who choose to take this exam can use the grade for this exam to replace their lowest previous grade in one of the non-comprehensive exams.

Make-up exams: The comprehensive exam will also be used as a make-up exam for students who missed one of the previous exams for a valid reason. It will be necessary to present a written excuse,
e.g. a doctor’s certificate. There will be no other specific make-up-exam for any of the non-comprehensive exams!

**Grading policy:** The course is not graded on a curve. Thus, there is no set proportion of the class that will earn any particular grade. At least theoretically, everybody can make an “A”! The total points earned will be calculated for each student and the average of the top two or three scores will be the starting point for grade assignment (100%). Grading will be based on the following scale: A: 90-100%, B: 80-89%, C: 70-79%, D: 60-69%, and F<60%.

**Academic Honesty:**
You are expected to familiarize yourself with the University of Arkansas’ Academic Honesty Policy, published in the Catalog of Studies (Academic Regulations). Be aware that students who violate University standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including failure in the course and suspension from the University. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the University, policies concerning academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced!

**Disclaimer:** The information contained in this syllabus does not constitute a contractual agreement. Exam dates, format, course content and grading policy may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be announced during class hours.