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**BIOT 5221                      Proteins & Nucleic Acids                      Credit Hours: 2**

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**Semester:** Spring                      **Year:** 2022  
**Class Day/Time:** Mondays, 9am-11am                      **Class Location:** BMR Auditorium

**Instructor of Record:** Dr. Pierre Neuenschwander  
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Office Hours: Anytime by appointment

**Team Taught Class**

Instructors:  
Dr. Pierre Neuenschwander  
Dr. Galina Florova  
Dr. Vijay Boggaram  
Dr. Sreerama Shetty  
Dr. Maolin Lu

**Course Description:** The goal of the course is to provide a critical understanding of the relationship between structure and function of biological macromolecules such as proteins and nucleic acids.

**Prerequisite:** BIOT 5312

**Co-requisite:** BIOT 5221L

**Goals of Course:**

1. To be able to communicate and discuss fundamental molecular biochemical principles pertaining to protein structure & function.
2. To be able to discuss the background and theory behind various protein-based biotechnology techniques.
3. To be able to find and process scientific information.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO or “course objectives”):**

1. The student will be able to describe the general structural features of proteins.
2. The student will be able to describe characteristics and properties of the naturally occurring amino acids
3. The student will be able to discuss various forms of molecular binding interactions, how to measure these binding interactions.
4. The student will be able to describe a binding isotherm and pitfalls of the various techniques used to generate binding isotherms.
5. The student will be able to discuss general kinetic properties and constants associated with binding interactions.
6. The student will be able to discuss and perform least-squares fitting of binding data using appropriate computer-based software, as well as interpret the results.

**Course Assessment/Methods of Evaluation:**

Student understanding will be evaluated with comprehensive examinations of a purely subjective nature covering each topic in detail, evaluations of quizzes, homework assignments, and class participation. Students who successfully complete the course will demonstrate a thorough understanding of fundamental molecular biochemical principles used in biotechnology, including basic background information, theory and applications.

- **Lecture Examinations:** There will be two non-comprehensive take home exams (a midterm and a final). These two exams will be of a subjective format based on preceding lectures and are each worth 30% of the final grade.
- **Quizzes:** These will be short take home quizzes and will be worth 20% of the total lecture grade.
- **Class Participation:** This will be based on attendance and participation in class polls and discussions 20%
- **Work turned in late will lose 5% (1 day late), 10% (2-3 day late), 20% (4-7) and 30% (7-14) of the points possible. More than 14 days late loses additional 5% off the points possible per additional week.**

**Quizzes and exams should NOT be submitted in hand-written form.**

#### **Linked Program Learning Outcomes:**

The student learning outcomes listed above address the following Biotechnology Program PLOs:

- PLO2 - The student will demonstrate mastery of basic and advanced biotechnology methods.
- PLO4 - The student will demonstrate independent and critical thinking skills integrated with the ability to utilize multiple informational resources.
- PLO5 - The student will explain the principles, mechanisms, and interrelatedness of both in vivo and in vitro biochemical, molecular biological, and genetic processes.

#### **Textbook:**

Biochemistry (4th Edition), by Donald Voet and Judith G. Voet, © John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2011; ISBN 978-0-470-57095-1

#### **Course Content:**

1. Module 1. PROTEINS I
  - A) Amino acid structure (Primary structure)
    - i) L- vs D- isomers
    - ii) Side chains and pK, pl
    - iii) Amino and carboxyl ends
  - B) Chemical properties of amino acid side chains
  - C) Polypeptides
    - i) Sequencing
    - ii) Synthesizing
  - D) Amino acid conformations
    - i) Angles, conformational space
    - ii) Ramachandran plots
2. Module 2. PROTEINS II
  - A) Secondary structures
    - i) Alpha Helix
    - ii) Beta Sheet
    - iii) Beta turns
    - iv) Triple helix (Collagen)
  - B) Protein stability and Tertiary structures
3. Module 3. LIGAND BINDING I - Protein-protein
  - A) Quaternary structure
  - B) Binding kinetics

- i)  $K_a$
- ii)  $K_d$
- C) Binding Isotherms
- D) Curve fitting (how to use a computer and interpret numbers)
- E) Experimental methods for measuring binding
  - i) Surface plasmon resonance
  - ii) Fluorescence

4. Module 4. LIGAND BINDING II- Protein-nucleic acid

- A) Nucleic Acid processing
- B) Gene regulation
- C) Viruses
- D) Complex structure prediction

### Other Class Policies

#### Attendance:

Regular or punctual attendance is expected. If a student misses a class or lab, the student is responsible for obtaining any information distributed during those times. Make-ups are possible only under certain instances (labs cannot be made up). Arrangements for any make-ups and/or missed labs should be discussed directly with the instructor for that day's class.

#### Academic Honesty:

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

#### Cheating

Dishonesty of any kind involving examinations, assignments, alteration of records, wrongful possession of examinations, and unpermitted submission of duplicate papers for multiple classes or unauthorized use of keys to examinations is considered cheating. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class.
- Falsifying or inventing any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise.
- Helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

#### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Materials, even ideas, borrowed from others necessitate full and complete acknowledgment of the original authors. Offering the work of another as one's own is plagiarism and is unacceptable in the academic community. A lack of adequate recognition constitutes plagiarism, whether it utilizes a few sentences, whole paragraphs, articles, books, audio-visual materials, or even the writing of a fellow student. In addition, the presentation of material gathered, assembled or formatted by others as one's own is also plagiarism. Because the university takes such misconduct very seriously, the student is urged to carefully read university policies on Misconduct in Research and Other Scholarly Activity 05.00. Examples of plagiarism are:

- Submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another.
- Submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source.
- Incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

#### Adding/Dropping:

The official deadline for adding and dropping courses is as published in the academic calendar ([Registrar Withdrawal webpage](#)). However, students are strongly encouraged to meet with their graduate advisor or the Program Coordinator prior to adding/dropping courses. Movement into and out of classes after the 4th

class day requires approval of the Program Director. Each student is responsible for their own enrollment status with the university.

**Disability Accommodations:**

UT Tyler HSC abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate provision of accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Student Services Office (located on the main campus). You may call 903-566-7079 for more information.