Instructors:  Dr. Willi Honegger  Dr. Denise Due-Goodwin  
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Note: use “BSCI 110b” on the subject line of all emails

Office Hours:  Dr. Honegger:  Monday and Friday 10-12,  
Dr. Due-Goodwin:  Tues 9:30-10:30, Thurs. 3:30-4:30  
Special appointments by phone or email  

Help Sessions:  5-6 p.m. on Monday in Room 1210 MRBIII. Special sessions may be held prior to each hour exam. These and the normal sessions are not reviews per se, rather an opportunity to ask questions or go over problem sets that will be given out in class.

Course Grade:  
Hour Exams 1-3:  13.3% each  
Hour Exams 4 + 5:  20% each  
One Hour Comprehensive Final  20%  

Note:  Exams 1, - 4 are to be given in class on the dates listed on the syllabus. Exam 5 will be given during the first hour of the two-hour final examination period. The Cumulative Final will be given during the second hour of the Final Exam period. The final examination period for this class is Saturday December 11 from 9-11 AM. BSCI 110b has two sections. You must take the hour exams and the Final during the time and in the room assigned to our section. An Alternate Final will not be given.

Make up exams will not be given except for true emergencies. Sickness must be verified by a doctor's note. You should make every effort to discuss with the instructors why you cannot take an exam prior to the exam and not afterwards. There will not be an alternate final exam.

Re-grading requests must be made within one week of the return of the exam. All such requests must be made in writing and be directed to Dr. Honegger or Dr. Due-Goodwin during office hours. Consulting the answer key is a prerequisite to requesting a re-grade.

Texts:  We will follow the assigned readings from Cell and Molecular Biology by Karp and from Life by Purves et al. (7th edition). These books are available in the bookstore or can be purchased at textbooks.com or studenttextbooks.com. Additionally, there are several World Wide Web sites that have tutorials/study guides for much of the material we will cover.

Exams:  You will be responsible for all reading assignments, all handouts, and everything presented in lecture. The exams will emphasize the material discussed in class and will be prepared strictly from lecture notes. 

Many exam questions will require you to apply concepts or facts learned in class to new but related situations or topics. Understanding the logic and direction of a question often requires a true understanding of the material, not just memorization of the facts. If you have not only memorized facts and figures but also critically thought about the material, you will find such questions easier to deal with. When reviewing your notes, do not simply memorize, but try to understand the underlying principles and concepts and try to relate new material to that covered previously. Ask yourself questions such as, What is the significance of this and why was it emphasized? Try to reason through the processes we cover and understand the rationale or logic behind them--Could they be done in another way? Why or why not? If so, what would be the consequences? The details and facts are important and you must know them; but just as important are the underlying principles, logic, and interrelationships between various cellular processes. The best way to come to such an understanding is to think about what is going on
as you review your notes, reason through the material, look for generalities and commonalties, and try to think about why a particular process is as it is. It is best to come to class having read the material beforehand and then spend more time thinking during the lecture rather than taking meticulous notes.

Class attendance is essential since the lectures will sometimes include material not found in the text and/or we will not cover the entire chapter of the reading material. More than many other classes, we build upon the facts and concepts learned during the previous lectures. Thus, it is very important for you to stay up with the material and make sure you understand each topic before proceeding to the next. If not, subsequent lectures will become more and more difficult to grasp. Review your notes after each class, attend help sessions, and make regular office hour visits when confused. You will find it difficult if you skip class and try to cram prior to the exams.

Web Site: http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bsci110b/index.htm
This site is the home page for BSCI 110 (both a and b). If you go here and follow the links to our class, you will find copies of the syllabus, course information, and old exams.

Vanderbilt's Honor Code governs all work in this course.