

PCB 3063L Genetics Laboratory Syllabus: Fall 2018

Syllabus subject to change

Goal & Objectives

The goal of these laboratories is to:

1. Introduce you to the activities in which research scientists engage when conducting scientific discovery in Genetics.
2. Promote student knowledge and appreciation of the use of model organisms
3. Gaining actual experience doing scientific research
4. Promote confidence and proficiency in scientific skills such as:
 - Formulating questions and hypotheses
 - Caring for a model organism
 - Acquiring molecular biology techniques
 - Using quantitative and statistical analysis
 - Using proper graphical display of data
 - Communicating research results in oral and written venues

Your classroom responsibilities: As is common in scientific research, this lab requires team interaction, communication, and problem-solving skills. You are expected to engage your peers and your TA as to any difficulties you may have as well as ideas that you think might be beneficial to the class discussion. Many of these labs will depend on your maturity and willingness to be successful.

To be successful in this course, you need to fulfill the following requirements:

Punctuality is essential. All experiments will require that the class begins as a group. Please be aware that five minutes late is still LATE! It is important for your professional development that you learn to be consistently punctual for your engagements. Interactive lectures will be given at the beginning of class and a tardy arrival will mean that you cannot get credit for correct responses-NO exceptions! Note: **If your TA has not arrived within 15 minutes of the class start time:** Please contact the Biology Stockroom by either calling the number on the door or going to the second floor.

Attendance is mandatory. The structure of lab does NOT allow for make-up labs.

***In certain cases (i.e. religious holidays), it is possible to make-up a lab only if you notify your TA and Super TA a week in advance. You must have approval from the section TA and the Super TA in order to make-up a lab.

***An absence may be considered excused in cases including a death in your immediate family or an extreme illness. In all cases, proof is required (i.e. doctor's note with date and time stamp) as is approval from the Super TA for an absence to be considered excused and for the lab to be made-up. In addition to showing proof, in order to have an absence excused you must contact your TA no later than 24 hours after your class start time (preferably before).

***In cases where advance notice is known, advance notice must be given to allow for an excused absence (at least a week in advance).

***You may only make-up on the campus (i.e. MMC or BBC) that you are enrolled in.

Proper dress code is mandatory. Proper attire means that everyone should have a lab coat, close-toed shoes and protective eye wear. If you are in violation of any of these you will not be allowed in to take the lab and you will be considered absent for the class. Ensure you have all of the above items BEFORE the start of the semester so as to avoid any conflicts.

Cellphone use is prohibited. During the hours of lab, your cell phone is to remain completely off or silent (not vibrate!). Please do not attempt to check email, missed calls, text messages or any of the functions of your cell phone during class time. **Regardless of what we're doing during the hours of class, consider your cell phone off limits.**

Plagiarism is a serious offense. Plagiarism is a serious offense and WILL be punished at the very least with a zero for the assignment but can also lead to your dismissal from the university. For a description of plagiarism in all its different forms please go to <http://coeweb.fiu.edu/plagiarism/>.

Lab notebook/Presentations. Lab notebook and presentations are due on the assigned date.

****You cannot pass this laboratory without completing the lab notebook and presentations**** Your TA will go over in detail what your lab notebook should look like. Proper note taking is an essential part of being a scientist, recording data, and keeping track of your project. You may have some experience with keeping a lab notebook, but it is not essential. Your TA will give you instructions on how to keep notes and your project organized with your lab notebook. Your hand-written lab notebook will be graded both for its intellectual content, organization, and clarity. Please see your TA if you need additional assistance with writing.

Grading Policy

Your final grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)
A	Above 94	B-	80 - 82		
A-	90 - 93	C+	77 - 79	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C	70 - 76	F	0 - 59
B	83 - 86				

Note: F0 – failing grade based on non-attendance; IN – incomplete with approval from Instructor of Record

Your grade will depend on your performance on interactive lectures, lab notebook, final group presentation, and final exam.

Course Requirements	Weight
Participation	20%
Attendance	20%
Lab Notebook	20%
Presentation	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

- It is your responsibility to keep track of your progress in the course.
- **Late assignments** are penalized 10% per day.
- **Participation** in class discussions and within your group will contribute to this component.
- **Attendance** will be taken by the TA at the start of the lab.
- **Lab notebook:** To write effective reports it is important to properly document your laboratory activities. The lab notes should be in chronological order. At the end of each class the observations and experiments performed will be recorded in a handwritten format. Each entry must be clearly written and dated. The guideline for writing a proper notebook can be found on the lab website.
- **Presentations:** In addition to writing, communication of experiment findings is also completed through presentations. Your group will prepare and present the findings of your experiment to the rest of the class. This is due as noted on the schedule. **Note the presentation must be completed in order to pass the course.**

Academic Misconduct: Includes (but is not limited to) giving or receiving assistance on a test, quiz, or homework assignment for which such assistance is not permitted, falsifying a document to obtain an excuse from a test, and using unauthorized notes on a test or quiz. A more complete definition of Academic Misconduct is given in the Student Handbook. Penalties for Academic

Misconduct range from an F in the course to expulsion from the University. Academic Misconduct: Full handbook and information can be found at:
<http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/1acmisconductproc.htm>

DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic Misconduct is defined as the following intentional acts or omissions committed by any FIU student:

1.01 Cheating: The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Any student helping another cheat may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

1.02 Plagiarism: The deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including Internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism. Any student helping another to plagiarize may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

1.08 Academic Dishonesty: In general, by any act or omission not specifically mentioned above and which is outside the customary scope of preparing and completing academic assignments and/or contrary to the above stated policies concerning academic integrity.

If found cheating, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN “F” FOR THE CLASS, NO EXCEPTIONS.

TURN-IT-IN plagiarism software will be used to check all written reports for plagiarism. If plagiarism is found to exist, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN “F” FOR THE CLASS, NO EXCEPTIONS.

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By signing the PCB 3063L Syllabus form, I, _____, state that I have read this form and understand the expectations for the course. I will wear closed-toe shoes and my lab coat in the lab. I will be on time to class. I agree to keep my academic integrity intact and I will not cheat or plagiarize.

Printed Name

Signature

Date