

Cell Biology BIOL 300
Spring 2025, 12:30 – 1:45 pm
ISC 115
Instructor information
Dr. Jani Lewis
Office hours: ISC 354
Tuesday, 3- 5 pm
Wednesdays, 9 – 11 am
And by appointment
Email: lewisj@geneseo.edu
Office phone: 585-245-5310

Course Description

Through this course you will develop a clear and detailed understanding of the structure and functions of eukaryotic cells. You will learn to recognize how faulty cellular mechanisms lead to human disease. Upon completion of the course, I expect you to possess a solid background of the principles of cell biology as well as an understanding of emerging concepts in this field. You will also gain insight into how scientists investigate the structure and function of cells.

Required Textbook

The required textbook is Essential Cell Biology, Alberts et al, 6th edition
Smarnwork6 is also required.

Learning Objectives

Students who complete this course successfully will be able to:

- Describe the basic facts, concepts and fundamental principles in cell biology
- Apply those facts, concepts and principles to current biological questions of today.
- Describe cell structure and how it relates to cell functions.
- Describe experimental techniques in cell biology
- Describe cell membrane and membrane transport
- Describe cellular compartmentalization and how material is sorted and transported between intracellular compartments.
- Describe how mis-regulation of cell signaling leads to cancer and other diseases.
- Describe regulation of cell cycle and apoptosis

In class and online (annotated) materials

Each chapter's material has a module. In these modules you will find links to the learning outcomes, videos and/or podcasts, the PowerPoint slides and assignments. I am asking you to be familiar with each module's content before we start that chapter. I may assign some of the videos or podcasts to be done before coming to class so that we can discuss them in class. The face-to-face portion of the class will meet Tuesday and Thursday, at which time there will be a lecture of the remaining parts of the material and will incorporate both in-class questions that reflect those given on an exam as well as discussion of figures that come either from the textbook or assignments related to primary journal articles that you should read ahead of time. It will also be a time to go over problem sets that you might be given to help you better

understand the material. The in-class time is also a time to ask questions related to the material presented in the papers, worksheets and in the Smartwork assignments.

Groups and “Question of the Day” (QD).

Sometime during almost every class period you will be given a question to do as a group. This question will be collected and count towards your test grades. It is important to recognize that some of these questions may end up in some form on your exams. If you have been there for every QD (-1) during that testing period you will receive 2% extra credit on your exam. The -1 means that you can miss one class per quarter and still get the 2% extra credit on your exam. Everyone from your group who participates must sign the answer sheet to receive credit for the question. Any group who submits a group-member's name that is not present at the time the question was done will lose all credit for that question.

Problem Sets and/or Journal article assignments

Problem sets and/or portions of primary journal articles with accompanying questions will be assigned throughout the semester. The topics will be related to the material we are covering in the lectures. These problem sets and/or journal article questions will be discussed during class time and it is expected that you do the work ahead of the class time. Answers to the questions will not be posted so it is imperative that you come to class to make sure your answers are correct. These sessions and the article questions are meant to 1). Help you understand how to interpret results presented in primary journal articles; 2.) Become more familiar with a given topic and; 3). Learn about the methodology that is used to study the structures and functions of cells. Each person should submit a copy of the answers to the paper questions or problem sets by the deadlines listed. There will be 1 – 2 questions on the respective papers or problem sets on the exams. To receive full credit for the questions on the exams you must have submitted a copy of the answers to the questions and/or problem sets by their due dates.

Smartwork assignments

You will be assigned topics within the Smartwork which you must complete to receive credit. Smartwork also has many resources including links to great animations that will aide you in understanding the material. Please note that you must purchase access to Smartwork to complete these assignments. This access can be purchased through the bookstore or directly from the publisher (which I believe may be cheaper than via the bookstore). The Smartwork does include access to the ebook. In the modules for this course the first one is titled “Essential Cell Biology Course Materials”. Within that module is a link to a video entitled “How to register for Smartwork video”. It is extremely helpful for becoming familiar with the online system for homeworks and navigating the ebook and resources.

Exams

There will be 4 exams including the final. None of the exams will be cumulative. Exams will cover lecture topics in class, Smartwork assignments and parts of primary journal articles and problem sets we go over during the period between exams. Please remember that looking over your PowerPoints by themselves will not adequately prepare you for exams. You should utilize your notes taken during class, any questions I post in the module that is associated with the

lecture and the relevant chapter material in the text to strengthen your understanding of what is being covered. Exams will be largely made up of multi-part short answer questions as well as multiple choice questions. The questions are meant to challenge you to integrate and apply what you have learned in class and on assignments. Exams will be given during class time and on the computer. You will need to download the lockdown browser and bring your laptop to class for the exam. If you have accommodations for extra time or other accommodations, you will have to alert me to this and schedule time in the testing center at least 3 business days before the in-class exam.

Grading

Exams (4 exams including the final)	75%
Smartworks	15%
Answers to paper questions and worksheets covered in class	10%

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to calculate final grades. Student point totals or grading scheme maybe adjusted to reflect course difficulty or section differences (instructor's discretion).

A = 100-93%	A ⁻ = 92.9-90%	B ⁺ = 89.9-87%	B = 86.9-83%
B ⁻ = 82.9-80%	C ⁺ = 79.9-77%	C = 76.9-73%	C ⁻ = 72.9-70%
D = 69.9-60%	F = 59-0%		

How To Get the Most from Your Studying

- Take charge of your own learning.
- Study for understanding of the concepts, not just memorization of "facts".
- Read assigned chapters and watch the annotated lectures. Make notes as you do and pay careful attention to the questions that I ask during lecture and the questions to think about that I post for each chapter.
- Watch the recommended videos that come with your book or those that I provide links to in the modules.
- Come to class each week, preferably after looking over the chapter at least once, but even if you miss doing that before class, come to the class each week. This will help you stay on top of the work and not leave it until the last minute before the exam.
- Do the Smartwork assignments in the order they are listed in the modules. Keeping up with these assignments as you go through the chapter material reinforces your learning and reduces your stress for getting these items finished in advance of when they are due.
- Be alert and take good notes during class. Go over your notes after class and make extra notes from your reading. Look at any questions I place in each module and consider these while reading the material and watching the annotated lectures.
- Consider studying with other students outside of class to discuss the material and prepare for exams.
- Read the questions related the primary articles, read through these articles and try to answer these questions on your own first and then utilize your fellow students to help answer these questions.

· Get help when necessary. Feel free to email me anytime and set up a meeting if you need any help. It is worthwhile to come to office hours even if you only have one question. Your one question might help other students who come to office hours at that time and vice versa. It is like an extra tutoring/studying session.

Tentative Schedule /2025 (may change due to unforeseen circumstances)			
Date	Topics	Unit	Chapter
1/22	Introduction to the course, chapter 1 lecture	1	1
1/27	Continued discussion on Chapter 1 and 2.	1	2
1/29	Thermodynamics, Free energy and Catalysts	1	3
2/03	Thermodynamics, Free Energy and Catalysts continued	1	3
2/05	Worksheet on Free energy and catalysts	1	4
2/10	Protein Folding and enzyme function	1	4
2/12	Protein Folding and enzyme function	1	4
2/17	Exam #1 – Chaps. 1-4	1	1-4
2/19	First half of Chapter 11 through SDS PAGE	2	11
2/24	Second half Chap. 11	2	11
2/26	Chapter 12 first half	2	12
3/03	Chapter 12 second half	2	12
3/05	Chapter 15 part I.	2	15
3/10	Chapter 15 part II.	2	15
3/12	Chapter 15 and Paper assignment	2	15
3/17	Spring Break - no classes		
3/19	Spring Break - no classes		
3/24	Finish up Chapter 15	2	15
3/26	Exam #2 – Chaps. 11, 12, 15 and paper assignment	2	11, 12, 15
3/31	Chapter 16 through G-protein signaling	3	16
4/02	Chapter 16 to end of chapter	3	16
4/07	Chapter 16 and Paper #2 discussion	3	16
4/09	first part of Chapter 17	3	17
4/14	Chapter 17 - continued	3	17
4/16	Chapter 17 and do actin/myosin worksheet.	3	17
4/21	Finish Chapter 17	3	17
4/23	GREAT DAY no class.		
4/28	Exam #3 – Chaps. 16 and 17	3	16, 17
4/30	Chapter 18 -Intro to cell cycle regulation Part I	4	
5/05	Chapter 18 – Regulation of cell numbers Part II	4	18
5/07	Chapter 18 Part III	4	18
5/14	Exam #4 12:00 – 2:30 pm NOTE TIME CHANGE	4	18

IMPORTANT POLICIES (in alphabetical order)

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Milne Library offers frequent workshops to help students understand how to paraphrase, quote, and cite outside sources properly. These sessions are meant to educate about the importance of using original ideas and language, and how to incorporate paraphrases and quotes into writing. The complete list of library workshops can be found at www.geneseo.edu/library/library-workshops.

Academic dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, knowingly providing false information, plagiarizing, and any other form of academic misrepresentation. College policies and procedures regarding academic dishonesty are available at https://www.geneseo.edu/dean_office/dishonesty. All work must be your own. You also may not use a large language model, such as OpenAI's chatGPT, to edit or generate text because it is not guaranteed to be free from using the intellectual products of others.

Academic dishonesty devalues the work of other students. Cheating on exams is a serious breach of trust and will be treated accordingly. Examples of cheating on tests include (but are not limited to) collaboration or communication with others in any form. Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of the originality of your work. Collaborating on a test will result in a failing grade for the test and may result in a failing grade for the course. Ignorance of the policy or of the definition of cheating will not serve to excuse the behavior. Because academic dishonesty is defined in detail here, claiming ignorance of the policies cannot serve as an excuse. Should serious academic cheating be identified the procedures addressing these incidents are addressed in detail through the [Dean of Academic Planning and Advising's](#) webpage.

Academic Support Services

The campus provides a range of support services to help students thrive in their classes. These services include:

- Tutoring, both drop-in and by-appointment, with student tutors in the Writing Learning Center, the Math Learning Center, and a range of department-based tutoring centers
- Online tutoring through the SUNY-wide STAR-NY system (www.starny.org/tutoring_schedule)
- Supplemental Instruction, in which trained student assistants review lecture material from specific classes

Information on times and locations is available through the Center for Academic Excellence website at www.geneseo.edu/library/center-academic-excellence.

Accessibility

SUNY Geneseo is dedicated to providing an equitable and inclusive educational experience for all students. The Office of Accessibility will coordinate reasonable accommodations for persons

with documented physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities, as well as medical conditions related to pregnancy or parenting. Students with letters of accommodation should submit a letter to me at the beginning of the semester and discuss specific arrangements. Please contact the Office of Disabilities

Office of Accessibility Services

Erwin Hall 22

(585) 245-5112

access@geneseo.edu

www.geneseo.edu/accessibility-services

- *Student responsibility:* Please submit your letter of accommodations to me at the beginning of the semester and make an appointment to discuss arrangements.
- *Instructor responsibility:* I am committed to working with you to figure out how to create a just learning environment while meeting the learning outcomes of the course. Unless you communicate otherwise, I will keep all accommodations confidential.

Appealing grades

Any graded work may be submitted for re-evaluation along with a written appeal submitted via email and should include a brief explanation of your concerns, including your understanding of the test question or assignment directions and why you believe your work meets the requirements. Appeals should be sent in within one week of receiving the graded work. When you submit your appeal, we will schedule an individual conference to go over my response.

Bias-Related Incidents

“We are here to listen, to learn, to teach, to debate, to change, to grow. We should all be safe to pursue these goals at SUNY Geneseo while being who we are. Together, we commit ourselves to pluralism, cultivating a community that respects difference and promotes a sense of inclusion and belonging.”

As this excerpt from our Community Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion states, here at SUNY Geneseo, we want to provide a space where everyone feels welcome to learn and grow in their identities as well as in their role as students, faculty, and staff. If in the unfortunate instance you experience an incident of bias, we encourage you to reach out to the [Office of Diversity and Equity](#) and/or our University Police Department. In trying to create an environment that facilitates growth through diverse thoughts and ideas, reporting incidents of bias - including threats, vandalism, and microaggressive behaviors - can help bring a better understanding of our campus climate as well as provide opportunities for learning and restoring harm.

Communication

Check your email and the announcements section regularly in Brightspace regularly. Besides office hours, the fastest way to get in touch with me is via e-mail. Please include your name (not just your email address) and the course name or number (Biol 354) in all e-mails sent to me. To

preserve work-life balance, I reserve the option to delay answering emails sent after 5 pm or on the weekends until the start of the next business day.

Computer and Technology Support

For assistance with your computer or mobile device, visit the CIT HelpDesk in Milne Library. CIT provides self help guides on a range of computer issues, including access to the campus network, Canvas, printing, software guides, and other resources. The CIT Self Help Guides at wiki.geneseo.edu/display/cit/CIT+Self+Help can be helpful in finding quick solutions to basic technology issues.

CIT also provides free access to over 7,500 online tutorials for software, digital tools, web development, programming, and design through lynda.com training resources available at wiki.geneseo.edu/display/cit/Lynda.com+Training+Library.

Copyright notice

Many of the materials that are provided to students in this course have been created by myself or by the publisher of our textbook. Students would be best to assume that all course materials are protected by legal copyright. Copyright protection means that reproduction of this material is prohibited without the author's consent. Thus, students are prohibited from sharing or posting copyrighted material to any websites outside our course Canvas site. Students are also prohibited from reproducing material to be shared with other more limited groups (eg. sorority/fraternity test bank). Be aware that UUP (Union of University Professionals, the union representing faculty on this campus) is seeking to take legal action against these and other sites, and that posting or selling copies of materials to such sites may put a student in legal jeopardy.

Food Security for SUNY Geneseo Students

SUNY Geneseo students who find themselves in a position of food insecurity and do not have the financial resources to support their food and nutrition needs can access the Geneseo Groveland Food Pantry located at the First Presbyterian Church, 31 Center Street in Geneseo. Students can utilize the pantry once with no referral or contact with the College. At this visit they will be provided items that will address their basic needs for several days. If a student continues to face difficulties providing for their own nutritional needs beyond their first visit to the pantry they should connect with Susan Romano, Director of Financial Aid to receive a brief letter that they will present to the staff at the pantry that verifies their need. If students do not have a FAFSA on file for any reason they should contact [Office of the Dean of Students](#), to discuss their particular situation and options. The Geneseo Groveland Food Pantry is open on the following days and times:

Tuesday: 10 AM - 2 PM

Wednesday: 4 PM - 6:30 PM

Thursday: 10 AM - 2 PM

If you have any questions please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at: deanstu@geneseo.edu or 585-245-5706.

Geneseo Mission and Values

SUNY Geneseo has several core documents that articulate our shared commitments and learning objectives. These include:

- SUNY Geneseo Mission, Vision and Values: <https://www.geneseo.edu/about/mission-vision-and-values>
- Community Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: <https://www.geneseo.edu/diversity/commitment>
- Geneseo Learning Outcomes for Baccalaureate Education: <https://www.geneseo.edu/provost/globe-geneseo-learning-outcomes-baccalaureate-education>

Library Research Help

Frasier Library has an award-winning staff trained in finding the best information. They have created online research guides, self-help databases, and are available for individual consultation. Research Librarians are available for walk-in consultations and students may request appointments with staff experts in particular fields. Full information on Milne Library research resources, hours, and consultation options is available at www.geneseo.edu/library/ask-us.

Makeup exams

I will not provide makeup exams unless you have a valid excuse such as an illness or a family emergency. To be fair to everyone in class and to follow departmental and university policies, documentation for such emergencies will be required. If you miss an exam for any of the above stated exceptions, you must contact me as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements.

Policy exceptions and changes

Policies are designed to address common issues and concerns. I cannot anticipate every possible problem that may arise, and therefore policies can have limits and exceptions! If you are experiencing problems in completing class work for any reason, please make an appointment to talk with me. Please note that in light of the current pandemic it is also possible that I will have to return to a fully online format. In that case policies may change and I will post those changes if and when they occur.

Professionalism

Anytime you feel ill we ask that you do not come to the in-class sessions. If you are feeling ill, please email me as soon as possible so we can discuss what was done in class and how you can possibly make up this work.

For your scheduled class please arrive on time, stay through class, turn off your cell phone (including vibration mode), and use laptops and other technology only for class-related

activities. It is understood that the continuing development of new technology can be beneficial to the process of education. For this reason, laptops and smartphones are permitted for notetaking and viewing classroom materials. Unacceptable classroom use of technology includes, but is not limited to social media websites, e-mail, playing games, and cell phone photography. These diversions not only reduce your class participation, they can also distract those around you. If you disrupt the lecture or are distracting others around you, you may be asked to leave. If the behavior of other students around you is affecting your learning please tell us.

If you have an emergency for which you need your cell phone to be turned on, talk to me before the beginning of in class sessions. Only then will you not be asked to leave if your cell phone rings/vibrates during the in-class session.

Religious Observations and Class Attendance

Student attendance in classes on religious holidays is governed by New York State Education Law 224-a (see <https://www.geneseo.edu/apca/classroom-policies>). Students who anticipate an absence due to religious observations should contact their faculty member as soon as possible in advance to arrange make up plans. A calendar of major religious observations may be found at:

https://www.geneseo.edu/hr/hr_legal_holidays

Safeguarding your mental health

Diminished mental health, including significant stress, mood changes, excessive worry, or problems with eating and/or sleeping can interfere with optimal academic performance. The source of symptoms might be strictly related to your course work; if so, please speak with me. However, problems with relationships, family worries, loss, or a personal struggle or crisis can also contribute to decreased academic performance.

SUNY Geneseo provides mental health services to support the academic success of students. Counseling Services, a part of the Lauderdale Center for Student Health & Counseling, offers free, confidential psychological services to help you manage personal challenges that may threaten your well-being (health.geneseo.edu).

In the event I suspect you need additional support, I will express my concerns and the reasons for them, and remind you of resources (e.g., Counseling Services, Career Services, Dean of Students, etc.) that might be helpful to you. It is not my intention to know the details of what might be bothering you, but simply to let you know I am concerned and that help, if needed, is available. Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do for yourself /and /for those who care about you.

Well-Being

Prioritizing well-being can support the achievement of academic goals and alleviate stress. Eating nutritious foods, getting enough sleep, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol,

maintaining healthy relationships, and building in time to relax all help promote a healthy lifestyle and general well-being.

Concerns about academic performance, health situations, family health and wellness (including the loss of a loved one), interpersonal relationships and commitments, and other factors can contribute to stress. Students are strongly encouraged to communicate their needs to faculty and staff and seek support if they are experiencing unmanageable stress or are having difficulties with daily functioning. The Dean of Students (585-245-5706) can assist and provide direction to appropriate campus resources. For more information, see www.geneseo.edu/dean_students.