

47890

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

9:00 – 9:50am PHR 2.110

Instructor – Dr. Brenda Chinnery-Allgeier (you can call me Dr. Chinnery)

Web site – currently I am using Blackboard for announcements, assignments, posted lectures, and grades.

Office – PAI 1.48B

Phone – 232-5459

Office hours –by appointment

e-mail – bjca@mail.utexas.edu

Campus mailbox – A5400

★Please contact me by email or phone with any questions. The best time to call is during office hours; in an emergency, call my cell phone – 512-585-8372. I am here to help you. Make sure to contact me as soon as possible with any question or problem!

Class Information –

This syllabus is intended for the lecture portion of the class. Each individual unique number has a separate discussion section time and location. Your TA will provide you with information on your discussion classes.

Unique numbers **47890, 47895, 47900, 47905** are in one lecture, 9 – 9:50am in PHR 2.110. The official class unique number is **47890**, and you will need to use this number in any emails to me. This is not the only class I am teaching, and I need to know which class you are in in order to answer your questions!

REQUIRED

Textbook – Cain, Yoon, Singh-Cundy *Discover Biology* 4th edition **E-book**. To access this e-book, go to the following web site and fill in the required information.

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/csbook.aspx?id=18802&csid=109400000011489>

I-clicker - clickers must be purchased at the bookstore before 1/26 and brought to each class. These clickers cost around \$36.00 but this is a one-time-only fee (there is no course registration fee) and they can be sold back for part of the cost at the end of the semester. We will register them together in lecture on 1/26, or you can register yours at iclicker.com.

Teaching Assistant

Kristen Layton

Email: kristen.layton@utexas.edu

Office hours:

Overview –

The course catalog describes this course the following way: “Introduction to the structure and function of organisms from the molecular to the organ system level; an integrated approach to cell and molecular biology, genetics, development, and physiology of organisms”. I plan to incorporate discussions on evolution, adaptation, and balance in nature to this description, and will introduce other relevant fields of science throughout the course. I will not go into great detail on the difficult aspects of cell biology and genetics, but will instead focus on more all-encompassing themes.

Class policies –

All correspondence to me by email **MUST** include your name and class unique number, or I may not have time to research who sent an email and which class it belongs to and may not be able to respond. There is no need to contact me if you miss a class (see Attendance section).

Announcements and communication: Announcements will be made at the beginning of lecture and/or on Blackboard. It is **YOUR** responsibility to check Blackboard routinely (at least once a day) for announcements as well as for assignments and grades.

If you miss an announcement due to missing class or arriving late or by failing to check Blackboard regularly, *you are still responsible for the information, no matter what!*

Attendance to lecture class is not mandatory, but I will ask questions using the iclickers during most classes and this will contribute to your class attendance/participation grade. Clickers are extremely useful tools in large lecture classes, as they allow for participation by everyone without anyone feeling self-conscious. Clicker responses provide both you and me with information on how much of the material you understand. I like clickers also for opinion questions, as all individual responses are anonymous. You will receive partial credit for answering a question, and full credit for answering a question correctly, if there is a correct answer. Thus it is beneficial to answer all questions, even if you don't know the answer.

Don't forget to bring your clicker to every lecture! I tend to ask clicker questions *at the beginning of class*, in order to remind you of what we discussed during the previous class, so it will benefit you to **arrive on time** to class, and also to review the material before each lecture. I will give everyone approximately 6 free days of lecture in case you miss class, arrive late, or forget your iclicker. These free days will also cover all excused absences including those due to medical reasons, military, sports, or other, so I don't need notes for lecture classes missed. I will only discuss excused absences if they are longer term and will use more than the six free days.

Exam questions will be primarily from lecture material, so it is very important to come to the lectures. Powerpoint lectures will be posted on Blackboard before each lecture (hopefully; I will try my best!), and I encourage you to print these out and take notes on them, as they will contain figures and pictures that will be useful to you. However, the posted lectures do **not** contain all of the content covered during class, and are **not** a substitute for coming to lecture!

Your TA will discuss discussion section attendance and policies with you.

Any lecture assignments must be worked on individually, and must be in your own words, unless otherwise specified. **Under no circumstances** will we accept assignments including parts that were copied and pasted from someone else's work or from any source. This is **plagiarism**, and is an example of academic dishonesty in the University of Texas. After the first two assignments, **no late assignments will be accepted!**

The majority of your grade will be taken from the exam scores, so make sure to be prepared! The exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions, taken from the lectures, the text book, and the discussion section assignments. The final discussion section before each exam will be a review session. If an exam must be missed for any reason, you need to have a valid written excuse and talk to me **beforehand** as soon as possible to take the exam; you must take the makeup exam **before** the class is scheduled to take the exam. Any illness or emergency that prevents you taking an exam must be excused with a note from a doctor, an obituary, or other official document in order for you to take a makeup exam, and you must take the makeup exam within one week of the posted exam date.

I have a strict exam regrade policy. From when an exam is returned to the class, you have **one week** to contest a grade, regardless if you did not receive your exam with the class because of missing the class. Regrades must be submitted in writing, including the exam question, the answer you put, the answer on the exam key provided to you, and a well-written and logical argument for why you should have received more points. You must return the exam with the regrade request. If you used pencil on the exam I may not be able to grant a regrade request, even for a claim of a mistake in grading.

No individual extra credit assignments will be provided. Extra credit opportunities for the entire class may be given during the semester, and will definitely help your grade if you participate.

I am NOT using the plus/minus system this semester for grading. Letter grades will be assigned as follows: A = 90% and above, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, and F = up to 59%. Grades will be based on the following:

75% Exams – the highest 3 out of 4 exam grades

**25% Lecture and discussion attendance and participation and assignments
(12.5% from lecture; 12.5% from discussion)**

For final course grades, I will consider rounding grades up that are within one percent of a letter grade, by looking at improvement through the semester, attendance, and whether or not extra points were earned. I will *not* consider changing grades which are more than 1% below a cutoff (for example, I will not give a grade of C for 68%!!) And please don't ask me for extra work to help your grade – **after the last exam there will be no opportunities to help your grade**, so I suggest that you take advantage of any extra credit provided earlier in the semester.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259. **Having accommodations does not lesson your responsibility as a student!** You **must** stay in contact with me and remind me of exams and other accommodations throughout the semester, and you must **take all exams in the SSD testing center**. This means that you have to set up a time with them a week before the exam is scheduled, you have to remind me to email the exam to them the day before you take it, and you must return the exam in a signed, sealed envelope directly after you take it. Under no circumstances will I accept an exam after the day on which it was taken.

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students: Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—daily is recommended, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for your e-mail address at www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php.

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Emergency Evacuation Policy: Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of lab instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office

As with all University of Texas classes, cheating will not be tolerated. Cell phones must be OFF at the beginning of each class and discussion section, and laptops may only be used to take notes. If a student is found using their laptop for other purposes, he or she will be asked to leave the class. Respect for the rest of the class (including the TA and instructor) is expected, and unruly behavior or unnecessary comments will also warrant dismissal from class.