

**BIMM 100: Molecular Biology**

**Instructor:** Andrew Cooper (he/him/his)

**Office:** HSS 1145C

**E-mail:** a5cooper@ucsd.edu (Include BIMM 100 in the subject line)

**Lecture Time:** TuTh 11:00-12:20p YORK 2722 or TuTh 3:30-4:50p GH 242

**Office Hours:** TuTh 2:00-3:00p in HSS 1145C & F 6:00-7:00p on Zoom

Or by appointment

**Course Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe how biological information is stored and expressed.
2. Explain the different mechanisms of gene regulation.
3. Differentiate the structure and function of different RNA molecules.
4. Compare and contrast prokaryotic and eukaryotic gene expression and regulation.
5. Apply techniques scientists use to uncover molecular processes in the cell.

**Contacting Me:** Please ensure that all e-mails include BIMM 100 in the subject line and if the matter requires immediate attention include URGENT in the subject line as well. If I do not respond to an e-mail within 24-48 hours, please send it again. I regularly check my e-mail during normal business time (Weekdays 9:00 am-6:00 pm), but more sporadically on the weekend/holidays.

**Optional Text:** Lodish et al. *Molecular Cell Biology* 8th edition is optional but recommended. It is a good reference for material that is unclear and for background information you should know from prerequisite courses. Recommended pre-reading for each lecture will be indicated in the course schedule.

**Canvas:** All course-related information will be posted on our Canvas site. The lecture slides will be posted before class starts. Please check the Canvas site and your UCSD e-mail regularly for any announcements as these will contain essential information.

**Podcast:** Lecture podcasts will be posted through the traditional podcast site and can be accessed through Canvas.

**iClickers:** iClickers are required for this course. The frequency in YORK 2722 is CA and in GH 242 is AC. You must create an iClicker account using your UCSD email address and student ID, then join the class. If you are using a physical remote, you must register your clicker to your account by Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Clicker participation will

be counted beginning with the lecture on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. You need to attend the lecture you are registered for, or you will not receive credit.

**Instructional Assistants (IAs):**

Name	Email
Saya French	skfrench@ucsd.edu
Job Rocha Hernandez	jrochahernandez@ucsd.edu
Vaishali Gautam	vgautam@ucsd.edu
Tobias Leaf	tleaf@ucsd.edu
Christine Oh	ceoh@ucsd.edu
Caleb Pak	cpak@ucsd.edu
Alex Tan	axtan@ucsd.edu
Sunan Xu	sux002@ucsd.edu

**Lecture Participation Points:** Clicker points will be counted starting Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. For each class where you answer  $\geq 75\%$  of the questions, you will get participation points, if you do not then you will get a zero for the day. You do not need to get the correct answer. For a majority of clicker questions, you will have to submit answers twice (once before and once after discussion) and both of these submissions are required. There will be 17 lectures throughout the semester where clicker participation will be monitored. You only need to earn participation credit for 13 out of the 17 lecture days to earn full credit for lecture participation, meaning you have four “no questions asked” absences in the quarter. If you experience extenuating circumstances that prevent you from attending class for more than those four “no questions asked” absences, please email me as soon as possible and we can discuss the possibility of making up those points.

**Discussion Sections:** are voluntary and remote, apparently. We are being asked to teach in this format not because it reflects any reasonable pedagogical standards, but because it is what the department can afford given the funds UC has disbursed. Section is on Zoom, and it’s formatted as a Q & A. This is a great time to discuss homework or exam questions before submitting a redo token.

**Self-Evaluations:** After each lecture, you will be asked to complete a brief self-evaluation on Canvas. These are graded for completion only. The goal for the self-evaluation is to let you reflect on your learning and progress in the course. It also gives a place for you to share your thoughts with me as the course is going, rather than just at the end of the quarter.

**Homework Assignments:** There will be six assignments posted throughout the quarter that will allow you to work with the lecture material and prepare for the exams. On weeks when we have homework assignments, they will be posted at 8:00a on Thursday and will be due at 11:59p on Sunday. The specific post and due dates for each assignment are listed below. You are welcome to work with each other, but the words

submitted for your assignment should be your own. These assignments will be done directly in Gradescope and will be checked for plagiarism. If you have never used Gradescope before you will need to set up your account. Follow the "[Joining a Course](#)" instructions looking at "Possibility 2". Our school does not allow the option of signing on with "School Credentials". At the end of the quarter your lowest assignment score will be dropped. Homework assignments are graded 50% for completion and 50% for accuracy.

Assignment #1	Posted 4/4	Due 4/7
Assignment #2	Posted 4/11	Due 4/14
Assignment #3	Posted 4/25	Due 4/28
Assignment #4	Posted 5/2	Due 5/5
Assignment #5	Posted 5/23	Due 5/26
Assignment #6	Posted 5/30	Due 6/2

**Exams:** The exam dates are set and will not be changed so plan your semester accordingly. Exam 1 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and will cover material from Topics 1-5. Exam 2 is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and will cover material from Topics 6-8. The Final Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:30a-1:30p or Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00p (depending on which course you are in) and will be cumulative but with an emphasis on the new material. If you do better on the Final than one (or more of the exams) then your Final Exam score will replace the lowest Exam score (more details below). The exams will be taken on paper, using dark writing, because we will scan the exams into Gradescope for grading and feedback. More information will be given before the first exam.

**Tokens:** At the start of the quarter each student will be given four "tokens", which will be tracked and indicated in the gradebook. These tokens can be used for three different purposes. (1) You can trade one token for a 24-hour extension on a homework assignment. This must be done before the end of that 24-hour period, otherwise the 20% late deduction will be applied to your homework. (2) You can trade one token to redo a homework question. (3) You can trade one token to redo a free response exam question. For an extension email me with "BIMM 100 Token" the subject line of the email. In the body of the email inform me that you would like to use a token for an extension. To use a token to redo a homework or exam question you will use the "regrade" option on Gradescope. You will write out your new answer and submit it within 5 days of the initial grading being released. Your new answer will be graded as if it was your initial submission. You do not need to email me. You can only use one token on a single homework assignment or exam.

**Regrades:** If you believe there was an error made in your grading, schedule a time to speak with me one-on-one to discuss the possible issue. I do not discuss grading over email, but you can email me to set up a meeting time. Do not use the "regrade" option on Gradescope to argue that grading was not correct, that is only being used for token redos.

**Late Work Policy:** For all assignments, those turned in within 24 hours of the due date will be accepted but with a deduction of 20% of the possible points. Assignments submitted more than 24 hours after the due date will not be accepted.

If you experience extenuating circumstances (e.g., you are hospitalized) that prohibit you from submitting your assignments on time, please let me know. I will evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis.

**Grading:** Grading in this course is not curved, so in theory every person could earn an A! You are not competing with each other for grades, so work together!

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<b>Lecture Participation</b>	20%	20%	20%
<b>Self-Evaluations</b>	5%	5%	5%
<b>Assignments</b>	30%	30%	30%
<b>Exam 1</b>	12%	0%	12%
<b>Exam 2</b>	12%	12%	0%
<b>Final</b>	21%	33%	33%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

Letter grades are assigned as follows:  
 90-100: A  
 80-89: B  
 70-79: C  
 60-69: D  
 Below 60: F

Your final grade will be calculated using each of these possible point distributions and the one that results in the highest grade will be used. No + or – grades are given.

**Disability Access:** Students requesting accommodation for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter (paper or electronic) issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities. Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department in advance of any exams or assignments.

Contact the OSD for further information:

858.534.4382

[osd@ucsd.edu](mailto:osd@ucsd.edu)

<http://disabilities.ucsd.edu>

**Inclusion:** It is our goal to create a learning environment that supports diversity of thought, perspective, experience, and identities. We encourage all of you to participate in discussion and contribute to the field from your perspective. If you have feedback on how to make the class more inclusive, please get in touch!

Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion:

858.822.3542

[diversity@ucsd.edu](mailto:diversity@ucsd.edu)

<https://diversity.ucsd.edu>

<https://students.ucsd.edu/student-life/diversity/index.html>

<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/4400.html>

**Title IX Compliance:** The University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a member of this community, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. If you want to speak confidentially you may contact the Counseling Center.

The Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD) provides assistance to students, faculty, and staff regarding reports of bias, harassment, and discrimination. OPHD is the UC San Diego Title IX office. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is the federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in educational institutions that are recipients of federal funds. Students have the right to an educational environment that is free from harassment and discrimination.

Students have options for reporting incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment. Sexual violence includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. Information about reporting options may be obtained at OPHD at:

858.534.8298      [ophd@ucsd.edu](mailto:ophd@ucsd.edu)      <http://ophd.ucsd.edu>

Students may receive confidential assistance at CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center at: 858.534.5793      [sarc@ucsd.edu](mailto:sarc@ucsd.edu)      <http://care.ucsd.edu>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at: 858.534.3755      <http://caps.ucsd.edu>

Students may feel more comfortable discussing their particular concern with a trusted employee. This may be a student affairs staff member, a department Chair, a faculty member or other University official. These individuals have an obligation to report incidents of sexual violence and sexual harassment to OPHD. This does not necessarily mean that a formal complaint will be filed. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, ask for help.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and I will fail any student caught engaging in academic dishonesty. Assignments must be written in your own words and will be checked for plagiarism. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade. Use of AI is not acceptable on any assignment you complete in this course. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism it is your responsibility to seek out clarifying information. The UCSD library website has a series of modules around plagiarism that can be found [here](#).

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center provides support for undergraduates working on course papers (i.e., laboratory reports and the research proposal) and independent writing projects. Writing mentors can help at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to final polishing.

The Writing Center offers: one-on-one appointments for undergraduates with peer writing mentors; group workshops addressing a variety of writing projects, genres, and issues; and Drop-In Zone for quick questions, targeted assistance, and a comfortable writing space. <https://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/>

**Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in this course, is encouraged to contact:

858.246.2632      [foodpantry@ucsd.edu](mailto:foodpantry@ucsd.edu)      [basicneeds@ucsd.edu](mailto:basicneeds@ucsd.edu)

**Technical Support:**

For help with accounts, network, and technical issues:  
<https://acms.ucsd.edu/contact/index.html>

For help connecting to electronic library resources such as eReserves and e-journals:  
<https://library.ucsd.edu/computing-and-technology/connect-from-off-campus/>