

BIMM 122

Microbial Genetics

Dr. Milton Saier -- York Hall 2622; MWF 12:00 - 12:50 PM

*Muir Biology Bldg., Rm.#: 4254 (4155), Office hours: MWF, 12:50 - 2:00,
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General Information

BIMM 122 --- Microbial Genetics; #705814

LECTURE:

MWF 12-12:50; York Hall 2622

INSTRUCTOR:

Milton Saier, Room 4254 (4155) Muir Biology Bldg., (858) 534-4084

Office hours: MWF, 12:50-2:00

Email: msaier@ucsd.edu

TAs:

Wilson Kwan ----- wkwan@ucsd.edu

Office Hours ----- Friday, 11-12; Stein Clinical Research Building, Floor 3.

Matt Zones ----- zones@salk.edu

Office Hours -----

ORGANIZATION:

Three lectures per week plus scheduled seminars and review sessions. Times and rooms for seminars will be announced, and those for review sessions will be decided democratically in class. Extra credit points for attending announced seminars, concerts, etc. will go towards your section and in-lecture quiz grades.

RECITATIONS:

There will be several sections (times and rooms to be announced). The recitation sections will be devoted to discussion of the contents and methodologies relevant to the lectures and reading materials. Scores for the recitation sections will be based on written and oral reports, quizzes, attendance of section and seminars, concerts, etc., and written and oral reports (must be approved by your TA) and participation.

IN-LECTURE QUIZZES:

Pop quizzes will be given in lecture periodically throughout the quarter. Seminar attendance

extra credit points will go (1) towards your section grade, and (2) towards your in-lecture quiz grade. They will not go towards your exam grades.

TEXT:

There is no assigned text for this course. The course reader is available on the web. References with asterisks are required reading; those without asterisks are relevant and useful. Also, *Modern Microbial Genetics* (Streips and Yasbin, 2002), *Microbial Genetics* (Maloy et al., 2006; 1994) and *Molecular Genetics of Bacteria* (Snyder and Champness, 1997) provide much of the information to be covered. Exposure to these texts will be tremendously beneficial, particularly if you use them as reference sources or when you are lost.

GRADES:

Three (3) one hour exams at 100 points each	300
Final Exam (two parts at 100 points each)	200
Section grade	100
Quiz grade (in lecture)	100
Total Points	700 (see below)
Drop the lowest two scores	-200
Grade based on top five scores	500

EXPLANATION OF GRADING SYSTEM:

Midterm Exam I covers the material discussed during weeks 1-3 and will be given during week 4 in class (day to be decided by the students). Midterm Exam II covers weeks 4-6 and will be given during week 7. Midterm Exam III will cover weeks 7-10 and will be given either during week 10 or during the final exam period. Final Exam Parts I and II will cover the material discussed during the entire quarter.

The lowest two scores of the seven will be discarded, and the final grade will be based on the remaining five scores. There will be no makeup exam for any of the midterm exams. If one is missed, it will automatically count as one of the dropped exams. If both midterm exams are missed, they will both count as the dropped exams. It is not advised that you skip section, as everyone will have the opportunity to make 100 points on their section grade.

Pop quizzes will be given randomly throughout the quarter before, during or after the lectures. They will deal with the materials discussed during the previous lectures as well as the materials for which you have lecture notes and assigned reading concerning the lecture to be presented that day. The purposes of the quizzes are (1) to insure that you keep up with the reading materials so you can benefit maximally from lectures (and not wait until the midterm exam to

study (a very dangerous policy)), and (2) to provide additional incentive to attend lectures, especially on Fridays!!! Most of the test and quiz materials will come from the lectures and assigned readings.

Errors in exam grading will be corrected by the appropriate TA or grader within one week of the time that the exams are returned to you. Please check the addition and individual problem grading immediately upon receipt. If you feel that a question was graded incorrectly or unfairly, please bicker with the TA or grader who graded that question and not with the professor. Only the TA (or grader) who graded the question, or assumes responsibility for it, has the jurisdiction to change an exam grade. **Remember: You have only one week.** If you feel you have a case, don't be bashful. And please keep your old exams until all final grades are recorded so that in case there is a clerical error, it can be corrected.

SEMINARS:

Many Biology seminars are offered at UCSD, and these are usually open to students. They extend the scope of the class material and instruct you as to how to maximally benefit from future seminars. You will receive 4 pts credit per seminar attended, and these will go towards your section and/or quiz grade depending on need. You must attend the entire (usually 50 min) presentation to get credit. At the seminar, you must turn in (to the professor, or preferably to a TA) a list of attending students. You must include your signature, printed name and student ID #. Also, a one or two paragraph summary of the seminar should be turned in to your TA within one week of attendance. This for an automatic 4 pts! Recall that although some of your tests, section grade and quiz grade may be out of more than 100 pts, the maximum attainable for any one of these grading options is 100 pts. Thus, if you already have 100 pts on your section grade, the remaining seminar points you earn will go towards your quiz grade. If you choose not to attend section (not recommended) then the seminar points will go only toward your quiz grade and vice versa.

Seminars for which you can receive credit will be announced in advance by email and in class. If you learn of a seminar you think is relevant or of general interest to the students, please discuss its consideration with Dr. Saier at least 3 days in advance. For purposes of fairness, no one will get credit for attending an unannounced seminar.

CHEATING is a recognized problem at UCSD. Students caught cheating will receive an "F" grade for the course and will be reported to the Dean. Both receiving and conveying information during an exam are considered equally punishable offenses.

TUTORING:

Tutoring and assistance with any materials related to the Microbial Genetics course will be available to all students. Dr. Saier will hold regular office hours immediately following lecture and will be happy to see students at other times by appointment. Further, the TAs will hold office hours as well as recitation sections. Students should feel free to seek assistance from both TAs, not just their own section leader. A student may attend as many recitation sections as desired. Please take advantage of these services throughout the quarter.

I wish you success in ***Microbial Genetics*** and hope that you will have an exceptionally good quarter. Please let us help to contribute toward its excellence.