Transgenic Organisms Gr.1
Monday 14:00-17:00 @ KMB215(Group1)
Monday 14:00-17:00 @ KMB215(Group2)
Instructor: Assist.Prof.Dr. Alper Yilmaz
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Office Hours: by appointment
http://avesis.yildiz.edu.tr/alyilmaz/dokumanlar

Course Goals

In this course, you will:

1. Comprehend the importance of cloning strategies for generating various types of vector.
2. Learn that stable integration of foreign DNA into host genome is possible via viral vectors.
3. Learn the concept of knock-out where a region is deleted from genome in all cell in an organism.
4. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of GMO products.

Course Materials

There's no set textbook for this course. Students are expected to follow the lecture through handouts.

Lecture notes are handed in copy center across our department. PDF versions of lecture slides can be downloaded from AVESIS page.

Lecture notes contain mostly pics with sparse text, thus you need to listen the instructor and take notes.

Grading

Midterm and Final results are announced at "AVESIS Announcements" page, if you think there's mistake or problem with your score please contact the instructor in order to go over your exam results. At the end of the semester, all your exam scores and total score will be published along with letter ranges. If your total score is very close to boundary please contact the instructor and he would try to help in that matter.

Your grade will come from the following sources:

- Midterm: 40%
- Final: 40%
- Quiz: 10%
- Debate: 0%
- Attendance: 10%

There will be 3 quizes and highest 2 scores will be considered. If you attend all lectures or miss only one lecture then you'll get 5 points for attendance. For every 1-2 lectures missed you'll lose 1 point.

For the debate, each student will pick a side (for or against GMO) and defend his/her position individually with **scientific articles**. Also, a short report of the findings should be handed in to instructor. **Note: due to number of students of class this year, no debate will take place**

Communication

I'm trying to respond emails as quickly as possible. If you don't get a response within 1-2 days please don't hesitate to send a reminder email.

The changes pertaining to exam date, time and assignment due dates should be decided in class after discussing with everybody. Please don't ask for changes individually, otherwise notification of whole class becomes a hassle.

Manners

Since you're considered adult, it's your responsibility and decision to listen to the class or not. You can either pay attention and participate in class OR pay no attention and be busy with your cellphone or homework or lab report of another course. Your poor decision should be affecting only you. If you start and keep talking during class, keep instructor and classmates distracted then it will be regarded as an **insult** and acted accordingly.

Schedule

Below is the tentative schedule for the course. Depending on the speed we go through topics there might be shifts in the schedule. For each week, first date is for Group 1 and second date is for Group 2. **NOTE :** The midterm date is just a forecast, so **the midterm will take place on the date and time the department announces**.

February 12. Introduction

Introduction to cloning strategies.

February 19. Cloning (cont'd) and cDNA libraries

February 26. Viral Vectors

Since we learned cloning strategies, let's build a viral vector

March 5. Lentiviral vectors

Special type of viral vectors using Retrovirus genomes

March 12. Knock-out mice

How to delete or insert regions from or into genome in whole organism

March 19. In vitro Mutagenesis

Random or targeted mutations in DNA with a purpose

March 26. Transgenic Applications

In various model organisms

April 2. Transgenic Applications / Transgenic Animal Classification

Cont'd from previous week and their classification according to use cases

(April 9). Midterm

April 16. Transgenic Applications in Agriculture

How to generate transgenic plants and the golden rice story

(April 23). ***National Holiday***

No classes

April 30. Advanced Vectors for Transgenic Plant Production

Replacing antibiotic resistance gene and non-plant sequences from vectors

May 7. GMO testing

How to determine if a product is transgenic or not

May 14. Debate

Let's see advantages and disadvantages of GMO products

May 21. Final Lecture

TBD

Acknowledgments

This syllabus was adapted from Benjamin Schmidt and Andrew Goldstone.