

## PCB 3063L Genetics Laboratory Syllabus Spring 2012

### Teaching Assistants:

Name	Email	Office	Hours	Sections
Mark Clifton	<a href="mailto:markec925@aol.com">markec925@aol.com</a>	HLS 227	Wednesday 10-12	
Mary Fortner	<a href="mailto:Mfortner@fiu.edu">Mfortner@fiu.edu</a>	TBA		1,2,7,8
Elizabeth Le Blanc	<a href="mailto:elebl001@fiu.edu">elebl001@fiu.edu</a>	TBA		9
Rob Lowery	<a href="mailto:rlowe001@fiu.edu">rlowe001@fiu.edu</a>	TBA		3
Yanie Oliva	<a href="mailto:Yoliv001@fiu.edu">Yoliv001@fiu.edu</a>	TBA		4,5,6

Office Hours:

Room # \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Description:** This course is the laboratory component for the Genetics lecture (PCB 3063). In many ways this lab will be very similar to many labs you have taken before, for example, there will be quizzes, we will perform experiments, etc. However, you will notice some important differences from labs you may have taken previously. For example, every attempt has been made to eliminate "recipe"-style experiments. Experiments conducted in this class will require your thoughtful attention, pertinent insights and eager participation to be successful. In addition, your ability to express scientific ideas clearly and concisely as well as your understanding of the lab material will be evaluated via writing assignments.

At the end of this course you will be able to clearly identify a scientific question, form a hypothesis, articulate a method for investigating this problem, and clearly communicate these things in an acceptable scientific format. You will also have an understanding of how molecular techniques and proper experimental design can be applied to solve problems in genetics.

**Your classroom responsibilities:** This lab requires group interaction, communication and problem-solving skills. You are expected to engage your peers and your TA as to any difficulties you may have as well as ideas that you think might be beneficial to the class discussion. Many of these labs will depend on your maturity and willingness to be successful. In order to have a cordial and dynamic classroom atmosphere, we ask that the following rules be strictly adhered to.

- **Punctuality is essential.** All experiments will require that the class begins as a group, and having to re-explain concepts to late-comers wastes everyone's time. Please be aware that five minutes late is still LATE! It is important for your professional development that you learn to be consistently punctual for your engagements. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and a tardy arrival will mean that you cannot take the quiz- NO exceptions!
- **Attendance is mandatory.** The structure of lab does NOT allow for make-up labs at all.
- **Cellphone use is strictly prohibited.** During the hours of lab, your cell phone is to remain completely off or silent (not vibrate!). Please do not attempt to check email, missed calls, text messages or any of the functions of your cell phone during class time. **Regardless of what we're doing during the hours of class, consider your cell phone completely out of bounds.** It is highly disruptive to be interrupted by a ringing phone, or to call out on someone for being unnecessarily distracted.
- **Proper dress code is mandatory.** Proper attire means that everyone should have a lab coat, close-toed shoes and protective eye wear. If you are in violation of any of these you will not be allowed to take the lab and you will be considered absent for the class. Ensure you have all of the above items BEFORE the start of the semester so as to avoid any conflicts.
- **Plagiarism is a serious offense.** Plagiarism is a serious offense and WILL be punished at the very least with a zero for the assignment, but can also lead to your dismissal from the university. For a description of plagiarism in all its different forms please go to <http://coeweb.fiu.edu/plagiarism/>.
- **Lab reports/Presentations.** Lab reports and presentations are due on the assigned date. **\*\*You cannot pass this laboratory without completing all writing assignments and presentations\*\*** Your TA will go over in detail what your lab report should look like. You should have some experience with this from your previous biology courses. Your lab report will be graded both for its intellectual content and grammar. Please see your TA if you need additional assistance with writing.

**Grading Scale:** A 100-94 A- 94-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-84 B- 84-80 C+79-77 C 76-74 C- 73-70 D+ 69-67 D 66-64 D- 64-60 F < 60

### Grade Distribution:

**15% Quizzes/Attendance:** Quizzes will be conducted at the beginning of each class and will also be used to verify attendance. Late arrivals will not be permitted to take the quiz.

**10% Participation:** Part of your participation score is based on proper safety attire (i.e. lab coat, closed-toed shoes). Your participation in class discussions and within your group will also contribute to this grade.

**35% Lab reports/Lab assignments:** These will be due as noted on the schedule. **All assignments must be completed in order to pass.**

course. See "[How to Write a Lab Report](#)" for more information or visit <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/writingcenter/> for help.

**5% Lab notebook:** To write effective reports it is important to properly document your laboratory activities. This notebook should also include a copy of the class schedule, task sheets, a syllabus and any other pertinent lab information. These will be collected at the midterm exam and again at the final exam.

**15% Midterm Exam**

**20% Final Exam**

**Writing Workshops:** A list of workshops can be found at <http://casgroup.fiu.edu/writingcenter/>. Each workshop attended is worth 3 points on your final grade.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Academic Misconduct: Full handbook and information can be found at:

<http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/lacmisconductproc.htm>

**DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** Academic Misconduct is defined as the following intentional acts or omissions committed by any FIU student:

1.01 Cheating: The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Any student helping another cheat may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

1.02 Plagiarism: The deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism. Any student helping another to plagiarize may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

1.08 Academic Dishonesty: In general, by any act or omission not specifically mentioned above and which is outside the customary scope of preparing and completing academic assignments and/or contrary to the above stated policies concerning academic integrity.

**If found cheating, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN "F" FOR THE CLASS, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**TURN-IT-IN plagiarism software will be used to check all written reports for plagiarism. If plagiarism is found to exist, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN "F" FOR THE CLASS, NO EXCEPTIONS.**