

Virology (BISC 306)

Spring 2015

12:00 – 12:50 pm M-W-F Shoemaker Hall Room 323

Instructor: Wayne L. Gray, PhD. wlgray@olemiss.edu

Office- Shoemaker Hall Room 310

Course Objective and Description: Basic principles of viral molecular biology, pathogenesis, and are introduced.

Prerequisites- Grade of a C or better in BISC 160, BISC 161, BISC 162 and BISC 163.

Highly Recommended Textbook: *Understanding Viruses 2nd edition*. Author: Teri Shors. ISBN-13: 978-0-7637-8553-6. Publisher: Jones and Bartlett Learning, Burlington, MA.

Dr. Gray's office hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:00 – 10:30 am; Thursday 4:00 - 5:00 pm. (no appointment necessary). If you cannot meet during scheduled office hours, you can make an appointment by email. Please include the following: (1) BISC 306 in the subject line, (2) what you would like some help with in the main text of the email (that way I can be better prepared), and (3) your first and last name at the end of the message. You should receive a response from me within 24 hours.

In-Class Policies: Regular class attendance is expected. Cell phone use and texting is not permitted, and cell phones must be turned off during class. Use of **laptop computers** for note-taking is fine, but it is not appropriate to be facebooking, twitting, or sending emails, etc.

TT Response Cards (Clickers) will be used as an optional extra-credit class participation grade. Most classes will include 3-4 clicker questions. You must get at least one question correct to receive credit. Your final class participation grade will count as one exam. You must register your card on Blackboard. Bring your fully charged card to every class. Only use your registered Response Card. Using another person's card is serious academic misconduct and will be reported to the University Academic Discipline Committee. Violation will also result in loss of participation points.

Blackboard: You are assigned a Web ID and Password for access to online resources including Blackboard, the UM course management system (<https://blackboard.olemiss.edu>) . Course announcements, Power Point slides, study materials, grades, and other course information will be posted on a regular basis. You should consult Blackboard daily for important class messages.

Grading: There will be three regular exams during the semester. An end-of semester final exam will include material from the previous exam #3 plus cumulative course bonus questions. Exams will generally consist of 40 multiple choice questions. The optional class participation grade will count the same as one exam.

Bring your **student ID, #2 pencil, a calculator, and one Scantron form # F-289** to every exam (I will not provide these). The Scantron form # F-289 (1/2 page, red print) can be purchased at the Bookstore in the Student Union. **No electronic devices are allowed to be turned on during exams.** If you

suspect that a question was graded improperly, you have one week from the date of test return to contact me about it.

Final Grading Scale

92.5 and over	=	A
89.5 to 92.49	=	A-
87.5 to 89.49	=	B+
82.5 to 87.49	=	B
79.5 to 82.49	=	B-
77.5 to 79.49	=	C+
69.5 to 77.49	=	C
59.5 to 69.49	=	D
0 – 59.49	=	F

Final grade thresholds may be adjusted downward (i.e., only in your favor), depending on overall class performance.

Make-up exams- Valid reasons for missing an exam are very limited and include medical or family emergency or University-sanctioned events. Depending on the circumstances, a student may or may not be allowed to make-up an exam. To be eligible to make up an exam:

- 1) You must notify Dr. Gray by email or in person immediately, preferably prior to the exam, but at most, 24 hours after the exam.
- 2) Documentation for an excused absence may be required.
- 3) Upon receiving an excused absence, a make-up exam will be scheduled, within 1- 2 days.
- 4) The format of the make-up exam will be multiple choice, short answer, oral, and/or discussion.
- 5) Unexcused absence for a missed exam results in a grade of zero.

Virology/Biology in the News: On a regular basis, brief overviews of current topics in the news concerning genetics or biology will be discussed in class. Dr. Gray will inform you whether this material will be covered on exams.

Special Needs: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in the course or meet course requirements. Students registered with the Office of Student Disability Services (234 Martindale) should contact Dr. Gray to discuss individual needs.

Academic Misconduct: Academic dishonesty and cheating of any kind is not tolerated. Procedures for handling academic misconduct are described in the UM Policy Code ACA.AR.600.001. Penalties include, but are not limited to, taking a 0 on an exam and/or expulsion from the course.

Keys to Success in this Course:

- Read the textbook, preferably before coming to class
- Attend class- listen, take notes, ask questions
- Ask Why?
- Study problems and questions at the end of each chapter.
- Keep up with the material- don't put off studying until the night before the exam
- Contact Dr. Gray if you need additional help