

**AGR 11500 Syllabus
Fall 2016**

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Office hours: by appointment

INSTRUCTIONAL

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

AGR 11500 is the Departmental section of AGR 10100. As such, its primary role is to prepare you for success as an undergraduate in the Department of Biochemistry. The course will provide an overview of the curriculum with an emphasis on the scientific process, critical thinking, and undergraduate research. We will also emphasize the importance of career development in non-classroom settings.

DEPARTMENTAL LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED BY THIS COURSE

AGR 11500 students will understand the scientific method. They will be able to develop hypotheses, design experiments, and critically analyze results to create new knowledge.

AGR 11500 students will communicate scientific knowledge, experiments and conclusions effectively as speakers and writers.

AGR 11500 students will acquire the basics of information literacy, which is the ability to locate, evaluate, and utilize information in the disciplines of biochemistry and molecular biology that is required for research, data analysis, and communication.

AGR 11500 students will appreciate the ethical issues facing professionals in the life sciences.

AGR 11500 students will understand the contributions of our discipline to society, including improvements to medicine, agriculture, the economy and the environment.

TEXTBOOK

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Lectures will have associated reading materials that will be provided electronically.

LECTURE TIME AND PLACE

Wednesdays, August 24 - October 12, 2:30-3:20, BCHM 105

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Course materials are available at <http://www.itap.purdue.edu/learning/tools/blackboard/>
Lecture materials will be available the day before class and should be printed off and brought to class.

You are expected to attend and to be attentive to the presentations at all class sessions. Each student will be called on (or will volunteer) a minimum of three times and will be awarded 3 points for each contribution.

Students that are more than 5 minutes late to class will be marked as tardy. Students that are more than 10 minutes late to class will be marked as absent. Due to the participatory nature of this course, greater than 1 unexcused absence or greater than two tardies will result in a failing grade.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you will require special accommodations in AGR 11500 because of diagnosed disabilities, you are expected to contact Dr. Ogas in his office by September 1 so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

You are expected to complete all reading and/or writing assignments before class on the date indicated. An electronic copy of each writing assignment is due by midnight of the day before class (Tuesday) to Blackboard. A hard copy of the writing assignment should also be brought to class on that day. 2 or more points will be awarded for satisfactory completion of each homework assignment.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

There will be multiple in-class assignments. 2-4 points will be awarded for the successful completion of each assignment.

GRADING

Grading Scale for AGR 11500

A+, A = 93-100 percent
A- = 90.0-92.9 percent
B+ = 87.0-89.9 percent
B = 83.0-86.9 percent
B- = 80.0-82.9 percent
C+ = 77.0-79.9 percent
C = 73.0-76.9 percent
C- = 70.0-72.9 percent
D+ = 67.0-69.9 percent
D = 63.0-66.9 percent
D- = 60.0-62.9 percent
F = <60 percent

Note – Up to **1 extra credit point may be awarded per class** in AGR 11500 based on degree of participation. Total points awarded in class cannot exceed total possible points available without extra credit.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated in any course offered by the Department of Biochemistry. Information on Purdue's policies with regard to academic misconduct can be found at

http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/student_conduct/regulations.html

Any incidence of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. Academic misconduct may result in disciplinary sanctions including expulsion, suspension, probated suspension, disciplinary probation, and/or educational sanctions. In addition, such misconduct will result in punitive grading such as:

- receiving a lower or failing grade on the assignment, or
- assessing a lower or failing grade for the course

Punitive grading decisions will be made after consultation with the Office of the Dean of Students. Please note reported incidences of academic misconduct go on record for reference by other instructors. Further, a record of academic misconduct is likely to influence how current/future situations are handled.

To provide you with an unambiguous definition of academic misconduct, the following text has been excerpted from "Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students", written by Stephen Akers, Ph.D., Executive Associate Dean of Students (1995, Revised 1999, 2003), and published by the Office of the Dean of Students in cooperation with Purdue Student Government, Schleman Hall of Student Services, Room 207, 475 Stadium Mall Drive West Lafayette, IN 47907-2050.

"Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, [Student Regulations](#)] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

More specifically, the following are a few examples of academic dishonesty which have been discovered at Purdue University.

- substituting on an exam for another student
- substituting in a course for another student
- paying someone else to write a paper and submitting it as one's own work
- giving or receiving answers by use of signals during an exam
- copying with or without the other person's knowledge during an exam
- doing class assignments for someone else
- plagiarizing published material, class assignments, or lab reports
- turning in a paper that has been purchased from a commercial research firm or obtained from the internet
- padding items of a bibliography
- obtaining an unauthorized copy of a test in advance of its scheduled administration
- using unauthorized notes during an exam
- collaborating with other students on assignments when it is not allowed
- obtaining a test from the exam site, completing and submitting it later

- altering answers on a scored test and submitting it for a regrade
- accessing and altering grade records
- stealing class assignments from other students and submitting them as one's own
- fabricating data
- destroying or stealing the work of other students

Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another person's ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarist's own product. This is most likely to occur in the following ways:

- using the exact language of someone else without the use of quotation marks and without giving proper credit to the author
- presenting the sequence of ideas or arranging the material of someone else even though such is expressed in one's own words, without giving appropriate acknowledgment
- submitting a document written by someone else but representing it as one's own"

OBTAINING EXTRA HELP

Dr. Ogas will be available to answer your questions immediately after class or by appointment (arranged in class or by e-mail). Alternatively, you can submit questions by e-mail that can be answered in class or by return e-mail.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. To get information about changes in this course consult the class Blackboard site or e-mail or phone the instructor.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

Purdue University's non-discrimination policy will be upheld in this classroom. Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University views, evaluates, and treats all persons in any University related activity or circumstance in which they may be involved, solely as individuals on the basis of their own personal abilities, qualifications, and other relevant characteristics.

For more information, see

http://www.purdue.edu/policies/pages/human_resources/nondisc_pol.html

Lecture Schedule (subject to revision)

Week	Topic	Date
1	Introductions	24-Aug
2	Biochemistry Curriculum	31-Aug
3	Biochemistry Curriculum/future careers	7-Sep
4	Undergraduate research	14-Sep
5	Scientific process	21-Sep
6	Generating hypotheses	28-Sep
7	Testing hypotheses	5-Oct
8	Experimental design	12-Oct