

Course Policies for 310-Animal and Plant Genetics Laboratory

Course Description

This laboratory involves exercises concerning genetic concepts, methods, and applications using various plant and animal systems. In this course we will simulate a research laboratory. Working in a research lab requires concentration and precision; unfortunately, experiments do not always produce the expected results. Part of your laboratory experience will be to explain your results, whether expected or unexpected.

Typically, a one credit laboratory course requires three hours in the lab per week. The majority of labs for this course will be completed in about two hours. The third hour of lab will be used to complete a group project that will require group members to come into the lab at various times during the week. The project will be to determine the inheritance pattern of a trait(s) in *Drosophila melanogaster*.

Grading

Data Analysis (7) - 55%

Drosophila Project - 10% (45% Data Analysis + 45% Peer Review + 10% Experimental Results)

Quizzes - 35%

Instructor

Ms. Grace Isaacs

245 DE Biotechnology Institute

302.545.2675

gkisaacs@udel.edu

Academic Honesty

The Academic Honesty policies of the University will be enforced. Plagiarism, and other forms of dishonesty, will not be tolerated. In lab, data will sometimes be collected in pairs or in a group, as with the *Drosophila* project. **However, all calculations and written assignments must be done individually.**

Quizzes

Quizzes will occur randomly throughout the semester. **They may or may not be announced ahead of time.** The quiz can include any material that will be covered in lab that particular day. For example, on 4, 5-April we will be doing DNA Isolation and Cloning/Transformation, so the quiz could cover both of these topics.

Handouts/Pre-Lab Lectures

The handouts online and the ones received during lab will serve as valuable resources for the data analysis assignments. Use these handouts to complete the assignments. You should keep

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all of the handouts, quizzes, study questions, etc, organized and bring them to each lab. If you cannot access a file online please let me know.

Typically, there will be a short power point presentation at the beginning of each lab that will reinforce material in the handout, explain the material in a slightly different manner, and/or present new material. You will be responsible for the material presented in the pre-lab lecture and it will provide valuable information for completion of the data analysis assignments.

Laboratory

This lab will be set up as an actual working research laboratory. Attention to detail and concentration is necessary when working in a lab. Using the wrong solution or the incorrect amount of a solution will ruin an experiment. Please ask questions!!! If you do not understand something there will be other people who have the same question.

Laboratory attendance is mandatory. Please email me ahead of time if you will not be able to attend a lab. Rarely will it be possible for you to actually complete a lab that is missed. If you have an unexcused absence from lab, you will be allowed to hand in the data analysis assignment on the regularly scheduled due date and receive up to 95% of the total points for that assignment. The missed quiz cannot be made up; however, it will not account against you. For two or more unexcused absences you will receive a zero for each quiz and data analysis.

Late Assignments

The assignments are due in lab on the assigned date. For late assignments, 5 points will be deducted from the final grade, for each day the assignment is late.

Safety

A non flammable lab coat is required for all chemical based laboratories for this course. Safety glasses must be worn at all times in the laboratory. Safety goggles may be required for some experiments. You can wear shorts but they must be within 6 inches of your kneecap. The bottom of your shirt must go below the top of your pants/skirt. Your shoes must cover the tops of your feet; **sandals, flip-flops, and open toe shoes are not permitted.** Gloves will be provided when necessary. Report all injuries occurring in the laboratory to the instructor immediately. Disposal of chemical wastes, glass, biological materials and sharps will be in accordance with University policy and at the direction of the instructor.