Instructor
Brian Miller
4005 CSL
miller@chem.fsu.edu

Office Hours
Thursday 4:30-6:30 PM

Class and Lab Meetings:
Lab Section 1: Monday/Wednesday 2:30-5:30 PM, HTL 407
Lab Section 2: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-5:00 PM, HTL 407
Lectures: Thursdays 6:30-7:20 PM, FLH 255

Examination: 6:30-7:20 PM, 4/28/2016, FLH 255

Required Text
Biochemistry Laboratory: Modern Theory & Techniques (or Fundamental Laboratory Approaches for Biochemistry and Biotechnology, 2nd edition)

Teaching Specialist:
Elliot Medina: em08d@my.fsu.edu

Teaching Assistants:
Kate Carnevale: kcarnevale@chem.fsu.edu
Anshika Kapur: akapur@chem.fsu.edu
Jennifer Myers: jmyers@chem.fsu.edu
Karin Vallega: kvallega@chem.fsu.edu

Lecture, Lab, and Exam Schedule (please look at this schedule immediately):
http://www.chem.fsu.edu/chemlab/bch4053l/labschedule.html. Given the sometimes unpredictable nature of biochemical experiments, the schedule is subject to change depending on the progress of the particular experiments.

Course Scope
General Biochemistry Lab (BCH4053L) is the laboratory course associated with the General Biochemistry lecture series (BCH4053 and BCH4054). It is designed to teach students fundamental laboratory approaches and techniques in protein biochemistry, molecular biology, and DNA manipulation. These techniques form the foundation for many of the experiments of a contemporary biochemical research laboratory. This course will cover many techniques including protein purification, quantification, and analysis; DNA manipulation and molecular cloning; and immunobiochemistry.

Course Objectives
Upon completing this course, students should understand the basic concepts and practices of contemporary experimental biochemistry. A successful student will learn how to keep a laboratory notebook and prepare laboratory reports in the style of a biochemical journal, and have practical experience in the fundamental biochemical techniques that would be expected of a student applying to a cellular and molecular biochemistry graduate program or similar industrial position.

Prerequisites
BCH4053, fundamentals in molecular biology from biology courses, or BCH4054
Resources: Lecture notes are found on the class Blackboard website. Laboratory schedules, laboratory manual, pre-laboratory assignments, and report guidelines are found at: http://www.chem.fsu.edu/chemlab/bch4053l/index.html.

Student Responsibilities
Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn. Students should actively participate in class discussions and arrange meetings with the instructor and teaching assistants if problems arise. Do not wait until examination time to express your confusion or to discuss topics that are unclear. I am here to facilitate your learning throughout the entire course.

Pre-Labs: Pre-lab assignments are given in the online manual and based on the experiment that you are performing. You will need to complete a pre-lab before each experiment. Pre-labs include the following information: Date, name of the experiment, rationale for experiment (several sentences), anticipated results, equipment and reagents used in the experiment and an outline of the steps followed. In addition to this standard preparation for lab, you should also answer any questions posed in the online manual and transfer information into your lab notebook as needed. Pre-labs are due at the beginning of each lab.

Laboratory reports: Laboratory reports are prepared following the guidelines posted on the 4053L website. Reports are due the week after the conclusion of the experiment or series of experiments (see Lab Schedule), unless you are instructed otherwise by the TA. All reports should be typewritten and only hard copies (no emails) will be accepted.

Additional homework: Additional homework may be assigned throughout the semester to help you review the materials but will not be collected.

Attendance: Attendance is required on the first day of classes, as dictated by Florida State University policy. In addition, students are strongly encouraged to attend all lectures, and to actively participate in class. Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Students are required to attend lectures and laboratories. Students who miss more than two sessions will have difficulty passing the class.

Grading:
You will be graded on Pre-labs (20%), laboratory reports (40%), attendance (10%), proper execution of the experiments (10%), and exams (20%).

For each exam, please bring your student ID in case it is needed. Make-up exams will be allowed only if 1) they are scheduled 24 hours ahead of the original exam date AND 2) students can provide a legitimate excuse for their absence.

The following letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage of points accrued for course work:

A - 100%-90%
B - 89%-80%
C - 79%-70%
D - 69%-60%
F- below 60%

I reserve the right to adjust final grades in borderline cases on an individual basis, based upon class participation and student effort.

**Academic Honor Policy**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “... be honest and truthful and ... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at [http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy](http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy).)

The Academic Honor System of Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community. This means that you will not give or receive information during an examination, nor will you consult unauthorized sources of information during an examination. Students should review the Academic Honor System outlined in the FSU Student Handbook. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated and will result in zero points being awarded for the course work in question.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) and (2) bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. Please do this within the first week of the class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Student Disability Resource Center 874 Traditions Way 108 Student Services Building Florida State University Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD) ssrc@admin.fsu.edu http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/

**Free Tutoring from FSU**

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see [http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring](http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring) or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.