

**Course Syllabus**  
**Windward Community College – Spring 2017**

**Course Name:** Fundamentals of Biochemistry

**Course Number:** BIOC 141 (CRN 64192; 3 credits)

**Class Meeting Days and Times:** Online

**Instructor:** Dr. Christopher Guay

**Email:** cguay@hawaii.edu

**Course website:** <http://laulima.hawaii.edu> (use UH email account login and password)

**Office Hours:** By email anytime or in person at WCC MW 11:30 am-12:30 pm; TR 1:00-1:55 pm

**WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT**

*Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.*

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE**

Biological chemistry focusing on the integration of concepts from general, inorganic, and biochemistry and their application to living systems. Satisfies the one-semester chemistry requirement for pre-nursing and pre-dental hygiene majors. (3 hrs. lecture)

*Prerequisite: A grade of 'C' or better in MATH 25 or higher or instructor's consent.*

*WCC: DP*

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Utilize precise chemical language to effectively communicate biochemical and allied health-related concepts and results.
2. Analyze and apply appropriate procedures for solving biochemical and allied health-related calculations involving solids, liquids, gases, and solutions.
3. Relate the location of an element in the periodic table to its electronic structure and chemical reactivity.
4. Describe ionic and covalent bonding theories and apply them to the construction of proper Lewis structures and prediction of molecular characteristics.
5. Relate biochemical and allied health-related concepts, theories and laws to everyday phenomena.

**COURSE TASKS**

- Online activity and class participation (Discussion Board on Laulima, etc.)
- Online homework assignments
- Online quizzes
- Research project
- Three midterm exams
- Final exam

## **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

- **Text:** J.G. Smith, *General, Organic, & Biological Chemistry*, 3rd ed., bundled with a Connect Plus Access Code (for online homework and e-text access). Available at WCC and LCC bookstores. **NOTE:** If you want to bypass the printed textbook altogether and just go with the e-text, you can purchase a Connect Plus Access Code directly online. For instructions, follow the links to "Getting Started with Connect" under the Modules section on our Lualima course page
- You will also need a scientific calculator and reliable Internet access.

## **GRADING**

1. Grades will be based on the following categories:

- i. Homework and online activity
- ii. Quizzes
- iii. Research project
- iv. Midterm Exam 1
- v. Midterm Exam 2
- vi. Midterm Exam 3
- vii. Final Exam

Your percentage score in each category will be determined, and an average percentage score for the seven categories will be calculated and used to assign your grade for the course as follows:

- A: 100 - 90.0 %
- B: 89.9 - 80.0 %
- C: 79.9 - 70.0 %
- D: 69.0 - 60.0 %
- F: below 60 %

Grades of I, W, CR, NC are described in the current college catalog. Changing from letter grading (A-F) to CR/NC option must be done by the deadline for the current term – this must be discussed previously with the instructor.

2. **Online activity and class participation:** You will be required to post your thoughts and comments on assigned topics and respond to your classmates' posts on the Discussion Board on Lualima. Posting topics and deadlines will be announced throughout the course.
3. **Homework assignments:** Online homework assignments will be given through our course page on the Connect website (<http://connect.mheducation.com/class/c-guay-spring-2017>). Homework assignments will typically be due each Monday and Thursday (the due dates for each assignment will be posted on Connect). Note that assignments are due on or before the specified date even if that date is a holiday.
4. **Quizzes:** An online quiz will be given once per week. The quizzes will be available through our course site on Lualima. The quizzes will have a time limit (roughly 20 minutes, but may be longer or shorter depending on the material covered on the quiz). You will need to complete each quiz by the specified deadline.
5. **Research Project:** You will be asked to write a power point presentation (~10 slides) summarizing and discussing an article from a scientific journal related to biochemistry. Instructions for preparing the research project will be posted in the "Modules" section of our course website on Lualima.
6. **Midterm Exams:** There will be three midterm exams, each of which will cover approximately one-third of the course. Each exam will last for 75 minutes. All exams will be closed book. You must take the exams **in person** at the WCC Testing Center (located in the library on the WCC campus). **Note:** If you are not able to come to the WCC Testing Center to take the exams, you must notify me during the first week of class so we can make arrangements for you to take the exams in person at a suitable alternative facility.

7. **Final Exam:** The *final exam* will *cover all topics* presented in the course (*i.e.*, the exam is cumulative). You will be given 2 hours to complete the exam. The final exam will be closed book. The final exam must also be taken in person at the WCC Testing Center.

### **HOW TO STUDY FOR THIS COURSE**

Nothing is more important to your academic success than developing strong study skills. And since this is an online course, you will need to be *especially* self-disciplined and efficient when it comes to managing your time and making sure you do all of the work required for the course. On average, you should plan on spending about **one to two hours per day** watching the lecture videos and an additional **twelve hours per week** devoted to reading, working through tutorials and other supplemental materials, working on homework assignments, etc.

1. Read the sections of the **text** that correspond to the topics shown on the *course schedule*.
2. Watch the **lecture videos** that are assigned for the topics shown on the *course schedule*. It is a good idea to watch each video all the way through once, then go back and re-watch portions that you did not completely understand the first time through.
3. Take **notes** during the lecture videos, but don't focus too much energy on trying to write down every single thing (remember, you can download and print out the lecture slides). Have your **calculator** handy so you can work through sample problems that are worked out during the lecture videos. Don't hesitate to pause the video if you need time to work through the problem before continuing.
4. **Review** your notes soon after reading the text and watching the videos.
5. Participate actively and interact with me and your fellow students on the **Discussion Board** on Lulima.
6. Work through the **online tutorials** and other supplemental materials that are posted in the "Resources" section for each chapter under the "Modules" on the course website on Lulima.
7. Work on the **homework assignments** on Connect that correspond to the material covered in the textbook readings and videos you watched.
8. Start getting ideas for and working on your **research project** early. Don't wait until the last minute to get things rolling.
9. Study for the **exams** using the review guides that will be posted on Lulima. You can also prepare for the exams by doing practice problems similar to those included on the homework assignments, quizzes, and lecture slides.
10. Ask me questions at any time via email. If you are having trouble with any of the topics we are covering, you should seek clarification and additional explanation from me right away! If you are going to be on the WCC campus and want to meet with me in person, let me know and you can stop by during the office hours I hold for my face-to-face courses. Don't wait until you have fallen behind and feel overwhelmed before you seek help.

### **OTHER POLICIES**

1. Reading/lecture topics and exam dates are found in the **course schedule**.
2. You are expected to have the required **mathematics skills** for the course. You should be familiar with setting up and solving algebraic equations, exponents, logarithms, scientific (engineering) notation, significant figures, proportionality, and percentages. See the math review modules on the course website to review this material.
3. **Missed Quizzes:** If you do not complete any of the online quizzes **by the specified deadline**, your will receive a score of **zero** for the quiz. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.

4. **Missed Exams:** If you do not take an exam by the **specified deadline**, you will receive a score of **zero**. If a legitimate **emergency** comes up, you must notify me **before the exam deadline** (in person or by email) and try to arrange an alternate date for you to take the exam.
5. You have access anytime to your scores for quizzes, exams and homework assignments in the **gradebook on Laulima**.
6. **Communicating with Instructor:** The best way to reach me is by email and/or during my in person office hours. Time spent during office hours will be more efficient if you prepare ahead of time and are ready with specific questions to ask.
7. If you have any **special learning needs**, including hearing/visual impairment, please inform the instructor as soon as possible
8. **ZERO TOLERANCE for cheating or academic dishonesty.** See the note regarding academic dishonesty on the following page.

#### **DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION**

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor (Ann Lemke) to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. She can be reached at 235-7448 or lemke@hawaii.edu. You can also drop by her office in 'Akoakoa 213.

#### **SOME FINAL WORDS OF ADVICE...**

BE SURE TO KEEP UP WITH THE WORK IN THIS CLASS! We will be covering a lot of material at a relatively fast pace, so things will become very difficult if you fall behind. Gaining an understanding of basic chemistry concepts and an ability to solve chemistry problems requires practice, and you need to be actively involved in the learning process. This means staying focused during the readings and lecture videos, working through additional practice problems on your own, studying with other students, asking for help when you need it, etc. If you are having trouble keeping up with the class material and wait until the last minute (*i.e.*, right before the exam) before trying to cram everything in, it will be too late.

### **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Make sure that you are familiar with the sections related to "Academic Dishonesty" in the College's policies governing student conduct (available on the WCC website). The fundamental principle governing academic integrity and academic dishonesty is that **each student is responsible for presenting his/her own work at all times.**

It is fine to discuss homework assignments with other students and help each other out – in fact, I strongly encourage you to study with your classmates outside of class time. But it is also important that you learn how to solve problems on your own, and **you must submit your own work.**

Of course it is not OK to collaborate on exams. The following rules will be enforced during exam periods:

- Absolutely no talking once the exam begins. If you have a question or if you need something during an exam, do not ask your neighbor. Raise your hand and I'll come help you.
- Keep your eyes on your own paper. If I see you looking at someone else's paper during the quizzes and exams, I will assume you are cheating.
- You are not allowed to bring in any notes or other outside materials to the exams. I will give you copies of the periodic table and other information -- formulas, constant values, etc. (during the lectures, I will tell you which things you need to memorize and which things will be provided for the exams).
- You can (and should) bring a calculator for the exams. But you will only be allowed to use standard scientific calculators – no cell phones, PDA's (iPhones, Blackberrys, etc.), mini-computers, or any device that can connect to the internet, communicate with other devices, or has data storage capacity.
- No listening to any audio devices (iPods, etc.) during exams.

If you are observed cheating on any of the class assignments (homework, quizzes or exams), your will receive an F for the assignment and I will refer the matter to the Department Head and the Office of the Dean. Cheating is unfair to everyone involved: the teacher, the cheater, and especially the honest students in the class. I adhere to a **zero-tolerance** policy regarding cheating and academic dishonesty, so consider this your first and only warning – there will be no "second chances" in this area.

**Trust me – you do NOT want to test me on this!!!** I have come down hard on students in my classes for cheating before and will not hesitate to do so if necessary in the future.