**CHEM UA 881 BIOCHEMISTRY I**

*Spring 2018*

T/Th 4:55 P-6:10 P  
Room: CANTOR 101

**Instructor:** Prof. Lara K. Mahal  
**Office:** Silver 823, Biomedical Chemistry Institute  
**E-mail:** **NYU Classes**  
**Phone:** 212-998-3533

**All class-related email is to be sent through the NYU Classes system using the internal messaging function.** This email will be monitored by myself and by Dr. Qamra on a regular basis. If you feel that you need to speak to me directly, put ATTN: PROF in the header of your NYU classes email. *Please allow a full business day (24 h, longer over weekends) for a response.* If there is an emergency, you may reach me at lkmahal@nyu.edu, please put EMERGENCY in the title of the email and I will respond as soon as possible. *This system is in place to ensure that your emails do not get lost in my other correspondence, so please follow it.*

**Course Description:** Welcome to Biochemistry I. This course is designed as a one semester introduction to biochemistry suitable for both majors and the requirements for medical or dental school. The course will introduce the major classes of biomacromolecules (nucleic acids, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids) and their structure/function relationships. Basics of enzymology, gene regulation and protein translation will be discussed. We will also touch on the basics of metabolism, emphasizing concepts rather than memorization of pathways.

**Professor Mahal’s Office Hours:** *Thursdays 2:00p-3:00p and Fridays 1:30p-2:30p,* beginning 1/25/2017 (note this Friday (1/26) there are no office hours). Office hours will be held in the Chemistry Department Office Hour Room B, located on the 10th floor of the Silver Building adjacent to 1003. My *office hours are an excellent place to ask me questions on the course material and to get some extra help in a friendly environment. All are welcome, especially those who are struggling with the material. It is always better in such cases to get help early, rather than late.*

**Recitation Leader:**  
*Dr. Rohini Qamra:*  
**Office Hours:** TBA in Chemistry Office Hour Room B

**Recitations:** *Recitations start next week.* There are 4 recitation sections:

- **Tuesdays:** 2p-3:15p  
- **Tuesdays:** 3:30p-4:45p  
- **Thursdays:** 2p-3:15p  
- **Thursdays:** 3:30p-4:45p
RECITATIONS ARE MANDATORY (i.e. a requirement of the class). Attendance will be taken. Failure to attend a minimum of 10 recitations out of the 14 given this semester will result in the automatic lowering of your grade to the next lowest grade (i.e. A will go to A-, C to D (I do not give C- grades in this class)).

Attendance: Attendance at both lectures and recitations is mandatory for your success in this class. The tests will be based on the lecture notes (i.e. the material covered in the posted slides) and not on the book. The book, however, is an important reference text. If you do not attend the lectures and recitations, your chances of passing this class with a decent grade will decrease precipitously.

NYU Classes: We will be using NYU Classes as our course website. The course site is a critical place to go for information. It is also the appropriate mechanism for sending email to myself or to Dr. Qamra. It will contain useful items such as a posting of this syllabus, Quizzes, Homework Assignments and the posted lecture slides. You will need access to a computer and printer for this class.

Slides: I will post slides from the day’s lecture on NYU Classes. These slides will be posted by the morning after class. They are to be used in conjunction with the notes that you will presumably take in class. These slides will contain the homework assignment associated with the lecture. All material covered on these slides are fair game for the exams. They will be posted on NYU classes in the Resources Section.

In Lecture Extra Credit: Every lecture, starting next week, I will have a quick optional problem on material covered. For extra credit, students should download and print the standardized lecture practice problem sheet (found on the NYU-Classes site) and try the in class problem. Work done on plain paper will not be accepted, you must use the worksheet. At the end of the lecture, deposit the sheet in the box. Dr. Qamra will check whether or not you have tried the problem. These problems will be returned to you in recitation. If you have attempted the practice problems in a lecture and turned in a minimum of 21 lecture problem sheets (of 28 total) over the course of the semester, I will add 0.5 grade points of extra credit to your final grade. If you are close to a grade cutoff, this may mean the difference between an A- and a B+. This extra credit begins 1/30/2017.

Required Texts: The following textbook is required for this class and is available at the Bookstore:

Mathews, Van Holde, Appling and Anthony-Cahill Biochemistry, 4th edition. The textbook is a resource for the material we will cover. It provides a variety of educational questions that will help you to learn the course material. However, my exams are based on the material we cover in class and on the related homework assignments not on all of the material covered in the book chapters assigned. The Slides are the best guide for what you are expected to know for the exams. The assigned chapters in the book are suggested reading to help you master the material. The homework is required.
**Homework:** Homework problems from Mathews et al will be assigned but not collected. It is important to do this homework. The homework will help you to keep up in the class and ensure your understanding of the material, if you do not understand the material, you will be unable to pass the exams.

**Quizzes:** There will be a weekly online quiz that will be administered through NYU Classes, starting next week. The quiz will be posted on Monday and due by 12p Tuesday. Once the quiz is activated, it must be finished at that sitting. All quizzes will count towards your grade. Taken together, the quizzes will count for 10% of your final grade. The quizzes are to be done as individual work.

**Exams:** There are three midterm exams for this class. Please note the days and times NOW. All will count toward the final grade. The midterms will be held Fridays from 2-4:00 pm on the following days:

- **Friday, February 16**
  - 2:00-4:00 PM, Rooms TBA.
- **Friday, March 23**
  - 2:00-4:00 PM, Rooms TBA.
- **Friday, April 27**
  - 2:00-4:00 PM, Rooms TBA.

*Note:* Organization meetings and jobs are NOT considered valid excuses to miss the midterm exams. If you have a job make plans NOW to be present at the midterm exams. Please check the dates and see me immediately if you have an unavoidable conflict. You must inform me of any and all conflicts for the midterms by February 6, 2018, otherwise I cannot guarantee accommodations.

All together the midterms will count for 60% of your total course grade. PLAN NOW to be present for the exams! Failure to take the midterms will result in an automatic F (or in the case of a justifiable excuse with a note and a passing grade for completed work, an incomplete) being assigned in this class. It is very important that students avoid any conflict between the scheduled exams and other activities. If unavoidable conflicts exist, please come see me immediately.

**Final Exam:** The Final Exam will count for 30% of your grade and will be comprehensive (i.e. anything taught in class during the semester is fair game). Failure to take the Final EXAM at the scheduled time and place without a documented and approved excuse will result in an automatic F being assigned.

The final exam is currently scheduled for Tuesday 5/15 6:00pm-7:50pm. The location will be announced. You are responsible for confirming the final exam date, time and location.

**Disabilities** New York University provides accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations are provided, students should contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980). Special needs for the lecture or exams should be brought to attention of the instructor by no later than February 6, 2018. If accommodations are needed, students must register with CSD (see http://www.nyu.edu/students/community...
register.html for more information. If you wait until the exam date or close to it to register with CSD or to inform the instructor, we may be unable to provide appropriate accommodations.

**EXAM Regrade Policy:** Any questions on the grading of an exam must be submitted to Professor Mahal within 5 business days of the graded exam's return. The entire exam will then be regraded by Professor Mahal. A higher or lower score may result. To submit a regrade: 1) Do not make additional marks on the exam. 2) On a separate, signed cover sheet stapled to the exam list your email address, state the problems that were misgraded and affirm that no changes were made to the exam post-grading. Give the exam to Dr. Mahal either post-lecture, in her mailbox (submit to Chemistry Department Office for her mailbox) or in her office hours. *Oral or late requests for regrades will not be accepted.*

**GRADING POLICY:**

The **final course grade** will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
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*Note: failure to attend a minimum of 10 recitation sections will result in the lowering of your grade to the next grade level (i.e. A to A-, C to D):*

**The final grades will assigned based on the following:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>86.0-100%</td>
<td>A-/A/A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.0-85.9%</td>
<td>B-/B/B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.0-74.9%</td>
<td>C/C+ (Note: <em>C</em> grades will not be assigned in this class.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.0-60.0%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;50%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The instructor reserves the right to adjust grades as deemed appropriate, grades will not go down but may be adjusted upward. *Note:* There are no preset number of A’s and B’s, i.e. there is no curve. The grade you receive is based on your work, not what your friend got or how it compares to your classmates. If everyone earns an A, then everyone will get an A. If everyone earns an F, you will all get Fs.

**Academic Integrity:** I expect each of you to conduct yourselves honorably. Students who violate the University rules on scholastic dishonesty (by, for example, working together on the
Quizzes) or cheating on exams are subject to disciplinary penalties including the possibility of failure in the course and dismissal from the University. It is just wrong and you should know better, so don't do it.