Welcome!

Slides for today (and Friday) were emailed to you earlier.

Course Staff:

- Instructor: Mr. Brad Mehrtens
  164C Burrill Hall
  mehrtens@illinois.edu
  questions or concerns about homework problems, exam questions, lecture material, etc. (i.e. Science content)

- Course Coordinator: Mrs. Melissa Reedy
  208 Noyes Lab
  murray@illinois.edu
  questions or concerns about Discussion, Registration, Add-Drop, DRES, etc. (i.e. Administrative details)

- Teaching Assistants
Course Students:

- Mostly Freshmen in Biological Sciences Program
- Students from other LAS majors, ACES, Engineering, AHS, etc.
- Many are James Scholars and will want to earn Honors Credit for MCB 150
  - can be fulfilled by completing an independent study project (HCLA) or registering for the Honors Discussion section
  - links to HCLA information documents are available after class or in my office (164C Burrill Hall)

Course Description:

- Foundation course, along with IB 150, for all bio majors
- First course in the MCB Core Curriculum, feeding into Genetics, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry
- Study basic molecular genetics, cell biology, and biochemistry principles and real-world applications in a lecture/discussion format
Section Codes and Meeting Times:

- The lecture section “code” is AL1.
- The discussion section “codes” are things like ADE, A05, A12 -- this is actually your section code (section E, section 5, section 12, etc.). Get to know your code and your TA!
- Discussions start next week and meet in 113 Greg Hall, except for Section ADH (Honors) which meets in 101A Burrill Hall.
- Merit sections are separate and begin this week in 101A Burrill Hall.
- MCB 151 is for NON-MAJORS.

Structure of MCB 150 Class Periods:

- About half of our classes will be (somewhat) traditional
  - Do the readings prior to coming to class
  - Answer the pre-class questions
  - Discuss questions with your peers a few times during class
  - Answer the post-class questions
- About half of our class periods will be “flipped”
  - Do the readings prior to coming to class
  - Watch the screencasts prior to coming to class
  - Answer the pre-class questions
  - Discuss questions, solve problems, watch demos during class
  - Answer the post-class questions
Required Course Materials:

• Textbook pages from two different textbooks
  - Freeman’s *Biological Science* (5th edition) and Becker’s *World of the Cell* (8th edition)
  - Available as printed text(s) or eText

• Access to MasteringBiology and Learning Catalytics
  - If you bought a book package, Learning Catalytics access is included; if you bought just MasteringBiology access, Learning Catalytics access will be an additional $12 when prompted

• Practicing Biology Student Workbook, Custom Edition for University of Illinois (new version for SP17)

MasteringBiology:

• Homework problems for each lecture other than this one
• Screencasts for our “flipped” class periods
• Access to the eText if part of a package
• Q & A forums for all course content topics
• Reading assignments and learning objectives
• Discussion section information and assignments
• Updated announcements
MasteringBiology:

- Every lecture (other than this one) will have some pre-class questions and some post-class questions
- Pre-class questions will be based on readings and/or screencasts; post-class questions will be based on any material relevant to the class
- Pre-class questions due by Noon on the day of that class (M, W, F)
- Post-class questions due by Noon the following business day (Tu, Th, M)
- Your first pre-class questions will be open this afternoon and due Friday; there is also an Introduction to MasteringBiology assignment open now and due Friday at Noon

Learning Catalytics:

- A system to poll students and ask questions during (or outside of) class; a practice question is already available
- Will be used every lecture beginning Friday, and will account for 10% of your total course grade
- Accessed through MasteringBiology from any wireless smartphone, tablet, or laptop. **Put your phone on silent!!**
- Let us know if you do not have an appropriate device to use, and we can loan you one to use during class
- Bandwidth disappears quickly, so if you bring multiple devices, leave the others offline (airport mode, etc.)
Additional Resources:

- **Office hours (start today):**
  - Tuesdays 12:00–2:00 PM in 164A Burrill Hall
  - Wednesdays 3:00–5:00 PM in 223 Greg Hall
  - Please bring your student ID card to swipe

- **TA-led help sessions (start this week):**
  - Mondays 4:00–6:00 PM in 1027 Lincoln Hall
  - Wednesdays 9:00–11:00 AM in 163 Noyes Lab
  - Thursdays 12:30–2:00 PM in 1060 Lincoln Hall
  - Fridays 11:00 AM–1:00 PM in 113 Greg Hall
  - No ID cards are needed

- **Review sessions prior to each exam; Q&A forums 24/7**

- **Tips for success video available on web site and in MasteringBiology**

Additional Resources:

- **Course web site:** www.life.illinois.edu/mcb/150
  - Course information; policies; forms; exam room locations; contact information for instructors, coordinators, and TAs; etc.

- **MCB 150 Previously-Asked Question bank**
  - go.illinois.edu/150faq
  - Available by itself or from within MasteringBiology

- **Pearson eText app for iOS or Android**
  - www.pearsonhighered.com/etextmobile
Supplemental (optional) Course Materials:

- Thrive in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Thrive in Cell Biology
- These have been bundled together at a great price through the IUB and called “Thrive in Cell Biology Custom U of I 2-Volume Pack”

Adaptive Follow-Up Assignments:

- Opportunity for extra credit in your homework grade category
- 5 possible extra credit points for each optional follow-up assignment, active at the end of the “parent” assignment and due 2 days after that
- Questions are randomly selected by the MasteringBiology system and reinforce concepts tested by the parent assignment
- Doing well on initial questions leads to more challenging questions; doing poorly leads to more background work
- Will not be available for every post-class assignment, so take advantage of the ones that are available
Calculating MasteringBiology and Learning Catalytics Grades:

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Grades:

- 1,000 point total for the semester
- 60% (600 points) comes from 4 exams
- Final is not specifically cumulative, but the whole course essentially is cumulative
- We use a (generous) standard scale, not a curve, so you know exactly how you are doing at all times
- Point values and grading scheme will be explained in Discussion next week
Policies:
• Cell phones on silent or vibrate
• Please arrive on time, leave only when dismissed, and don’t talk unless you have the floor
• All contact should be to/from an @illinois.edu email address
• Recording class periods is fine, but audio only

Announcements:
• Latest announcements will be in MasteringBiology and on the course web site
• We also have an active Twitter feed: @mcb150

Emergency Planning:
• Learn the different ways to leave this building
• If weather is severe and leaving is not an option, go downstairs if possible (storm shelter under the lobby), or at least stay out of the lobby and away from windows
• If there’s a security threat, run out of the building if you can, hide from the threat in a silent, barricaded room, or fight using anything available as a last resort
• Sign up for emergency text messages at emergency.illinois.edu