BIOTECHNOLOGY
SC/BIOL 4290 4.0
Fall 2008

This course will present the concepts and principles of modern biotechnology. Topics will include the microbial, medical, agricultural and aquatic biotechnology. Current “hot” topics will be covered including biofuels, antimicrobial resistance, forensic sciences, interfering RNA and genetically modified food. The laboratories will introduce students to important biotechnological techniques.

Course Director: Dr. Vivian Saridakis
Farquharson Room 105
736-2100x20837
vsaridak@yorku.ca

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:30 am

Required Texts: none

Reading material will be assigned from the current literature. “Current Opinion in Biotechnology” is a periodical that provides reviews in current biotechnology areas.

http://www.biotechinstitute.org/

Important Dates:

Week1: Introduction to Biotechnology
Week2: Microbial Biotechnology
Week3: Microbial Biotechnology
Week4: Agricultural Biotechnology
Week5: Agricultural Biotechnology
Week6: Medical Biotechnology
Week7: Medical Biotechnology
Week8: Aquatic Biotechnology
Week9: Midterm Test and Oral Presentations
Week10: Oral Presentations
Week11: Oral Presentations
Week12: Oral Presentations
Week 13: Oral Presentations

The MIDTERM EXAM WILL be on Monday October 27th 2008.
The last day to DROP this course without a grade being submitted is **Friday, Nov. 7th, 2008.**

**Important Information:**

Students who feel that there are extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of their exams or other course requirements are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Course Director as soon as possible.

Students with physical, learning or psychiatric disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods should discuss this with the Course Director early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Student Conduct:**

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship and to the class. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the York website [http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=82](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=82).

A major concern in large classes is students talking to other students during lectures. “Chatting” during lectures is disruptive and damaging to fellow students and the instructor and will not be tolerated. Students are expected to respect others by not speaking unless invited to by the instructor, and by turning cell phones off before lecture begins.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Cheating and plagiarism are major academic offences and carry serious penalties ranging from a failing grade on the work in question to expulsion from the University. For more details about cheating, see York’s academic dishonesty policy at the following link: [http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69)

**Grading Scheme:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Reports</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**MONDAY OCTOBER 27th 2008.**
Tests and Exams:

Attendance at all tests and exams is mandatory. In the event of a missed test or exam, the course director must be notified by e-mail within 48 hours of the missed test/exam (vsaridak@yorku.ca).

Students with a documented reason for missing a test or exam, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor’s letter), may request accommodation from the course director. Being away on vacation is not a valid reason that qualifies for accommodation.

Consideration for accommodation will be provided only after presentation of a medical certificate or other document to the course director within one week after the missed test or exam. Medical documentation must provide (1) the date of consultation; (2) the contact information (e.g. phone number and legible name of the health provider that would allow verification of the document); and (3) a specific statement that you were unable to attend the test or exam on the day it was scheduled.

In the event that the midterm test and exam is missed due to illness, an Attending Physician's Statement will be required, which can be downloaded from: http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/petitions/attending_physician_statement.pdf.

The following accommodations may be granted after receipt of acceptable justification:

- There will be no make-up tests for missed mid-term tests.
- A missed Christmas or Final exam will be accommodated by a make-up exam during the relevant exam period. Only one make-up exam will be scheduled. Further extensions or accommodation will require submission of a formal petition to the Faculty.

Laboratories:

There is only one lab section therefore it is impossible to make up a missed lab.

Important Information About E-Mail Messages:

Always include your full name, student number and BIOL4290 in the subject line in all course related e-mail messages. Send them to vsaridak@yorku.ca. E-mail messages are only to be sent only from yorku.ca account. E-mail messages from non @yorku.ca accounts (i.e., hotmail, gmail, etc.) will not be answered.