Welcome to Molecular Biology Lab (Biol312L)

Instructor: Dr. Jessica McCoy
Office: 65 Coming Street, Room 102
Office Hour: Monday 11am-noon, or by appointment
Email: mccoyja@cofc.edu

SPRING 2022 - LABORATORY MEETING TIMES
Wed: noon to 3 pm (Section 01)
Wed: 3 pm to 6 pm (Section 05)
Fri: 7:50 am to 10:50 am (Section 02)
Fri: 1 pm to 4 pm (Section 04)

All sections meet in RITA 145

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will provide students with a thorough review of common techniques and concepts that are used in the molecular biology laboratory.
Co-requisite or prerequisite: BIOL 312, MATH 250 or equivalent course in statistics or permission of instructor.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
1. Knowledge and practice of basic laboratory safety
2. Practical skills:
   a. Learn to isolate and purify DNA from different sources.
   b. Be able to perform and analyze a PCR reaction (traditional and quantitative)
   c. Learn and practice common molecular cloning techniques
   d. Be familiar with modern DNA sequencing methods and genome determination
   e. Become familiar with the equipment used in molecular biology laboratories
3. Be able to use readily available databases for the modern molecular biology lab
4. Learn to write scientific reports
5. Learn to read and discuss scientific literature in a journal club setting
6. Know how to work cooperatively in a molecular biology lab

YOUR BOOK
- There is no book or manual to buy for the lab.
- Course materials, including the syllabus, study guides, handouts, protocols and accompanying papers, etc. will be made available through OAKS.
- Instructions for lab reports and other assignments will be available on OAKs.

YOUR GRADE
Your grade will be calculated using the following formula:
Project Summaries (x3) 50%
Quizzes/Worksheets 50%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scheme:
LAB EXPECTATIONS

- Be on time and familiar with the lab experiment for that day: the faster we start, the sooner we are done.
- **Electronics:** You may utilize laptops and tablets for class-related exercises. Turn off (or put in silent mode) cell phones and other devices that beep. Do not talk on the phone or text message. Do not use Facebook or conduct web searches not associated with assignments during the lab.
- Students are expected to behave properly in the lab: no chit-chatting, no rough playing, no playing with expensive instrumentation and potentially dangerous materials.
- Students are expected to help with cleanup after their lab.
- Students should not leave the lab classroom until the instructor has indicated that the lab activity is over.
- Do study, ask questions, and be courteous to your colleagues.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is positively correlated with success in any course. Class attendance and participation is, therefore, strongly encouraged. A missed quiz will result in a “zero”. Unless you reach out to the instructor prior to your absence, you will not be able to make up missed quizzes.

“Since lab attendance is a crucial part of any course, students are expected to attend all laboratory meetings in which they enroll. The professor determines whether absences are excused or unexcused, whether make-up works will be permitted (if possible), and how the number of unexcused absences

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<th>GRADE SCALE:</th>
<th>93 and above:</th>
<th>60-83.9:</th>
<th>67-69.9:</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-91.9:</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B -</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89.9:</td>
<td>A -</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D -</td>
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<td>84-86.9:</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C -</td>
<td>below 60:</td>
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count in determining the basis for a grade of "WA." If attendance is used for grading purposes, the professor is responsible for keeping accurate attendance records. Each student, whether absent or not, is responsible for all the information disseminated in the course i.e. all material posted on (see above). If a student has more than the maximum allowed absences, as defined in the course syllabus, the professor may assign a grade of "WA" for the student. The grade of "WA" is a failing grade. The procedure for assignment of this grade requires that the professor submit the WA grade form after the withdrawal deadline."
SAFETY in the LAB

Students are required to follow the strict and standard safety procedures outlined in the School, of Science and Math (SSM) safety policy and procedures document posted on OAKS.

In the first laboratory, we will go over this important CofC safety policy. You will have to take the safety quiz on OAKS, as well as sign a copy of this policy that will be kept in my office for min. two years.

By signing, you agree that you
- understand the potential safety dangers in this lab,
- know how to deal with any potential accident and also
- agree to the CofC’s requirements stated in this policy.
If you do not sign this document, you will not be able to stay in this course.

HONOR CODE AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each instance is examined to determine the degree of deception involved. Incidents where the professor believes the student's actions are clearly related more to ignorance, miscommunication, or uncertainty, can be addressed by consultation with the student. We will craft a written resolution designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error in the future. The resolution, submitted by form and signed by both the professor and the student, is forwarded to the Dean of Students and remains on file. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board. It is important for students to remember that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless a professor specifies that students can work together on an assignment and/or test, no collaboration is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (such as a PDA), copying from another's exam, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance. Remember, research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the professor.

Students can find a complete version of the Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at http://www.cofc.edu/studentaffairs/general_info/studenthandbook.html.

SPECIAL REQUESTS
If there is a student in this class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through SNAP Services, please feel free to come and discuss this with me during my office hours.

Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations should notify their professors as quickly as possible. This College abides by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act that stipulates no student shall be denied access to an education "solely by reason of a handicap." Disabilities covered by law include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities and hearing, sight or mobility impairments. If you have a documented disability that may have some
impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see an administrator at the Center of Disability Services, (843) 953-1431 or me so that such accommodation may be arranged.

The Developmental Biology (DB) Lab. is combined with the DB classes that is 20% of the total grade (1000 points in the lectures and 250 points in the lab. part. 50 points of the lab. grade will be associated with the lecture 200 point final (May 1st 2015), thus leaving 200 points in the lab. part of lab. grade.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF STUDENT RECORDS
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law designed to provide students with greater access to and control over information contained in their educational records, while at the same time prohibiting, in most circumstances, the release of any information contained in those educational records without express written consent of the student. This law guarantees privacy of student records, open access by students to their records, restricted release of information to specified authorities or others only with written consent, and procedures allowing students to challenge the contents of their records. The law also requires that an inventory of records be maintained denoting the location, content, and any official review of students’ records and identifying the staff member in charge of records and/or reviews. Notice of this law must be provided annually to all students. Forms necessary for obtaining access to student records are provided by the Office of the Registrar. THIS IS WHY I CANNOT INFORM YOU FOR A REQUEST FOR YOUR GRADES ETC. BY E-MAIL OR THE TELEPHONE AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. THE ONLY LEGAL OPTION IS PERSON – PERSON COMMUNICATIONS I.E SEEING EACH OTHER IN PERSON.