

# USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife  
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

## BISC 312: Molecular Biochemistry

4 units

Spring 2021

Monday, Wednesday and Friday:

9-9:50 a.m. or 10-10:50 a.m.

Room: ONLINE Zoom classroom

Instructor: Christa Bancroft, Ph.D.

Office: Online Zoom classroom

Office Hours: Monday and Friday 11-12 p.m. (1/15 - 3/12)

Contact Info:

Email: [cbancrof@usc.edu](mailto:cbancrof@usc.edu)

Subject line should state: "BISC 312".

I will typically reply to emails within 24 hours during the workweek and 48 hours over the weekend.

Instructor: Nancy Castro, Ph.D.

Office: Online Zoom classroom

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 11:00am - 12:00pm (after 3/15)

Contact Info:

Email: [ncastro@usc.edu](mailto:ncastro@usc.edu)

Subject line should state: "BISC 312".

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Office:

Office Hours:

Contact Info:

### Course Topic Description

The student will learn the structure and function of biological macromolecules: DNA, RNA, proteins, lipids and carbohydrates. We will study cellular metabolism and energy production pathways, including glycolysis, the Citric Acid cycle, oxidative phosphorylation, gluconeogenesis, and the pentose phosphate pathway. Students will gain an understanding of how these systems are all controlled via hormone regulation. We will also learn how DNA, RNA and proteins act to copy, express and accurately transmit genetic information, specifically the mechanisms of: DNA replication, transcription, translation, DNA repair, recombination and gene regulation. Techniques used to study molecular biology and biochemistry will be presented in the context of these major biological mechanisms.

## Learning Objectives

1. Relate covalent and non-covalent interactions to their importance in biological interactions and structures.
2. Identify the amino acids and their chemical properties. Analyze how their presence in a protein changes its overall characteristics.
3. Identify the levels of structure in proteins and describe the stabilization of these structures.
4. Describe the structure and mechanism of representative enzymes in biochemical pathways.
5. Interpret plots of enzyme kinetic data both with and without inhibitors.
6. Describe the primary catabolic and anabolic pathways pertaining to the following molecular classes (Glycolysis, Citric Acid Cycle, Electron Transport, Oxidative Phosphorylation, Pentose Phosphate Pathway, Gluconeogenesis, Glycogenesis, Glycogenolysis and Beta-Oxidation):
  - a. Carbohydrates
  - b. Lipids
7. For each pathway in 6, identify the key regulatory points, the energetics of the reactions, the enzymes and the chemical transformations involved. Analyze how energetic changes and hormonal signals modify the reactions and change the active pathways.
8. Identify important characteristics of lipid membrane structure and compare mechanisms of molecular transport across membranes.
9. Evaluate how organismal energy state and hormonal signals modify activation and inhibition of different biochemical pathways.
10. Compare major cellular signaling pathways (Tyrosine kinase receptors, G-protein coupled receptors and steroid receptors).
11. Interpret biochemical data tables.
12. Describe the important enzymatic steps involved in DNA synthesis, RNA transcription, and Protein synthesis in both prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
13. Compare how gene regulation systems in prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms control protein concentration in a cell.

Recommended Preparation: BISC 220/221

## Course Notes

### Lectures:

The lecture slides posted on the course Blackboard internet site (<https://blackboard.usc.edu>). All lectures will have an audio and written transcript section that should be read or listened to at home before attending lecture that day. It is also recommended to read the corresponding section of the textbook in preparation for class problem sets. There will be quiz questions associated with the at-home portion of the lecture on Blackboard prior to coming to lecture. The remainder of the lecture slides will be presented in class.

It is important to attend or watch video recordings of all of the lectures during the course and to take good notes for study. Prior to attending each lecture, it is also recommended to read the appropriate portions of the textbook. Examinations will be based on application of material from lecture slides, verbal information conveyed during lecture, quiz material, and in-class problem sets. Material from the textbook that is not presented in lecture slides or in the lecture presentation will not be included in examination material. All course lecture material, information, announcements and grades will be posted on Blackboard until the end of the semester.

### Email Communication:

To ensure privacy, only student's USC email accounts may be used for email communications. Students are responsible for understanding the content of email messages that the instructor sends to their USC accounts. Therefore, each student must check their USC email regularly and make sure their account is not over quota, so that new messages can be received.

## Recommended Readings and Supplementary Materials

Appling, Anthony-Cahill, Mathews, Biochemistry: Concepts and Connections (2015, 1st edition) or (2018, 2nd edition). Can be purchased as a package in the bookstore in hardback or loose-leaf. Alternatively, you may buy e-text access online.

## Description and Assessment of Assignments

Midterms will include multiple choice problems that can be done without a calculator. Quizzes will be on material from the at-home portion of flipped lecture material and should be answered individually prior to coming to class. Points will be given both for participation and correctness. In-class problem sets from flipped lectures will be on material from the entirety of the lecture. Problems will be completed in pairs or small groups in breakout rooms and submitted on the class Blackboard website.

## Grading Breakdown

The course grade will be based upon **692 possible points**:

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Midterm 1	110	15.90
Midterm 2	110	15.90
Midterm 3	110	15.90
Final Exam	110	15.90
At-home Quizzes	72	10.40
In-class problem sets	180	26.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>100</b>

## Course letter grades:

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

A 90-100

A- 87-89.9

B+ 82-86.9

B 77-81.9

B- 72-76.9

C+ 67-71.9

C 62-66.9

C- 57-61.9

D+ 52-56.9

D 49-51.9

D- 46-48.9

F 45 and below

## Assignment Submission Policy

Answers to quiz questions for flipped lectures should be submitted prior to the start of class at 9:00 a.m. or 10 a.m., depending on your enrolled lecture section. Quizzes for a subsequent flipped lecture are typically open 48 hours in advance of the next flipped lecture.

Answers to group work assignments should be submitted **before 11:59 p.m. PDT on the day of the lecture**. Any technical difficulties or other issues that result in your not being able to submit on time should be brought up to the professor as soon as possible and within one week at the latest, see below for missed classwork protocols.

If you do not have access to a smart phone, tablet or laptop computer, please contact Dr. Bancroft to make accommodations to submit your assignments.

### Lecture Absences and Missed classwork:

Attendance at all lecture sections is encouraged. If you must miss class due to illness or valid USC travel, please present the current instructor with evidence of the reason for missing the assignment and you will be allowed to make-up classwork assignments within **1 week** of the missed lecture period. **No makeups will be allowed after one week post due date of the assignment.**

### Grading Timeline

Grades for Midterm Exams will be posted within one calendar week following the exam date.

### Additional Policies

#### Missing Midterm Exam:

In case a midterm exam must be missed for legitimate reasons, discuss the situation with the course instructor prior to the exam, if possible. If an exam is missed for an emergency or for a valid health reason (with written documentation), the scores of the other three exams will be prorated to comprise your total point score. Rules governing exams are given in more detail in your Student Contract, which is also posted on the class website: <https://blackboard.usc.edu>.

#### Regrades:

In the event an error is made in the grading of your exam, written submittal of a description of the error with the exam should be returned to Dr. Bancroft **within 1 week** after receiving your graded exam. After this time period, exams will not be regraded.

### Course Schedule:

Wk.	Date	Lecture Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	Jan. 15 (CB)	Intro to Biochemistry and the Language of Chemistry	Ch. 1	
	Jan. 18	No lecture, MLK Day		
	Jan. 20	Chemical Foundations of Life	Ch. 2	Lec. 2 quiz & prob. set
	Jan. 22	Energy in Biochemistry	Ch. 3	Lec. 3 quiz & prob. set
2	Jan. 25	Energy in Biochemistry	Ch. 3	Lec. 4 quiz & prob. set
	Jan. 27	Nucleic Acids	Ch. 4	Lec. 5 quiz & prob. set
	Jan. 29	Amino Acids and Analysis	Ch. 5	Lec. 6 quiz & prob. set
3	Feb. 1	Protein Structure	Ch. 6	Lec. 7 quiz & prob. set
	Feb. 3	Protein Structure and Biochemical Methods	Ch. 6	Lec. 8 quiz & prob. set
	Feb. 5	Biochemical Methods and Enzymes	Ch. 8	Lec. 9 quiz & prob. set
4	Feb. 8	Enzymes	Ch. 8	Lec. 10 quiz & prob. set
	Feb. 10	Enzymes	Ch. 8	Lec. 11 quiz & prob. set
	Feb. 12	Carbohydrates	Ch. 9	Lec. 12 quiz & prob. set
5	Feb. 15	No lecture, President's Day		
	Feb. 17	Midterm 1 (lectures 1-11)		
	Feb. 19	Lipids, Membranes and Cellular Transport	Ch. 10	Lec. 13 quiz & prob. set
6	Feb. 22	Lipids, Membranes and Cellular Transport	Ch. 10	Lec. 14 quiz & prob. set
	Feb. 24	Principles of Metabolism	Ch. 11	Lec. 15 quiz & prob. set
	Feb. 26	Carbohydrate Metabolism	Ch. 12	Lec. 16 quiz & prob. set
7	Mar. 1	Carbohydrate Metabolism	Ch. 12	Lec. 17 quiz & prob. set
	Mar. 3	Carbohydrate Metabolism	Ch. 12	Lec. 18 quiz & prob. set

	Mar. 5	Carbohydrate Metabolism	Ch. 12	Lec. 19 quiz & prob. set
8	Mar. 8	Midterm Review		
	Mar. 10	Midterm 2 (lectures 12-19)		
	Mar. 12	Wellness Day, No Lecture		
9	Mar. 15 (NC)	Citric Acid Cycle	Ch. 13	Lec. 20 quiz & prob. set
	Mar. 17	Electron Transport and Oxidative Phosphorylation	Ch. 14	Lec. 21 quiz & prob. set
	Mar. 19	Electron Transport and Oxidative Phosphorylation	Ch. 14	Lec. 22 quiz & prob. set
10	Mar. 22	Electron Transport and Oxidative Phosphorylation	Ch. 14	Lec. 23 quiz & prob. set
	Mar. 24	Electron Transport and Oxidative Phosphorylation	Ch. 14	Lec. 24 quiz & prob. set
	Mar. 26	Lipid Metabolism	Ch. 16	Lec. 25 quiz & prob. set
11	Mar. 29	Metabolic Control and Hormone Regulation	Ch. 17	Lec. 26 quiz & prob. set
	Mar. 31	Metabolic Control and Hormone Regulation	Ch. 17	Lec. 27 quiz & prob. set
	Apr. 2	Metabolic Control and Hormone Regulation	Ch. 17	Lec. 28 quiz & prob. set
12	Apr. 5	Signal Transduction	Ch. 20	Lec. 29 quiz & prob. set
	Apr. 7	Wellness Day, No Lecture		
	Apr. 9	Midterm 3 (Lectures 20 - 28)		
13	Apr. 12	The Genome	Ch. 21	Lec. 30 quiz & prob. set
	Apr. 14	DNA Synthesis	Ch. 22	Lec. 31 quiz & prob. set
	Apr. 16	DNA Synthesis	Ch. 22	Lec. 32 quiz & prob. set
14	Apr. 19	DNA: Repair and Recombination	Ch. 23	Lec. 33 quiz & prob. set
	Apr. 21	Gene transcription	Ch. 24	Lec. 34 quiz & prob. set
	Apr. 23	Gene transcription	Ch. 24	Lec. 35 quiz & prob. set
15	Apr. 26	Translation: Protein Synthesis	Ch. 25	Lec. 36 quiz & prob. set
	Apr. 28	Translation: Protein Synthesis	Ch. 25	Lec. 37 quiz & prob. set
	Apr. 30	Wellness Day, No Lecture		
	Tues. May 11	Final Exam (Lectures 29-37): 9 a.m. 4:30 to 5:30 pm 10 a.m. 4:30 to 5:30 pm		

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism - presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words - is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Support Systems:

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 - 24/7 on call*  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 - 24/7 on call*  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours - 24/7 on call*  
[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX - (213) 821-8298*  
[equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following *protected characteristics*: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*  
[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776*  
[dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*

[uscsa.usc.edu](http://uscsa.usc.edu)

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101*

[diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 - 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 - 24/7 on call*

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.