

**WELCOME to Immunology**  
**MICR 4353 – Fall 2019**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Charles T Spencer, Ph.D. (ctspencer@utep.edu)  
**OFFICE:** Biosciences Bldg, Rm. 5.148 (747-8776)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** [by appointment.](#)  
**LECTURE:** Tuesday and Thursday 1:30pm – 2:50pm; PSCI 115

**TEXT** for the course: The Immune System 4<sup>th</sup> ed by Peter Parham  
Garland Science Publisher

**iClicker Cloud App** for smartphones or web access in class  
**Blackboard/web access** during class

**COURSE DESCRIPTION (What will we be doing?):** The course is designed for undergraduate students pursuing Biology, Microbiology, Cellular and Molecular Biochemistry, and other biomedical-related major degrees. The main objective of the course is to provide the students a comprehensive view of the immune system and how it works in health and disease. We will focus our attention in basic mechanisms driving the innate and adaptive immune responses against foreign organisms and molecules. In addition, we will study the molecular mechanisms that trigger and sustain autoimmune and malignant (cancer) processes. Last, but not least, we do hope this course may create or enhance the students' interest in basic and applied research in Immunology.

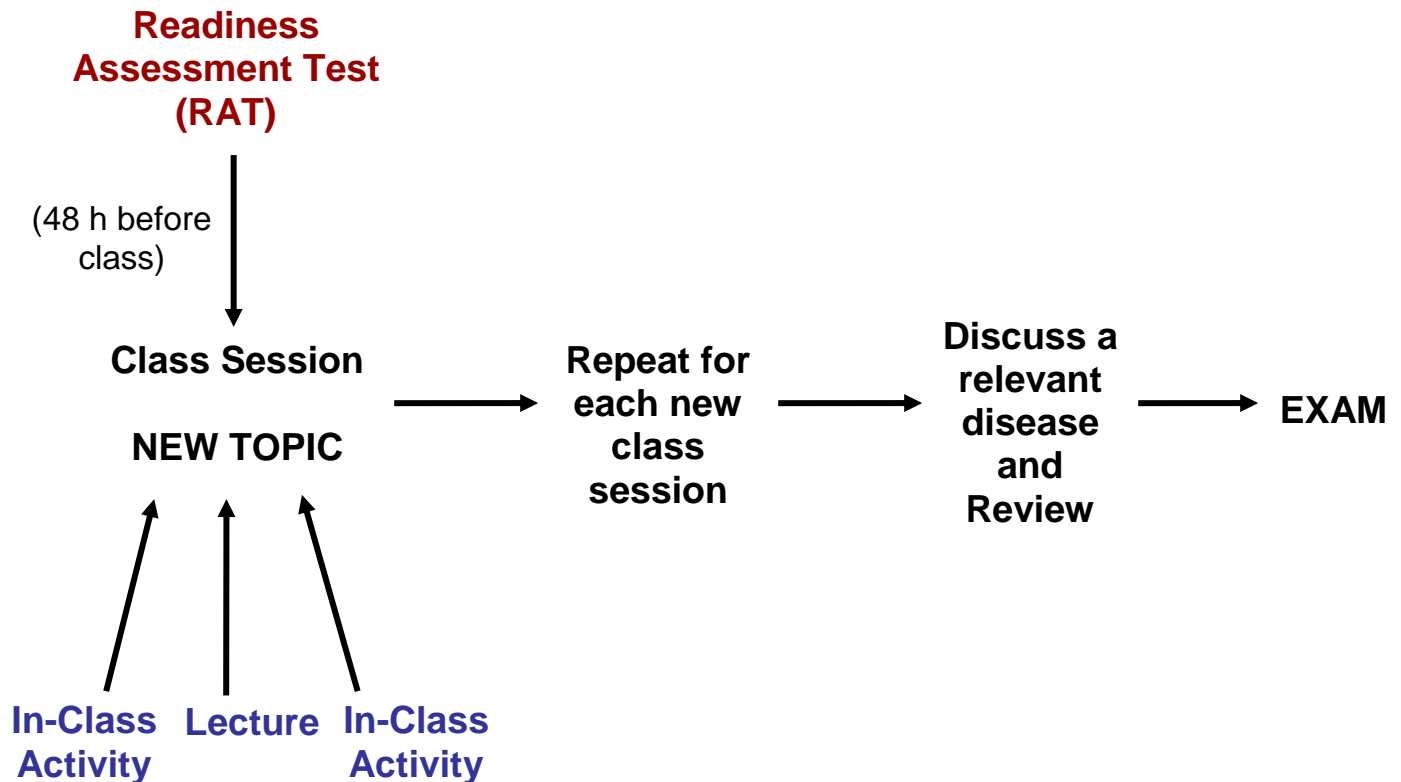
**COURSE GOALS (What do I want you be able to do by the time you get out of this course?):**

- 1) to *know the language* of Immunology
- 2) to *understand fundamental concepts* of Immunology
- 3) to *solve problems* based on information and facts in Immunology
- 4) to *value* the application of Immunology to modern medical treatment
- 5) to *engage* in open-minded and well informed discussions on the impact of biomedical discoveries on our family and friends

**COURSE APPROACH:** I will conduct this course in a combination of self-teaching, team-learning, and traditional lecture.

- 1) The “self-teaching” component is reading the textbook and utilizing the Blackboard site associated with this course. Quizzes will be posted on Blackboard, otherwise known as Readiness Assessment Tests (RATs). These RATs will assess your basic understanding of the required reading for the upcoming class sessions. YES, you will be quizzed on reading material BEFORE it is covered in class. This helps you to keep up with the material and helps me design the class session.
- 2) The “team-learning” will entail the formation of teams of 4 individuals per group (no more – no less!). Team membership is for the duration of the semester. The teams are to be utilized for in-class activities. The activities are designed to cover course material and have the teams “teach” while conducting the activity.
- 3) We will not entirely get away from lectures. During each course period, I will lecture on the overall concepts and applications of the topic of the day. In particular, problematic material, identified from the RAT scores, will be reinforced during lecture.

SO, THIS IS WHAT THE COURSE WILL LOOK LIKE:



**RATS** – “Readiness Assessment Tests”. These quizzes are designed to quickly assess your familiarity with the new material. The RAT will only cover the material for the new topic (the new upcoming session) and it requires that you read the new topics before coming to class. The RATs are posted on Blackboard 48 hrs before the class session. You will have only 30 minutes in which to take the RAT and you will not receive your score for the RAT until the quiz period is completed. Moreover, you can only access the RAT once! Correct answers will not be provided but you will be informed if you got a question wrong; this is to help you figure out the material on your own. To determine what material the RAT will be covering and when they will be available to take, look at the final page of this syllabus. The questions will cover new vocabulary words and overview of new general concepts.

**LECTURES** - I will attempt to keep the lectures short and if there is more than one concept that needs to be covered, each will be covered in a mini-lecture (rather than one big long lecture). I will be using Power Point Presentations (due to the structure of the room). All my presentations will be posted on Blackboard before class session, however updated versions may not be posted until after class session (this depends on how much I decide to redesign the session).

**IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES** – Interspersed with lecture, you will get into your teams and conduct an in-class activity. The activities are designed to help you go over and to apply concepts being covered. All activities must be conducted as a team. All team activities will end up on a test somehow.

**iClicker Cloud.** In-class interactive questioning system that allows professor to gauge the level of student understanding and students to ask anonymous questions. These will be used throughout the class period and semester. The sum total will be accounted for in the final grade.

**ANALYSIS and REVIEWS** – During the class session before an exam, we will hold a number of activities. This is to provide you with an opportunity to apply the material that is being covered and to evaluate the applicability of what you are learning to modern medicine. These activities are to help you remember what is to be covered on the exams.

**EXAMS** - The course is divided into FOUR sections and you will have an exam for each section. See the syllabus for the dates of the Exams or the Blackboard Calendar. These are progress exams that will test your understanding and your ability to APPLY all material covered in the text, in class, and on activities. Exams only cover material during that section of the course and will be administered online.

**GRADING POLICY:** Your grade will be determined on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of your skills and their development using the following elements.

- I. **Readiness Assessment Tests (RATs):** A total of 30 RATs will be provided to you. However, only the top 25 scores will count towards your grade (your five lowest RAT scores will be dropped). There will NO be makeups of RATs, missed RATs will be given a zero which can count toward your lowest grades.
- II. **iClicker Questions:** Multiple choice questions will be asked every class session that relate to material recently covered or to be covered in a class session. Although questions can be discussed amongst teammates, every student must respond with their own individual REEF account. iClicker questions and their points cannot be made up.
- III. **Group Activities:** At various times throughout the semester, you will work in groups to complete activities designed to reinforce fundamental concepts or apply those concepts in the interpretation of data. The dates for these activities will not be announced in advanced and they cannot be made up if missed.
- IV. **Progress examinations:** A total of four examinations will be administered. All will count towards your grade.
- V. **Final Examination:** An optional cumulative final will be administered during Finals Week at our designated time. This exam will can be used to *replace* your lowest exam grade.
- VI. **Attendance:** Attendance will not be taken independently. Attendance will be monitored through answering iClicker questions and participation in Group work. Your attendance in class is your decision; however, neither the iClicker nor Group work points can be made up if you choose not to attend class.

## GRADING POLICY:

Exams	400 points (4 exams/100 pts each)
RATs	125 points (25 quizzes/5 pts each)
Group work	125 points
iClicker	150 points

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800 Points Total

A = 716 – 800 pts (90-100%)

B = 636 - 715 pts (80 – 89%)

C = 556 – 635 pts (70 – 79%)

D = 476 – 555 pts (60 – 69%)

F = < 475 pts (59% and below)

I do round off – so, an 89.6% is an “A” – but an 89.2% is a “B”. I do not push an 89.2% to an “A” considering that you will be given several opportunities to improve your grade (only the top 25 highest RAT scores out of 30 are kept and the lowest Exam grade is exchanged with your grade for the Final if it is higher). DO NOT ASK FOR EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES, these are those opportunities.

Grades are not based on a curve. Everyone will receive a grade that is reflective of the effort put into the course, the knowledge learned during the course, and the skills acquired during the course.

**You EARN your grade; I do not give you a grade.**

## **MAKEUP POLICY:**

**(1) RATs:** *The date of RATs will never change!* So don't complain that you didn't know – it is posted on this syllabus. **Since quite a few of the RATs will be dropped, there will be no makeups.** Missed RATs will be given a zero and can count toward your lowest grade.

**(2) EXAMS:** *The date of EXAMS will never change!* If you know ahead of time that you will not be available to take an exam, notify me and I will schedule for you to take the exam early, with no penalty. If you miss an exam and you can provide PROOF for your absence (you were admitted to the hospital for example), the exam will be rescheduled, at my convenience but must be taken before the graded exam is distributed to the class. If you miss the exam, and you cannot provide proof for your absence that I accept, there are **NO makeups!!**

**CONTESTING:** If anyone wants to contest the wording of a quiz question or of an exam question or contest that there could be more than one answer on a question, DO NOT contact me during class. **E-mail me.** If you can appropriately present your case, can rationally explain your point of view, I may give you credit (not guaranteed). If anyone wants to contest the scoring of an assignment, email me and I will review your argument for the assignment, however, this will entail an entire review of the assignment and could result in regrading, including earning a lower grade.

**MISSING CLASS:** Attendance will be monitored. It is up to you to determine whether you need to be here or not. Keep in mind that there are no makeups for missing REEF questions. If you are not in class or forgot your REEF, you do not receive points.

**CIVILITY STATEMENT:** All smart phones and tablets must be turned off or placed on silent mode. DO NOT answer phones while in class! In addition, please show up to class on time. It's quite disturbing to have individuals stroll into class late. Lastly, although laptops are allowed in class as a resource for class material (Blackboard access for example); however, they CANNOT be used for other activities other than those related to class.

**HONORS CREDIT:** I still haven't decided what will earn a student honor's credit. However, if you plan to do so, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can plan for your activities.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** It is the policy of the University of Texas at El Paso that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures.

For further information, please refer to UTEP's Handbook of Operating Procedures, Chapter 1: Student Conduct and Discipline <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?PageContentID=2084&tabid=30292> . Please also see Plagiarism and Scholastic Integrity webpage, at UTEP's Library: <http://libraryweb.utep.edu/research/plagiarism.php>

**ADA ACCESSIBILITY:** Students who need an accessible classroom or access to adjustable tables or chairs, should register no later than the last week in September for Spring Semester, or by the first week in April for Summer and Fall Semester with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) (<http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>). CASS is located in Union East 106, phone 915-747-5148, email [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). If a student has or suspects he/she has a disability and needs an accommodation, he/she should contact the CASS.

**MILITARY STATEMENT:** If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, you are encouraged to contact the instructor by phone and/or email at the earliest convenience.