

Instructor: Ricardo Bernal **Phone:** 747-6918
Office: CCSB G.0504 **Email:** rbernal@utep.edu
Class Meets: TR 7:30-8:50am online **Office Hrs.:** TR 9:00-10:00 am via zoom, email, or by appt.

[Click here to join the office hours meeting](#)

Teaching Assistant: Bianka Holguin (email is baholguin3@miners.utep.edu)

Scope: A study of the fundamentals of Biochemistry including the building blocks of all proteins, the three-dimensional structure of proteins, protein and enzyme function, nucleic acids, and biological membranes.

Class Meetings: On-Line Course through Black Board, Tues/Thurs 7:30-8:50am. The course will be taught synchronously at the scheduled time so that instructor can answer questions and so there can be instructor/student interaction and so quizzes can be administered but the course will also be recorded it so it can serve as a review. Students that cannot attend the class have the recorded lecture as a resource. Those that miss class will miss the quizzes and can therefore drop the quiz average.

Required Materials:

- **Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry 7th Ed.**; Nelson and Cox; W. H. Freeman and Company, New York
- **I>Clicker REEF Polling account (<http://reef-education.com>) and a wi/fi enabled device (phone or tablet)** will be required for all quizzes. Forgotten device or lack of charge will not be a valid excuse for missed quizzes!!!! **Quizzes cannot be made-up or dropped if missed and so keep that in mind.**

Review Sessions: There will be NONE unless we are ahead in the material and there is extra time for one. Questions should be addressed in class or office hrs.

Course Grading: Final grades in the course will be determined using scores on quizzes and exams. A straight average of the four exams plus the overall quiz average (minus the lowest grade). Of the five scores, you can drop the lowest and the average of the remaining 4 scores will be the final grade for the course. A curve may or may not be applied to the final class average and is at the discretion of the instructor. Begging for a grade change at the end of the semester is highly discouraged as this will not work since it is unfair to the rest of the class. Your grade is in your hands and only you can change it by studying and doing well. The instructor only reports the grade that you earn. All requests for reports or extra work will be rejected as this is not fair to others in the class and doesn't accurately reflect your performance in the course.

Grade of Incomplete is highly discouraged and is rarely granted in this class. All exams must be completed during the regular semester.

No student will ever be administratively dropped after the deadline. You need to drop yourself!

Quizzes and Exams: **THERE WILL BE DAILY ICLICKER QUIZZES** (cumulatively contribute towards final grade and plus the 4 Exams).

Quizzes: There will be a quiz given at the start and end of every lecture that will also serve as a record of attendance. FURTHERMORE, additional quizzes will be given during the lecture. In other words, there may be an unlimited number of quizzes during the lecture.

Exams: 4 Respondus LockDown Browser exams will be given and will be spread out over the semester. The exams will be administered during the regular class time but you will be allowed 13 hours for the exam (7am-8pm). If you work or have another commitment, then please make arrangements to allow for these exams.

**** Unexcused & Missed exams and quizzes count as a ZERO! ****

Exams are designed to test your ability to apply the principles and concepts of biochemistry to new and unfamiliar situations. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP TESTS/EXAMS OR QUIZZES IN THIS COURSE.** The excused missed exam will simply be the one that is dropped. Unexcused missed exams will be assigned a zero.

Studying for exams: **Warning! Exams are difficult and require a lot of study and review of material. If you do not study from the textbook, you WILL do poorly in this course. Memorization of material is a very bad strategy in this course. The best way to study is to read a paragraph in the textbook then to summarize it on a separate piece of paper in your own words. If the two paragraphs match, then you understood the material. If you cannot summarize it after reading it then you didn't grasp the material and you need to review it again. Then for an exam, you can simply study from the summaries that you wrote down and you should do well on the exam.**

Absences: Only a **documented excused absence** will be considered. If you miss an exam or daily quiz you must present a written document proving you could not be present. Missed exams or quizzes that have a University recognized excuse will be dropped and will not count toward the overall course grade.

Course Curve: A curve will be applied to the **final** overall course grade if necessary, to bring the overall class average to 75%.

Academic Dishonesty:

Exam Rules;

- Remove baseball caps and all hats so that they don't block the webcam.
- Listening to music is not allowed! Remove all headphones or ear-buds and put them away.
- Go to restroom before exam so that you are not interrupted since the webcam will detect if you leave.
- All belongings (especially electronics) must be on the floor and put away out of sight.
- No drinks, cups, food, etc. are allowed on your desk during an exam.
- No cheat-sheets (these will earn you an automatic zero and a trip to the Dean of Students to explain yourself).
- Even suspicious activity (especially with cell phone use) will be dealt with accordingly.

Withdrawal Policy: The last day for you to withdraw from any course with an automatic "W" is listed in the official university calendar. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from a course before the drop deadline. No student will be administratively dropped after the deadline due to poor performance and bad grades.

Class Attendance: Class attendance is not required but if you miss all quizzes then you will have to drop the quiz average as the grade you drop and ALL of the exams will have to count towards your grade. Students are responsible for attending lecture or reviewing recorded lectures regularly and knowing what takes place during classes. This includes not only the material covered in the class, but also all announcements, handouts, changes in the syllabus, etc.

Disability: If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations you should contact Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu or visit Room 106 Union East Building.

REEF Polling by i>clicker

I will be using REEF Polling by i>clicker in class this term. REEF Polling helps me to understand what you know, gives everyone a chance to participate in class, and allows you to review the material after class. You will need to create a REEF Polling account to vote in class using your laptop, smart phone, or tablet connected to Wi-Fi.

See instructions for installing Reef on following page.

Linking your iClicker REEF Student Account with Blackboard

In order to participate in my iClicker Cloud sessions and ensure that your grades are properly reflected in blackboard, see below for instructions:

- **Log into Blackboard and click on the course for this class. Search for the iClicker Reef icon on the Home Page Tab and click on it.**
 - Sign into your iClicker Reef account from the window that opens.
 - If you do not have an iClicker Reef account, create one by clicking "**Sign Up!**" It's free to create an account. You should **use your university email address** (username@miners.utep.edu) when creating your account. When asked to register a remote device, **choose not at this time or skip.**
 - **If you already have an existing account, DO NOT create a new one. If you do not remember your account email or password please contact the [UTEP Technology Support HelpDesk](#).**
 - Clicking the iClicker link in my Blackboard course will ensure your iClicker grades show up in my Blackboard gradebook.
 - This will also add my iClicker Cloud course to your iClicker Reef account so you'll be ready to participate in class.

Note: Upon signing up for a **new** account you will see a message about a 14 day free trial. You **will not** need to purchase a subscription after the 14 day free trial is over because the use of iClicker REEF is provided to you for free by UTEP.

How to participate in my iClicker sessions during each class.

- Each time our class meets, make sure you have selected my course from the main screen of your iClicker Reef account.
 - When I start a session, click the **Join** button that appears on your screen, then answer each question I ask in iClicker Reef.

Tentative Schedule for material to be covered

We may end up going slower or faster depending on how the class is doing

Date	Tentative Date	Assignment
Lecture 1	January 19, 2021	First day of classes, Review syllabus, Intro to Reef
Lecture 2	January 21, 2021	Chapter 1 The Foundations of Biochemistry
Lecture 3	January 26, 2021	Chapter 2 Water
Lecture 4	January 28, 2021	Chapter 2 Water Continued
Lecture 5	February 2, 2021	Chapter 3 Amino Acids, Peptides and Proteins
Lecture 6	February 4, 2021	Chapter 3 Amino Acids, Peptides and Proteins Continued
Exam 1	February 9, 2021	Exam 1
Lecture 7	February 11, 2021	Chapter 4 The three-dimensional structure of proteins
Lecture 8	February 16, 2021	Chapter 4 The three-dimensional structure of proteins continued
Lecture 9	February 18, 2021	Chapter 4 The three-dimensional structure of proteins continued
Lecture 10	February 23, 2021	Chapter 5 Protein Function
Lecture 11	February 25, 2021	Chapter 5 Protein Function Continued
Lecture 12	March 2, 2021	Chapter 6 Enzymes
Lecture 13	March 4, 2021	Chapter 6 Enzymes Continued
Exam 2	March 9, 2021	Exam 2
Lecture 14	March 11, 2021	Chapter 7 Carbohydrates and Glycobiology
Lecture 15	March 23, 2021	Chapter 7 Carbohydrates and Glycobiology Continued
Lecture 16	March 25, 2021	Chapter 8 Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids
Lecture 17	March 30, 2021	Chapter 8 Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids Continued
Lecture 18	April 1, 2021	Chapter 9 DNA Based Information Technologies
Lecture 19	April 6, 2021	Chapter 9 DNA Based Information Technologies Continued
Exam 3	April 8, 2021	Exam 3
Lecture 20	April 13, 2021	Chapter 10 Lipids
Lecture 21	April 15, 2021	Chapter 10 Lipids Continued
Lecture 22	April 20, 2021	Chapter 11 Biological Membranes and Transport
Lecture 23	April 22, 2021	Chapter 11 Biological Membranes and Transport Continued
Lecture 24	April 27, 2021	Chapter 12 Biosignaling
Lecture 25	April 29, 2021	Chapter 12 Biosignaling Continued
Exam 4	May 4, 2021	Exam 4
		No Final Exam

Dates are tentative and subject to change if lectures go faster or slower.