

Course Syllabus

Biology 345: Biology of Cancer

Course Description

This course is an introduction to cancer; what it is; what causes it; and how it is diagnosed and treated.

Prerequisites: One lower-division course in Biological Sciences.

My Teaching Philosophy

This is a great course in which you can learn much about the basic science of cancer and its application to daily life. I believe we must all take responsibility for our own education. My job is not to teach you about cancer – it is to help you learn about it yourself. This course is designed in such a way to do so.

I want to teach students who are motivated to learn. Although I have no formal requirements for class attendance, I do expect you to be here. You will find that there is no way to learn much of the course material unless you are present in class. If you are the type of student who misses a lot of classes, you will find it difficult to pass this class.

Course Requirements

Use of Blackboard is required

Topics will be organized into learning modules which will be placed on Blackboard. Each module will contain the readings, assignments, learning objectives, and other requirements for one week. Print out any materials you need, as they will not be handed out in class. Modules will become available on Friday for the following week.

Written assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. I will not accept them via e-mail or printed copy.

Be sure to use Browser Check before using Blackboard to ensure your browser is configured so the complete functionality of this application is available to you. (Blackboard will not work properly unless pop-up blockers are disabled and Java is enabled). For help with Blackboard, go to Technology Support within your Portal.

If you need these, here are the links to download free readers for Adobe Reader or PowerPoint files

Adobe Reader (for .pdf files) - <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

PowerPoint Viewer (for ppt files) - <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads>

Required Texts

No textbook is required to purchase.

Required reading material will be posted to Blackboard.

Examinations

Examinations will cover material from lecture, reading, and case studies. Use Learning Objectives to study for exams. No other study guide will be provided.

Certain information is considered “core information” to be absolutely mastered. Core information is cumulative may be included on any test or quiz throughout the entire semester. This will be discussed further in class.

Quizzes

In-class quizzes will be given regularly and may be at the beginning or end of class. If a quiz is given at the beginning of class and you are late for any reason you will miss the quiz and it may not be made up.

Assignments and Essays

There will be regular written assignments and essays which are to be submitted through the Assignment Tool in Blackboard. They are not accepted by any other means (e-mail or print copy). Late assignments are not accepted.

Quizzes and assignments are generally small point value, so missing a couple should not have much effect.

Grading Criteria

Lecture exams (two @ 75 points each)	= 150
Comprehensive final exam	= 150
Quizzes, assignments, essays	= <u>100</u>
Total points	= 400

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D= 60-69% F = < 60%

Extra Credit:

This course is designed for you to do well if you take the time to come to class and study. I will be very clear as to what is expected. For that reason, extra credit is infrequently added, however it may be added to exams or assignments.

Please do not ask for special consideration or extra projects to raise your grade at the end of the semester. You will receive the grade that you earn during the semester.

Miscellaneous Information and Policies

Make-Up Policies:

Make-up exams will be given only under extraordinary circumstances. If you miss an exam without a "serious and compelling reason" (CSUC Catalog), you will receive a score of zero. I reserve the right to require you to provide documentation in order to allow you to make up an exam. Make-up exams may be different than regularly scheduled exams and you must take the exam on or before the next day you attend class. Note that this may require you to make up the exam at an alternate time and/or location other than the scheduled class time.

In-class quizzes or missed assignments cannot be made up for any reason. Part of their purpose is to reward you for consistent attendance and effort.

Cheating Policy:

I do not tolerate plagiarism or cheating of any type. Both will result in an F in the course and referral to the university disciplinary committee. Note that cheating includes not only cheating on tests and quizzes, but turning in assignments written by another student or letting other students copy your assignments.

Laptop and Cell Phone Policy

Use of laptops computers during class is not permitted. Cell phones must be off or on silent during class. Please do not get up and leave class to talk on your phone. No text messaging during class.

Dropping or Withdrawing:

You may drop or withdraw from the course at any time during the first four weeks of the semester. It is your responsibility to drop or withdraw from class. I will not do this for you.

AFTER the official “last day to drop/withdraw” (see University guidelines) you cannot withdraw and receive a “W” without a “serious and compelling reason” (CSUC Catalog). If you enroll in this class and do not drop/withdraw you will receive an F. University policy regarding drop/withdrawal will be followed.

Please note that to drop a course after the fourth week of classes requires a “serious and compelling reason” and approval of the instructor, department chair, and dean. Therefore, before you request a late drop for this class, obtain written documentation of your reason for withdrawal. I will not consider any late drop without verification of “serious and compelling.”

Contemporary Health Issues Theme

This is an approved general education course in Upper Division Theme B: Contemporary Health Issues. *The student needs to have completed at least 45 credits in order to gain credit for the theme.*

General Education (GE) and Upper Division Thematic (UDT) Objectives:

- The primary goals of the GE program are identified in the university catalogue and include improving reading, writing, critical thinking, instilling intellectual curiosity, broadening, enhancing, and integrating general knowledge about the universe and humanity, and showing the coherence and connectedness within the broad area of undergraduate education.
- The primary goals of the Upper Division Thematic Program are: to have students learn about substantive issues likely to be important throughout their lifetimes; to have students see these issues from the three broad perspectives of human life (the physiological, psychological and social); and to have students apply the ideas and the materials of the course to themselves as individuals.
- You may visit this website for more information about the GE and UDT programs: http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/cat01/req/ge_req.html

All courses within the Contemporary Health Issues Theme have the following goals:

Each course

- addresses concepts of well being, health, and disease;
- focuses attention on how class, ethnicity, and gender affect selected health problems;
- teaches methods for distinguishing hearsay from valid information;
- develops knowledge and skills for making effective decisions that enhance health, and facilitate change and understanding of public policy;
- addresses the impact of biology, ethics, morality, politics, economics, and culture upon health, health care, and health policy.

Specific BIOL 345 Course Goals:

At the completion of the course, the student will have:

- improved reading, writing, and critical thinking skills,
- a desire to continue to learn more about living systems and cancer biology
- an ability to apply a biological perspective to everyday life,
- an understanding of how individuals, communities, and political units can bring about a dramatic reduction in cancer risk,
- an understanding of how genes and environment/lifestyle interact in the production of health and wellness, and
- an awareness of the importance of distinguishing between valid and incomplete or invalid information.