

Biology 4315-001, General Endocrinology, Spring 2010
Wednesday 1:00-4:00 pm, Room LS 120

Instructor: Dr. Malgosia Wilk, M.D., Ph.D. (M.A. Wilk-Blaszczak)
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Blog: <http://blog.uta.edu/biol4315-wilk/>

Course Prerequisites: BIOL 1441, 1442, 3301, 3315 or at least one physiology course. A background in biochemistry, molecular cell biology will be very helpful.

Required Textbook: *Textbook of Endocrine Physiology* by J.E. Griffin and S.R. Ojeda 5th ed. Independent reading including review papers and primary literature will be required for this class. Papers will be available on the class website.

Student Learning Outcome:

This course focuses on the role of hormones in the control of physiological processes, and maintenance of homeostasis. This class is intended to be in Problem-Based Learning format in which students work cooperatively on complex problems both during class time and individually at home.

The main objectives are:

1. Understanding concept of homeostasis and how hormones are involved in its maintenance.
2. Working knowledge of the physiological mechanisms of hormone functions including: hormone receptors, intracellular signaling cascades and cellular effects.
3. Critical use of this knowledge to analyze and solve real world problems.
4. Developing skills in gathering and evaluating information needed for solving problems.

Reading Assignments:

Class will be based on student presentations/discussions moderated by the instructor. Specific topics will be given a week before class and posted on the website/blog. Students are expected to independently research the assigned topics prior to coming to class and catch up on the prerequisite knowledge of biochemistry and molecular biology necessary to understand the topic. At least one review paper will be assigned prior to class to facilitate discussion. Personal initiative in the form of outside reading, literature search and class participation is expected and graded. One student will be assigned an introduction to class (graded presentation).

Discussed problems include but are not limited to:

Understanding stress response.

Is osteoporosis a lifestyle disease?

Function of GH in adult life. Is it really an ultimate anti-aging agent?

Through the stomach to the heart. Do the GI hormones influence brain function?

Attendance and class participation:

You need to attend class regularly and be on time, arrive prepared, participate in discussions, and generally have a positive attitude. Class will be based on the student discussion moderated by instructor. Discussions will be supplemented by short presentations and will require preparation and

independent study. Because of this format missing the class will result in missing all the information presented in class and grade points allocated to this class will be subtracted from the grade for every missed class. Additionally appropriate percentage of points will be subtracted from the grade for coming to class unprepared for discussion.

Exams and grading:

The semester grade will be calculated based on in-class presentations, daily participation in class discussions, short assignments and a 5-10 page white paper on a selected topic. Majority of the grade comes from active class participation and independent study. There is no final exam in this course.

Introductory in-class presentation(s)	20%
Class discussions (participation)	20%
White paper on the selected topic (due by end of April 15 th)	20%
Additional assignments (literature reviews, short essays, data search)	40%
Total	100%

Grades: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = below 60.

Incomplete grades will be given at the discretion of the professor when accompanied by a valid medical or serious life problems excuse.

Drop Policy:

Per university policy, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate withdrawal from this course if they are doing poorly. Any student may withdraw with an automatic “W” at any time from the beginning of the semester to Apr 2nd .

Students are expected to:

1. Attend class regularly, on time, and remain the entire class period.
2. Stay abreast of all reading assigned in the course syllabus.
3. Assume responsibility for their own learning.
4. Adhere strictly to standards of academic honesty.
5. Show respect to the instructor and fellow students at all times.

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail (e-mail) as an official means of communication with students. Students are required to check MavMail regularly. Further information regarding your student email account can be found at: <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>

Drop for non-payment of tuition: Payment must be received by the term due date of Jan 13th , 2010 or your registration will be cancelled. If your registration is cancelled for non-payment, you may reregister for classes but only is seats are available.

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available

Student Support Services: The University supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and academic success. They include learning assistance, development education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

After Hours Safety Escort The Sam Mav Escort service provides a service to assist students, faculty, staff and campus visitors to reach their destinations after regular business hours. The hours of service are 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., Sunday through Saturday. 817-272-3381

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

Dropping a Course: If you decide to drop this course (or any other, for that matter) you must obtain a drop slip from the departmental undergraduate advisors office (for Biology, the advisor is Ms. Jane Pugh, Room 346 Life Science or you may go to the main office in the Biology Department 337 Life Science). Please fill it out, have the instructor of the course you wish to drop sign the slip and return it to the advisor's office or the Biology Office.

Academic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington 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. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The university of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation: reference Public Law 93112--The Rehabilitation "Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act - (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.