

GMS7133
Advanced Molecular Virology
Fall 2023

2 credit hours

ONLINE

COURSE DIRECTOR:

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OFFICE HOURS: By email appointment

COURSE WEBSITE: <https://ufl.instructure.com/>

Course Communications: General course announcements will be posted as an

“Announcement” in Canvas or will be emailed to all students via Gatorlink email. Students are expected to view Announcements and check their UF email daily to keep informed of communication from the faculty. Failure to view an Announcement will not be a valid excuse for missing important updates or adverse consequences as a result. Specific questions for the course director or instructors are best asked by email, either directly or through the Canvas system.

Required Text: There is no required textbook. General course materials and required reading are available on the Canvas course website in the Modules section.

Course Description: This course follows GMS 6121: Infectious Diseases and provides a more detailed molecular analysis of human pathogenic viruses. Replication mechanisms, molecular pathogenesis, host-pathogen interactions, immune evasion strategies, development of antivirals and vaccines, and the relationship between viral evolution and emerging viruses are taught using representative viruses from different viral families. Rather than covering most of the important microorganisms, select representative model organisms are taught in detail with the goal that students will be able to apply knowledge and concepts in self-study moving forward in their education and careers.

Course Prerequisites: GMS 6121 or equivalent

Instructional Methods: Everything that is required is posted in the Modules section of the Canvas course. Lecture videos are assigned "due dates" for purposes of scheduling; however, the videos may be watched at any time. The lecture videos are divided into 2 to 5 segments for ease of watching. A single PDF version of the video PowerPoint is posted for each lecture. Each lecture has 1-2 open note/open book multiple-choice or short answer question homework/quizzes that have a definite due date – by default 11:59 pm of the Sunday after the lectures are assigned.

Homework quizzes are not collaborative - they must be completed individually. Sharing of questions and answers in any format will be considered cheating. The homework/quiz reviews key points from the lecture, and the questions and are similar in format and content to the multiple-choice exam questions. Because this is an advanced course, primary literature will be discussed frequently in lectures and will be tested on. If you do not have access to primary literature and it is not posted in Canvas, please email the relevant instructor for that lecture and they can provide it to you.

COURSE POLICIES

Quiz/Exam Policy:

- **Homework/Quizzes:** Online multiple-choice/short answer homework/quizzes are aimed at encouraging timely mastery of assigned course material, and therefore may be done during self-study using online resources and/or the text. They are open note/open book, but students may not collaborate on completing them.

- **Exams:** There are three exams- one for each module of the course. The exams are

closed book, closed note, and may be a combination of multiple-choice and short answer, with questions similar to the quizzes. Exams will be administered via Honorlock. Students are expected to be familiar with the procedures for having all of the necessary hardware and software to take the exams via Honorlock. There is a 3-day window in which students can take their exam, generally Friday-Sunday. You must use an external side-viewing webcam when taking the exams. A practice quiz will be provided to test Honorlock and your camera. If you have trouble getting your camera to focus on your ID, print a full page image of your ID and use that for authentication.

Make-up Policy: If a student misses an assignment such as a homework or quiz, it may be made up according to University of Florida policy for allowable excused absences (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

GRADING POLICIES

Grading: Students will take 3 closed-note exams, each covering approximately one third of the course material. Together, exams will account for 70% of the final grade. In addition, students will take open-book homework/quizzes over online material after each lecture. Homework/quizzes will cumulatively account for 30% of the final grade. Quizzes permitted to be taken late may be subject to up to a 50% penalty.

Grading Scale: The default grading scale for the class is: A ≥ 90 , A- 87-89.9, B+ 84-86.9, B 80-83.9, B- 77-79.9, C+ 74-76.9, C 70-73.99, C- 67-69.9, D+ 64-66.9, D 60-63.99, D- 57-59.9, E ≤ 56.9 . This scale has been shifted downward in the past, but it will never be shifted upwards. See the UF policy on grades at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

UF POLICIES

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Getting help For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.