

# Biochemistry Lecture, Fall 2016 (CHE4610)

## Purchase College

### Course Meeting

Mondays and Thursdays, 12:30-2:10pm  
Room: Natural Sciences 1001

### Professor Information

Professor Elizabeth Middleton  
[Elizabeth.Middleton@purchase.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Middleton@purchase.edu)  
Office: NS 3040  
Office phone: 914-251-6692  
Office hours: Mon and Thu 2:15-3:15pm, Wed 2-3pm, or by appointment

### Learning Assistants

Solomon Johnson: [solomon.johnson@purchase.edu](mailto:solomon.johnson@purchase.edu)  
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### Required Texts

Fundamentals of Biochemistry, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, by Voet, Voet, and Pratt  
Hard copy: ISBN 9780470547847 (available to purchase or rent through Amazon)  
Digital copy through Course Smart: ISBN 9781118327036  
*A 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook is available but I will be teaching using the 4<sup>th</sup> edition*  
Subscription to Sapling Learning for homework, practice problems, and extra credit must be purchased separately from the textbook

### Course Description

Prerequisite: Passing grade in Organic Chemistry I and Organic Chemistry II or Bridge to Biochemistry.

Biochemistry is the chemistry of life. In this course you will explore the molecules and processes that are necessary for life and the intricate relationships between them. At each step along the way, you will investigate the diseases that result from defects in these molecules and processes. In addition, you will learn how researchers are increasing our understanding of these processes and interactions and what happens when they go wrong.

### Purchase College Academic Integrity Policy

The purchase college academic integrity policy ([www.purchase.edu/policies/academicintegrity.aspx](http://www.purchase.edu/policies/academicintegrity.aspx)) explicitly forbids cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another person and the representation of them as one's own original work. **Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the definition of plagiarism and acceptable methods of attribution.**

Students who have any questions or doubts about whether any activity is academically permissible should check with the instructor.

## Student Disabilities

Students with documented physical, learning, psychological and other disabilities are entitled to receive reasonable accommodations. If you need classroom or testing accommodations, please contact the Office of Special Services at 251-6030 or [COU.accommodations@purchase.edu](mailto:COU.accommodations@purchase.edu). Students must also inform the professor **at the beginning of the semester** so arrangements can be made.

## Classroom Expectations

- Please be on time, listen actively, and participate in class discussions and activities
- Please turn off cell phones at the start of class
- Laptops, tablets, etc. may be used during class only for activities relevant for the class, such as looking at the online textbook, periodic table, or lecture slides; taking notes; or looking up an unknown term. Unauthorized use, including checking email, surfing the web, shopping, etc. is not permitted and will result in an individual student losing the privilege for the remainder of the semester.
- Recording devices of any kind are not permitted in class

## Communication

The best way to get in touch with me is by stopping by my office hours or by email. I will respond to emails promptly during regular business hours. You can also call my office phone. You are always welcome at office hours without an appointment or can **set up an appointment** to meet at another time.

I expect you to **check your Purchase email daily** and the class Moodle site regularly for information or updates about the course. I also ask that you treat emails with me as professional communication. Please write in complete sentences, use capitalization, and use correct grammar.

## Collaboration

You are encouraged to collaborate with your fellow classmates on homework and when studying. However, you should never copy homework responses from another student or share your answers with another student. Collaboration is not permitted on exams. The policies for group assignments will be addressed in separate documents. **If you have any questions regarding this policy, please speak to Prof. Middleton.**

## Attendance

Attendance in this course is **not required**, but is **highly recommended**. We will be covering material from a large number of chapters in the textbook and outside sources, so coming to class is the best way to focus on the material will be covered on the homework and exams. I will take attendance in class for my own records, but this will not factor into your grade. It is therefore not necessary to alert me when you will miss class unless there will be a conflict with a quiz, exam, or other in class assignment.

## Course Requirements

### 1) Homework: 10%

- Online homework assignments will test your problem solving skills and conceptual understanding of material after it is covered in class. You may work with other students to complete the homework but may not obtain or copy answers directly from another student or share your answers with another student.
- All homework will be completed and submitted through **Sapling Learning**. You may attempt each question as many times as you want to reach the correct answer. For each incorrect attempt, you will lose 5% credit for that question (or occasionally more for multiple choice questions). If you do not reach the correct answer, you will receive 0% on that question.
- Late homework assignments will be deducted 10% per day late. The deduction only applies to questions completed after the due date, so your grade cannot go down if you attempt additional questions after the due date.

### 2) Quizzes: 25%

- This course will have periodic quizzes that will cover roughly 1-2 chapters.
- Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. Late arrival on quiz days will result in less time to complete the quiz.
- **Conflicts for quizzes must be discussed with Prof. Middleton at least two weeks in advance.**

### 3) Exams: 45%

- This course will have three exams that will each cover roughly 6 chapters.
- There will NOT be a separate, cumulative final exam (though the third exam will take place during the final exam time).
- **Conflicts for exams must be discussed with Prof. Middleton at least two weeks in advance.**

### 4) Current Events Project: 10%

- You will work in pairs to select a current news item related to biochemistry and prepare a short (~5 minute) video or other multimedia presentation on the topic to share with the class on Moodle.
- You will also discuss and/or comment on other students' videos as part of the project.

### 5) Literature Project: 10%

- You will work in pairs and pick any topic in biochemistry for your literature project. You will conduct a literature search on your subject and prepare a short narrative on the topic.
- During the writing process, you will engage in peer editing and self-evaluation of your literature project to improve your scientific writing.

## Extra Credit

There will be opportunities for extra credit throughout the course as part of the homework, quizzes, and exams. You should take advantage of these extra credit assignments when they come up, as **there will not be additional extra credit available at the end of the semester**. Extra credit for one type of assignment (for example, homework) cannot be applied to another assignment (for example, exams) and your grade for any type of assignment cannot go above 100% at the end of the semester.

## Ungraded Assignments

There will be many ungraded assignments and activities throughout this course. These include assigned readings and slides to watch before class, practice problems for quizzes and exams, and individual and group work during class. While these will not directly impact your grade, they are designed to help you engage with the material in order to better learn and apply it. When in class I expect you to fully participate in these activities, and if ungraded work is assigned outside of class, you may be tested on the content on quizzes or exams.

## Course Content

We will cover content from Chapters 1-18 during the semester, though we will not cover all content in each chapter. The full schedule for the semester, including estimated dates for covering each chapter, quiz and exam dates, and other important information, is found on the course Moodle site. All dates are subject to change at the discretion of the professor, so be sure to check Moodle frequently for the most up-to-date information.

## Final Grades

Highest	Lowest	Letter Grade
100	93	A
92.99	90	A-
89.99	87	B+
86.99	83	B
82.99	80	B-
79.99	77	C+
76.99	73	C
72.99	70	C-
69.99	60	D
59.99	0	F

A grade of A+ will be given at the discretion of the professor for exceptional work in the course

Purchase College does not award grades of D+ or D-