



Fundamentals of Biochemistry

BCH 3025, Spring 2026
Asynchronous online, 4 credits

Instructor – Caitlin McDermott, Ph.D.

Preferred method of contact: Canvas mail

- Phone: 352-294-3855
- Email: caitlinmcdermott@ufl.edu

Zoom office hours:

- Tuesday & Thursday at 3PM via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99330981302>

TA – Jake Shine, Graduate Student in Food Science and Human Nutrition

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Course Prerequisites

- Prerequisites - [CHM 2200](#) and [CHM 2200L](#) (or preferably [CHM 2210](#), [CHM 2211](#) and [CHM 2211L](#)) with minimum grades of C.

Course Description

- Introducing biochemistry with emphasis on intermediary metabolism.

Course Learning Objectives

- **Connect Catalysis to Life** - Explain the role of catalysis in biological systems and how bioenergetics facilitates chemical reactions.
- **Identify Biochemical Structures** - Identify and describe the structure-function relationships of biochemical compounds.
- **Deconstruct Bioenergetics** - Deconstruct the process of bioenergetics within the context of energy production, storage and utilization.
- **Integrate Metabolism** - Integrate biochemical concepts to explain the role of metabolism in homeostasis.
- **Decipher Information Pathways** - Describe the interrelationships of DNA, different types of RNA, proteins, and different types of glycosylation or acylation in information pathways
- **Predict Phenotype Using Biochemistry** - Predict the effects of genetic and environmental factors on an organism's phenotype, using biochemistry principles.
- **Relate Biochemistry to Your Future** - Hypothesize how biochemistry will impact your future.

Learning Materials and Supplies

- The required text for BCH 3025 is “Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry” by David L. Nelson, Michael M. Cox, and Aaron A. Hoskins Eighth Edition, 2021. This course requires access to the Achieve site. The Achieve site includes access to an ebook. Please note that this course will be participating in the UF All Access program. Login at the following website and Opt-In to gain access to your UF All Access course materials
- <https://www.bsd.ufl.edu/AllAccess> – UF All Access will provide you with your required materials digitally at a reduced price and the charge will be posted to your student account. This option will be available starting 1 week prior to the start of the semester and ending 3 weeks after the first day of class.
- When you purchased access to Achieve (available through UF Bookstore), you received a code needed to login to Achieve. When you log into Canvas you will see Macmillan Learning on the left navigation pane. This will take you to a screen where you will need your code for the first time you login. The electronic textbook is available to you at any time you have internet access without carrying a heavy book. The required graded learning activities “Knowledge Check” and “Principle Based Problems” are also in Achieve and available from the Assignments tab.
- I appreciate that textbooks are expensive – including this one. However, the package deal of the electronic text and the many study materials is cheaper than purchasing the many pieces separately. Additional study aids based on the textbook material are provided to students in Canvas at no additional costs

Instructor's Interaction Plan

- The best way to Contact the instructor is through Canvas email. We often use Canvas Mail or the Announcement tab to keep everyone updated. It is a good idea to log in to Canvas every day to see what is happening.
- Our zoom chat (office hours) on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 3:00 PM in zoom room <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99330981302> are important times for interaction and communication. We can discuss most any topic you desire. If you have a special request, we can often resolve it more quickly during the zoom chat using a private breakout room than using email threads. I encourage you to take advantage of attending our zoom chats.
- Our Teaching Assistant, Jake, will take the grading lead on the “Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery” and initial questions should be addressed to him. The instructor will take the grading lead on all the other assignments. Of course, we both want to help you in any way we can.
- Expect an instructor response to email and Canvas message within 24-48 hours, during weekdays.
- Please do not wait until the weekend to complete assignments, as I may not be available to answer emails or messages as quickly.
- Expect instructor feedback for submitted assignments within one week past the assignment deadline.
- If you ever have questions or need clarification on instructor feedback, please message or attend office hours.
- I invite your feedback in both midterm and end-of-term GatorEvals and plan to continuously improve student experience within the course. Your opinion is highly valued.

Required Technology & How to Obtain the Technology

- Required peripherals, such as speakers, a microphone, extended reality accessories (e.g., AR/VR/XR), or a headset are clearly specified.
- Links to all downloadable resources are provided. These resources include software and online tools, apps, plug-ins such as PDF Reader, media players, collaboration tools, social media, interactive multimedia apps, etc.
- Instructions are provided for how to access materials available through the institution's library or subscription services, including online journals or databases. When available, links are also provided.
- If publisher materials are required, clearly stated instructions for how to obtain and use any required access codes are provided.
 - Honorlock will proctor your 4 exams this semester. Honorlock is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from the comfort of your home. You do not need to create an account, download software, or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7, and all that is required is a computer, a working webcam/microphone, your id, and a stable internet connection.
- To get started, you will need google chrome and download the [honorlock chrome extension](#).
- When you are ready to complete your assessment, log into canvas, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking "launch proctoring" will begin the honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your id, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session through your webcam, microphone, and recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device
- Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact them through live chat on the [support page](#) or within the exam itself. Some guides you should review are [honorlock msrs](#), [student faq](#), [honorlock knowledge base](#), and [how to use honorlock](#). Good luck!

Required Technology & Digital Information Literacy Skills:

Technical skills may include:

- Using the learning management system
- Using email with attachments
- Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats
- Downloading and installing software
- Using spreadsheet programs
- Using presentation and graphics programs
- Using apps in digital devices
- Using web conferencing tools and software

Digital information literacy skills may include:

- Using online libraries and databases to locate and gather appropriate information
- Using computer networks to locate and store files or data
- Using online search tools for specific academic purposes, including the ability to use search criteria, keywords, and filters
- Analyzing digital information for credibility, currency, and bias (e.g., disinformation, misinformation)
- Properly citing information sources
- Preparing a presentation of research findings

Communication Guidelines

- Use **Course Question Discussion Board**, for general course questions that others may have too.
- Use **Canvas Inbox (messaging tool)** for questions that are specific to your grades or submissions.
- **Email & phone correspondence** are for (1) setting a meeting time for office hours, (2) DRC accommodations; (3) emergency situations; or (4) highly sensitive situations.
- A respectful tone is used by all community members in all forms of communication.
- Written communication, both formal and informal, uses the official language of instruction rather than popular online abbreviations and graphic elements such as those sometimes used in social media.
- Video interactions reflect a respectful tone in verbal communications and body language.
- Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are correct.

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number. The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357

Weekly Course Schedule

Week 1	
Wednesday January 14	Introduction to course & Module 1 (Chapter 1 in textbook): The Foundations of Biochemistry
Friday January 16	Module 2 (Chapter 3 in textbook): Amino Acids, Peptides, and Proteins
Week 2	
Monday January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Wednesday January 21	Module 3 (Chapter 5 in textbook): Protein Function
Friday February 23	Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 1, Module 2, and Module 3 due at 11:59PM.
Week 3	
Monday January 26	Post Biochemistry in My World in 2035 Step 1 by 11:59PM Module 4 (Chapter 6 in textbook): Enzymes Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 4 due at 11:59PM
Wednesday January 28	Module 5 (Chapter 7 in textbook): Carbohydrates and Glycobiology Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 5 due at 11:59PM
Friday January 30	Post Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries 1 by 11:59PM
Week 4	
Monday February 2	Exam 1 on Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 must be completed online via Honorlock between 7:00AM and 10:00PM.
Wednesday February 4	Module 6 (Chapter 8 in textbook): Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 5 & 6 due at 11:59PM
Friday February 6	Module 7 (Chapter 9 in textbook): DNA-Based Information Technologies Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 7 due at 11:59PM

Week 5	
Monday February 9	Module 8 (Chapter 10 in textbook): Lipids Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 8 due at 11:59PM
Tuesday February 10	Authors must post Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery Step 1 by 11:59 PM
Wednesday February 11	Module 9 (Chapter 11 in textbook): Biological Membranes and Transport Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 10 due at 11:59 PM
Friday February 13	Module 10 (Chapter 12 in textbook): Biochemical Signaling Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 10 due at 11:59 PM

Week 6	
Monday February 16	Post Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries 2 by 11:59 PM
Wednesday February 18	Exam 2 on Modules 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 must be completed online via Honorlock between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM.
Friday February 20	Module 11 (Chapter 13 in textbook): Introduction to Metabolism Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 11 due at 11:59 PM

Week 7	
Monday February 23	Module 12 (Chapter 14 in textbook): Glycolysis, Gluconeogenesis, and the Pentose Phosphate Pathway Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 12 due at 11:59 PM
Wednesday February 25	Authors must post Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery Step 2 by 11:59 PM
Friday February 27	Module 13 (Chapter 15 in textbook): The Metabolism of Glycogen in Animals Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 13 due at 11:59 PM

Week 8

Monday March 2	Post Biochemistry in My World in 2035 - Step 2 by 11:59 PM
Wednesday March 4	Module 14 (Chapter 16 in textbook): The Citric Acid Cycle Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 14 due at 11:59 PM
Friday March 6	Editors must post Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery Step 3 by 11:59 PM

Week 9

Monday March 9	Module 15 (Chapter 17 in textbook): Fatty Acid Catabolism Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 15 due at 11:59 PM
Wednesday March 11	Module 16 (Chapter 18 in textbook): Amino Acid Oxidation and the Production of Urea Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 16 due at 11:59PM
Friday March 13	Module 17 (Chapter 19 in textbook): Oxidative Phosphorylation Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 17 due at 11:59PM

Week 10

March 16-20: Enjoy Spring Break 😊

Week 11

Monday March 23	Post Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries 3 by 11:59PM
Wednesday March 25	Exam 3 on Modules 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 must be completed online via Honorlock between 7:00AM and 10:00PM.
Friday March 27	Post Biochemistry in My World in 2035 – Step 3 by 11:59PM

Week 12

Monday March 30	Module 18 (Chapter 21 in textbook): Lipid Biosynthesis Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 18 due at 11:59 PM
Wednesday April 1	Module 19 (Chapter 22 in textbook): Biosynthesis of Amino Acids, Nucleotides, and Related Molecules Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 19 due at 11:59PM
Friday April 3	Module 20 (Chapter 23 in textbook): Hormonal Regulation and Integration of Mammalian Metabolism Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 20 due at 11:59PM

Week 13

Monday April 6	Module 21 (Chapter 24 in textbook): Genes and Chromosomes Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 21 due at 11:59PM
Wednesday April 8	Module 22 (Chapter 25 in textbook): DNA Metabolism Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 22 due at 11:59PM
Friday April 10	Authors must post Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery Step 4 by 11:59PM

Week 14

Monday April 13	Module 23 (Chapter 26 in textbook): RNA Metabolism Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 23 due at 11:59PM
Wednesday April 15	Module 24 (Chapter 27 in textbook): Protein Metabolism Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 24 due at 11:59PM
Friday April 17	Post Biochemistry in My World in 2035 – Step 4 by 11:59PM

Week 15

Monday April 20	Module 25 (Chapter 28 in textbook): Regulation of Gene Expression Knowledge Checks and Principles Based Problems for Module 25 due at 11:59PM
Wednesday April 22	Post Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries 4 by 11:59PM
Friday April 24	Study day 😊

Week 16

Monday April 27	Exam 4 on Modules 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 must be completed online via Honorlock between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM.
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No Final Exam – Have a great Summer!!

Grading Policy

All graded assignments and quizzes are listed on the table below. All the graded assignments add up to 500 points that total 125% of your grade. Make-up work will be allowed according to University of Florida guidelines.

- Using 125% instead of 100% gives 20% grace for those times that you are not at your best. You can lose 100 points and still have 100% for the course.
- There will be no extra credit. It is very important to note that for the “Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery” assignment, steps 2, 3, and 4 depend on the previous step and must be completed before the student can proceed to the next step.
- Missing a step means that credit will not be given for that step, and the student cannot receive credit for the remaining steps.

Assignments and Quizzes	Points	Percent
Formative Assessments	75	18.75
Knowledge Check Quizzes	(25)	(6.25)
Knowledge Check Quizzes for Unit #1 Modules (Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	(5)	(1.25)
Knowledge Check Quizzes for Unit #2 Modules (Modules 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)	(5)	(1.25)
Knowledge Check Quizzes for Unit #3 Modules (Modules 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)	(7)	(1.75)
Knowledge Check Quizzes for Unit #4 Modules (Modules 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)	(8)	(2.0)
Principles Based Problems	(50)	(12.5)
Principles Based Problems for Unit #1 Modules (Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	(10)	(2.5)
Principles Based Problems for Unit #2 Modules (Modules 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)	(10)	(2.5)
Principles Based Problems for Unit #3 Modules (Modules 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)	(14)	(3.5)
Principles Based Problems for Unit #4 Modules (Modules 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)	(16)	(4)
Exams	240	60
Exam 1	(60)	(15)
Exam 2	(60)	(15)
Exam 3	(60)	(15)
Exam 4	(60)	(15)
Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries	60	15
Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries #1 (Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	(15)	(3.75)
Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries #2 (Modules 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)	(15)	(3.75)
Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries #3 (Modules 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)	(15)	(3.75)
Student's View into Biochemical Mysteries #4 (Modules 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)	(15)	(3.75)

Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery (Previous step must be completed before being allowed to go to the next step!)	65	16.25
Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery Step 1	(16.25)	(4.0625)
Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery Step 2	(16.25)	(4.0625)
Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery Step 3	(16.25)	(4.0625)
Proposed Solution to a Biochemical Mystery Step 4	(16.25)	(4.0625)
Biochemistry in My World in 2035	60	15
Biochemistry in My World in 2035 Step 1	(15)	(3.75)
Biochemistry in My World in 2035 Step 2	(15)	(3.75)
Biochemistry in My World in 2035 Step 3	(15)	(3.75)
Biochemistry in My World in 2035 Step 4	(15)	(3.75)
Total	500	125

Grading Scale

Final Grade	Points/Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62

BCH3025 grading scale is presented above. See the current [UF grading policies](#) for more information.

Academic Policies and Resources

Updated University of Florida Policies and Resources can be found at [UF Syllabus Policy Links](#)
[- Online Course Syllabi - University of Florida](#)