

Chemistry 372 - Biochemistry Laboratory Fall 2013 Syllabus

Instructors: Agnes Orlof

Teaching Assistant: Kyle Webster (kwebster3@luc.edu)

Laboratory sections: Mo 12:35- 4:35 pm; Wed 12:35 -4:35 pm; Th 11:30 am-3:30 pm in FH-002

Discussion sections: Wed 10:25- 11:15 am; Th 10-10:50 am in FH-129

Office hours: Outside of class, you may contact the Instructor during regularly scheduled Office Hours, Mo 11am -12 pm. The office location, telephone number, and e-mail address are: Flanner Hall 428, (773) 508-2883 aurlof@luc.edu

If you are unable to contact the Instructor directly, or by voice or e-mail, you may leave a phone message with the Chemistry Departmental Office, (773) 508-3100.

Sakai: This site contains current information for experiments, procedures and scores.

Description and Objectives: This laboratory course is designed to simulate a research experience and to teach basic techniques utilized in a biochemistry laboratory. The course theme involves a comparative investigation of the enzyme glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) from various animal sources. Each two-student team will be working on GAPDH from either an aquatic or land animal source, e.g., trout, tuna, pork, chicken or turkey.

The objectives of the course are to:

1. learn and perform the techniques of protein isolation and purification;
2. characterize the protein based on size, shape, and stability; and
3. study enzyme kinetics.

The laboratory is an open-architecture environment. Student teams are expected to perform experiments during their normally scheduled laboratory session time; however, there will be opportunities to repeat certain procedures or experiments outside of the normally scheduled laboratory section period. Teams can work during normal business hours when the building is open, except when other laboratory sections are in session. The reason for this exception stems from our desire to have students who are scheduled for laboratory work in each particular section to enjoy complete and unfettered access to the limited resources and equipment that may be available. Student-teams who elect to pursue experiments outside of their normally scheduled laboratory section are responsible for their experimental work and the appropriate use of all laboratory equipment and resources. Please do not request laboratory supervision from the instructor or TA during non-laboratory sessions.

A weekly 50-minute discussion section will be used for the discussion of procedures, results, and conclusions. The discussion will be conducted as an open forum of questions and answers between students and the instructor. With the instructor's help, the students will compare the methods that they have found in the original literature and determine which methods are best suited for the lab. Upon the completion of the course, the students should draw conclusions and insights about the structure-function relationships of this enzyme.

Required Materials:

- Safety glasses: No student will be permitted to conduct research without eye protection;
 - Lab coat is optional, but recommended; and
 - Laboratory notebook
- Appropriate clothing must be worn that minimizes the potential chemical contact with your skin. No skin should be exposed on your feet or legs, so clothing that covers and protects your body from waist down should be worn.

Laboratory Experiments: Experiments 1-3 must be done in the prescribed order, but experiments 4-7 can be done in any order thereafter. All proposed experimental procedures will be discussed and approved by the lab instructor.

1. Check-in; buffer preparation
2. Preparation and purification of GAPDH (allow 3 weeks)
3. Protein activity and concentration assays (allow 2 weeks)
4. Kinetics of GAPDH: determine K_m and V_{max} for substrates NAD^+ and G3P; this does not require fully purified material (allow 2 weeks)
5. Molecular weight determination: SDS-PAGE and gel filtration, these experiments require approximately 4 mL of purified material with a concentration of at least 1 mg/mL (allow 2 weeks)
6. Protein stability: thermal denaturation; this does not require fully purified material (allow 1 week)
7. Comparison of results (allow 1 week)

Weekly lab reports: After completing a lab, each student will be required to turn in the lab report at the start of next lab.

Lab reports (each worth 5 pts) should have the following sections:

- I. Title
- II. Objective: give a one-or-two sentence statement of the goals or purposes of the experiment

III. Procedure: describe what was actually done such as procedures, techniques, instrumentation and so on. It should be sufficiently detailed that the other experienced researchers would be able to repeat the work and obtain comparable results.

IV. Results/Calculations: observations, equations, calculations, charts, figures, graphs etc which can be used effectively to present results clearly.

V. Conclusion/Discussion: the analysis and interpretation of your results. What do results mean? How do they relate to the objective of the experiment? Outline the main conclusion of the project

The lab reports must be typed. Results/Calculations are allowed to be hand-written.

If you miss a lab, the lab report will be due at the start of your next lab and half-credit will apply.

Final Paper: The paper will be written in the format of a scientific journal: abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, conclusion, and references.

Grade Allocation:

50% Lab reports. We expect you to follow a particular format for your research records, which is illustrated in this syllabus.

15% Laboratory performance. The TA in consultation with the instructor will assess this score, which will be based on proper use of instrumentation, good laboratory and leadership skills, team work and observation of safety techniques. You are expected to arrive to the laboratory on time and be prepared.

15% Discussion Section. The discussion score will be determined by the student's preparation and performance on quizzes. *There are no make ups for quizzes.*

20% Final paper. This paper will build on the lab reports, and will compare kinetic and molecular weight data submitted by other teams. Students will be required to draw conclusions about GAPDH structure and function based upon an analysis of the collated data from all teams. Due date: Dec 5th by 5 pm (Thursday).

If the final papers are submitted late, one-point deduction will be assessed for each day of tardiness.

Class grades:

A = 100-88 %

A- = 87-83 %

B+ = 82-78 %

B = 77-73 %

B- = 72-68 %

C+ = 67-63 %

C = 62-58 %

C- = 57-53 %

D+ = 52-48 %

D = 47-40 %

F = Less than 40 %