

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Of The City University of New York
Department of Biological Sciences

BIO 5000 – GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY
SYLLABUS
SPRING 2021: An Asynchronous Online Course



Lecture and Laboratory: Professor Grace L. Axler-DiPerte, Ph.D.

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Individual Office Hours: E-mail for an appointment via Zoom

Drop-In Office Hours (enrolled students only via Zoom): Tuesday 11AM-12PM and Thursday 11AM-1PM

Instructor Availability: I will respond to emails within 12-24 hours M-F, and within 48 hours on weekends and college holidays.

Course Description: Examines the diverse structure & activities of microbes in a wide number of environs. Throughout the course, aspects of microbes beyond their ability to cause disease will be studied. These include the use of microbes in food production, antibiotic production, & bioremediation. Laboratory experiments will be conducted to support the concepts studied in the lecture portion of the course, the textbook readings, & other readings. Basic microbiological techniques, such as staining, aseptic transfer, & pure culture techniques will be conducted. More advanced laboratories designed to demonstrate the interdisciplinary nature of microbiology will include collection of marine water and sediment samples for cultivation of algae and the isolation of antibiotic-producing microbes, and studies of various relationships between microbes and other organisms.

4 credits, 6 hours (3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of laboratory).

Prerequisites: Bio 14, Chm 11

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of the microbial world with regard to the structure & function of microbes.
2. Apply the appropriate microbiological technique for a given experimental objective.
3. Explain the positive and negative effects of microbes on communities that have resulted in historically significant events.
4. Describe examples of commensal, mutualistic, and antagonistic microbial relationships.
5. Analyze the contributions microbes make to soil and aquatic environments by their roles in food webs and nutrient cycling.
6. Apply the interdisciplinary nature of microbiology to scientific fields such as genetics, ecology, food production, and waste management.

Skills you will be performing and developing to learn microbiology

1. Evaluation of readings from curated sources and the laboratory manual
2. Theoretical application and interpretation of laboratory data
3. Using Blackboard
4. Communicating through written assignments
5. Solving problems and applying information

TEXTBOOK: Curated Open-Access readings and videos will be made available weekly in Blackboard.

LAB MANUAL: Laboratory Exercises in Microbiology 2nd edition (L. Brancaccio-Taras) available in Blackboard for theoretical reference.

LECTURE - Topic Outline

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO MICROBIOLOGY AND ITS HISTORY

An invisible world

What our ancestors knew

A systematic approach

Types of microorganisms

UNIT 2: UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS OF PROKARYOTIC CELLS

Bacterial morphology

Bacterial structures (nucleoid, plasmids, inclusions, endospores, plasma membrane, cell wall, glycocalyx (capsules/slime layers), appendages (pili/fimbriae) and flagella

UNIT 3: BACTERIAL GROWTH

Bacterial growth curve

Measurement of microbial growth: direct & indirect methods

Alternative patterns of cell division

Factors affecting microbial growth: oxygen, pH, temperature, osmotic/barometric pressure

Media used for bacterial growth

UNIT 4: MICROBIAL METABOLISM

The principles of energy, matter and enzymes

Catabolism of carbohydrates

Aerobic respiration, anaerobic respiration, fermentation

Catabolism of lipids and proteins

Photosynthesis

UNIT 5: MECHANISMS OF MICROBIAL GENETICS AND MODERN APPLICATIONS OF MICROBIAL GENETICS

Review of the basics of DNA replication, transcription and translation

How prokaryotes achieve genetic diversity: conjugation, transformation & transduction

Gene regulation: operon theory

UNIT 6: MICROBIAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY & GENETICS

Tools of Genetic Engineering: restriction enzymes, ligase, plasmids, and using of genetic transfer mechanisms

Visualizing DNA, RNA and proteins: nucleic acids probes, agarose gel electrophoresis, RFLP, Southern blot, colony situ hybridization, northern blot, microarray analysis, PAGE, PCR, DNA sequencing
Whole genome methods
Gene therapy

WEEK 7: THE EUKARYOTES OF MICROBIOLOGY: PROTISTS AND FUNGI

Protistan classification based on rRNA sequences
Fungal classification based on rRNA sequences

WEEK 8: ACELLULAR PATHOGENS

Viruses and their life cycles
Isolation, culture, and identification of viruses

WEEK 9: MICROBIAL ECOLOGY

Biogeochemical cycling
Microbes in major environments: freshwater, marine, & terrestrial
Microbial Symbioses

WEEKs 10 & 11: INDUSTRIAL MICROBIOLOGY

Microbial products in the health industry
Wastewater treatment
Microbiology of food and food preservation

WEEK12: SELECTED TOPICS IN MICROBIOLOGY

LABORATORY

Sequence of Lab Experiments & Assignments

For each week of lab, you will need to consult the appropriate folders on the Blackboard course site for background reading, videos and simulations for each exercise and technique.

<u>WEEK#</u>	<u>EXERCISE TITLE</u>	<u>EXERCISE # (page)</u>
1	Safety rules	
	Bright-field microscope (review of parts and focusing procedure)	1 (p. 3)
	Smear preparation and simple staining	2 (p. 12)
	Negative staining	3 (p. 20)
	Gram staining	4 (p. 25)
	Culture media & aseptic transfer	10 (p. 61)
2	Acid-fast staining	5 (p. 32)
	Capsule staining	6 (p. 38)
	Endospore staining	7 (p. 43)
	Pure culture techniques (streak plate only)	11 (p. 67)
3	Bacterial population counts	12 (p. 75)
	Selective & differential media	14 (p. 87)
	Factors affecting microbial growth	15-18 (p. 97)
4	Winogradsky column (setup)	28 (p. 205)
	Analysis of the effectiveness of handwashing	22 (p. 131)
5	Determination of bacterial properties- Carbohydrate fermentation Parts I-V	23 (p. 139)
6	Determination of bacterial properties - Protein metabolism Part I-VI	24 (p. 151)
	Determination of bacterial properties – Exoenzymes and endoenzymes Parts I-VII	25 (p. 163)
	Determination of bacterial properties- Identifying an unknown bacterium- Parts I & II	26 (p. 178)
7	Antagonism- Part II	39 (p. 301)
	Isolation of antibiotic producers	29 (p. 212)
	The Effects of Chemical Agents on Bacteria I & II	19 & 20 (p. 115 and 120)
8	Examination of molds	32 (p. 243)
9	Examination of algae	33 (p. 252)
	Protozoa and slime molds	34 (p. 260)

10	Commensalism	37 (p. 289)
	Mutualism- Parts I, II, and III	38 (p. 294)
	Antagonism- Part II (Complete)	39 (p. 301)
11	Food microbiology- Bacterial counts of food samples	42 (p. 327)
12	Use of chemical preservatives to increase the shelf life of apple cider	43 (p. 332)

BIO 50 Unit Reviews

INTRODUCTION TO MICROBIOLOGY/ EVOLUTION OF MICROBES AND THE FIELD OF MICROBIOLOGY

1. Name and explain the difference between the three domains.
2. Distinguish prokaryotic from eukaryotic cells.
3. Name the 5 organisms studied in microbiology and explain how they can be distinguished from one another based on the following properties: (a) cell type; (b) size; (c) type of reproduction; (d) cell division; (e) chemical composition & (f) unique structures, organelles, processes.
4. Define spontaneous generation, cell theory and germ theory.
5. In a brief statement, describe the series of experiments disproving spontaneous generation.
6. Describe Robert Koch's experiment proving germ theory.
7. List the 4 criteria of Koch's postulates.
8. Describe in several sentences the significance of the contributions of the following scientists to the field of microbiology: (a) Woese; (b) Pasteur; (c) Winogradsky; (d) Koch.

BACTERIAL AND ARCHAEL CELL STRUCTURES

1. Define the term morphology.
2. Draw and name the 3 most common bacterial shapes and their arrangements.
3. Describe the chemical composition (structure) and function of the following bacterial organelles: (a) cell wall; (b) cell membrane; (c) glycocalyx; (d) endospores; (e) flagella; (f) pili; (g) inclusion bodies; (h) plasmid; and (i) nucleoid.
4. State the chemical differences in the cell walls of Gram-positives, Gram-negatives, and archaeobacteria.
5. Name the components of the outer membrane of a Gram-negative cell.
6. Explain the action of penicillin and lysozyme in relation to bacterial cell walls.
7. Draw and name the 4 bacterial flagellar arrangements.
8. Explain the difference between sporulation and germination.

BACTERIAL GROWTH

1. Name the basic elements required for microbial growth.
2. Define each of the following terms with regard to their energy and carbon source: (a) photoautotroph; (b) photoheterotroph; (c) chemoautotroph; and (d) chemoheterotroph.
3. Define the term culture medium.
4. Explain the difference between a chemically defined and a complex culture medium.
5. Explain the purpose of an enrichment culture and give one example of its application.
6. Describe the following processes of cell division: binary fission, budding & fragmentation.
7. Distinguish cell growth from population growth.
8. Define the term generation time.
9. Draw and label the four phases of a typical bacterial growth curve.
10. Describe the phases of a typical bacterial growth curve.
11. Explain the difference between a direct and indirect method for measuring microbial growth.
12. Name 1 direct method for measuring microbial growth and describe how it is performed.
13. List 1 advantage and 1 disadvantage of the method mentioned in objective #12.
14. Name 2 indirect methods for measuring microbial growth and describe how each is performed.
15. List 1 advantage and 1 disadvantage of the methods mentioned in objective #14.
16. Explain the function of a chemostat in maintaining a continuous culture.
17. Describe how each of the following physical factors affect microbial growth: (a) temperature; (b) pH; (c) molecular oxygen; (d) osmotic pressure.

MICROBIAL METABOLISM

1. Define the following terms: (a) metabolism; (b) catabolism; and (c) anabolism.
2. Explain the significance of charge separation in energy generation.
3. Write 4 chemical reactions to demonstrate the catabolism of the 4 major macromolecules
4. Name & define the 3 mechanisms by which Bacteria and Archaea generate ATP.
5. Define the following terms: (a) fermentation; (b) aerobic respiration; and (c) anaerobic respiration.
6. List the end products of: (a) glycolysis; (b) Krebs cycle; (c) electron transport/oxidative phosphorylation.
7. Identify the role and importance of fixed and diffusible electron carriers.
8. Explain the significance of microbial metabolism in the identification of microorganisms.
9. Distinguish each type of fermentation mentioned and name a microbe that carries out each type of fermentation: (a) homolactic fermentation; (b) mixed acid fermentation; and (c) alcoholic fermentation.
10. Distinguish oxygenic from anoxygenic photosynthesis.
11. Name the 5 photosynthetic bacteria and distinguish them based on the following: (a) source of reducing power; (b) source of carbon; (c) major electron donor & acceptor.

MICROBIAL MOLECULAR BIOLOGY & GENETICS

1. Define the following terms: (a) gene; (b) genotype; (c) phenotype; and (d) mutation.
2. Distinguish between the processes of DNA replication, transcription and translation.
3. Explain RNA processing in prokaryotes and in eukaryotes.
4. Define the term operon and describe the different genes and regulatory regions found in an operon.
5. Distinguish between transformation, transduction and conjugation.
6. Define the term competency.
7. Explain the difference between specialized and generalized transduction.
8. Explain the difference between a F⁺ cell, Hfr cell, and F' cell.
9. Explain how genetic transfer increases the ability of bacterial cells to survive under adverse conditions such as exposure to antibiotics or heavy metals.
10. List 2 advantages and 2 disadvantages of using human cloning products.
11. Define the following terms and state how they are used in genetic engineering: (a) restriction enzyme; (b) agarose gel electrophoresis; (c) Southern blotting cDNA; (d) DNA library; (e) nucleic acid probe; (f) colony hybridization; (g) radioactive antibodies; (h) polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
12. Name the bacterium commonly used to transfer genes to plants and explain the steps involved in creating recombinant plants.
13. Describe the Sanger method of nucleotide sequencing.
14. Describe the significance and applications of microbial genomics.

DIVERSITY OF MICROBIAL WORLD: PROTISTS AND FUNGI

1. List 3 characteristics of eukaryotic cells.
2. Name and distinguish the 2 major groups of flagellated protists.
3. Compare and contrast the aerobic protists (euglenoids, kinetoplastids, & heterobasalians).
4. Compare and contrast the stramenopiles (chrysophytes, zanthophytes, diatoms, brown algae, & oomycetes).
5. Explain the differences in the life cycles of cellular & acellular slime molds,
6. Compare and contrast the major fungal groups (ascomycetes, basidiomycetes, zygomycetes, & deuteromycetes (fungi imperfecti)).

VIRUSES

1. Explain why viruses are considered obligate intracellular parasites. Define the following parts of a virus: (a) capsid; (b) capsomere; (c) nucleocapsid; (d) envelope; & (e) spikes.
2. Explain each of the following viral replication strategies: (a) double-stranded DNA; (b) single stranded DNA; (c) positive strand RNA; (d) negative strand RNA; and (e) retroviruses.

MICROBIAL ECOLOGY

1. Explain the following cycles, including the specific microbes involved: (a) C cycle; (b) N cycle; & (c) S cycle.
2. Describe a technique you could use to identify microbes in their natural habitat.

ECOSYSTEMS AND MICROBIAL INTERACTIONS

1. Define the following types of symbiosis: (a) commensalism; (b) mutualism; and (c) antagonism.
2. Describe the following microbe-plant symbioses: (a) rhizosphere; (b) mycorrhizae; & (c) legumes-*Rhizobium*.
3. Explain the microbe-invertebrate interactions in a hydrothermal vent.
4. Explain the interaction between microbes & ruminant animals.

APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY

1. Distinguish primary metabolites from secondary metabolites.
 2. Name and describe the production of two foods through fermentation.
 3. Name and describe the production of two beverages through fermentation.
 4. Name and describe three methods used to preserve food.
 5. List two specific examples of how microbes in food negatively impact the health of humans.
 6. Describe the steps involved in primary, secondary, and tertiary wastewater treatment.
 7. Describe the steps involved in the treatment of drinking water.
 8. Define the term bioremediation and state one application.
 9. State one advantage and one disadvantage of bioremediation.
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BIO 50 POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

This course is entirely online and asynchronous, meaning there are no required class meetings at a particular set time. Timely submission of work and participation in course activities such as discussion boards and group activities is required. Each assignment has a set “full credit” due date, followed by a two-day period where work will be accepted at a 5-point penalty. While attendance is not specifically evaluated, regular participation in the course is required for success. ALL COURSEWORK IS POSTED ON BLACKBOARD. It is extremely important to log in to the site on a regular basis.

COURSE CALENDAR AND LATE WORK

Students are urged to become familiar with the course calendars on Blackboard. No late work past the penalty date will be accepted for any assignment. Certain assignments, like the final exam, will have no penalty date and will close on the posted due date.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

CUNY has an Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:

https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/student_conduct/academic_integrity.html

The policy specifies definitions of cheating, plagiarism and obtaining unfair advantage and the possible consequences of such actions. It can also be found in more detail on the “Course Information and Policies” portion of our Blackboard site.

This policy will be followed and enforced. Please review the policy and the definitions, particularly since you will be submitting a number of written assignments.

ACCESS-ABILITY SERVICES

Access-Ability Services (AAS) serves as a liaison and resource to the KCC community regarding disability issues, promotes equal access to all KCC programs and activities, and makes every reasonable effort to provide appropriate accommodations and assistance to students with disabilities. Your instructor will make the accommodations you need once you provide documentation from the Access-Ability office (D-205). Please contact AAS for assistance <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/access-ability/homepage.html>.

GRADING

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

LECTURE

15% THREE LECTURE EXAMINATIONS

- Exam dates appear on the course schedule. All exams will be given online. No make up exams will be given.

15% HOMEWORK -WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (8 of 9 scores)

- Assignments are in the form of discussion boards, short problem sets, or short group projects

20% FINAL EXAMINATION

- A cumulative final for this course will be given.

LABORATORY

25% LAB QUIZZES (5 of 6 scores)

25% LAB WRITTEN PROJECTS

- TWO lab reports (i) identification of an Unknown bacterium (individual) and (ii) the Winogradsky column (group) will be submitted.