

BIOLOGY 554 - MOLECULAR VIROLOGY

Fall semester 2004

Instructor: Dr. Jacques Perrault, NLS401, 594-5150, jperrault@sunstroke.sdsu.edu

Office hours: Tu/Th, 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

Course Intent: This course is designed for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. All aspects of virology will be covered including types of viruses, replication and expression mechanisms, pathogenesis, epidemiology, and host defenses. Emphasis will be on molecular mechanisms used by eukaryotic viruses and their relationship to those used by host cells.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Bio 366 (Biochemistry, Cell, and Molecular Biology) or the equivalent is mandatory before taking this course. You will be asked to provide evidence of this. Successful completion of or concurrent registration in Bio 467 is also recommended but not mandatory.

Exams and Grading: The course grade will be based on two written exams (50% each). The first exam will cover the first half of the lecture material and the second exam will cover the second half of the lectures as well as the material from student oral presentations. The latter will take place during the final two weeks of the course and will be based on recent primary virology literature. A maximum of eight students will have the option of giving an oral Powerpoint presentation that will earn them a maximum of 10 extra points towards their final grade (10% of grade).

Required text: E.K. Wagner and M.J. Hewlett, "Basic Virology", 2nd Ed. Blackwell Science, 2004.

Recommended reference texts: S.J. Flint et al., "Principles of Virology: Molecular Biology, Pathogenesis, and Control", ASM Press, 2000. All attempts will be made to have this text on reserve for your use at the library. Your required text also lists other useful reference texts. One of these (Field's Virology) will be put on reserve for you at the library as well.

Internet resources: Animations and other materials that accompany your text can be found at <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/Wagner/default.asp>. Your text also lists several useful web sites that deal with virology. We will explore some of these during class time but you are strongly encouraged to do so on your own.

Class notes: You will have access to all lecture material on the SDSU Blackboard site as PDF files. I will try as best I can to post lecture and reading material ahead of class time.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CONSULT THIS BLACKBOARD SITE ON A REGULAR BASIS
FOR LECTURE NOTES, UPDATES, CORRECTIONS, SAMPLE EXAMS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS