

BIOL 830P Special Topics: Human Microbiome Summer 2020

Instructor Information:

Dr. Dawn Simon

email: simondm@unk.edu

Phone: (308) 865-8470

Office: Bruner Hall of Sciences, Room 201C

Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00 a.m. (CST) and other times by appointment.

During the week, I check email messages at least twice a day (once in the morning and once in late afternoon) and will usually respond within 24 (weekday) hours. (For example, if you email me on a Friday afternoon, I will typically respond by Monday afternoon.) In special circumstances, responses may be delayed up to 72 hours. I do not have voice mail on my office phone, so it is best to leave messages for me via email.

Course Description:

This is a readings-based course exploring the topic of the human microbiome with an emphasis on the connection between the microbiome and human health.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to define what the human microbiome is and have a basic understanding of how it is studied.
2. Students will have an appreciation of the possible consequences of the microbiome on human health.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to form a coherent evidence-based argument and communicate this in writing.
4. Students will be able to locate and appropriately use examples from the primary literature.

Required Text:

10% Human: How Your Body's Microbes Hold the Key to Health and Happiness (2016), A. Collen, Harper Collins Publishing.

Computer Requirements:

You are required to have frequent access to a computer with internet connectivity. I expect you to check the Canvas site several times per week (and preferably every day). Please refer to the eCampus website to make sure you meet the minimum hardware/software and internet connection speed required by all UNK eCampus students (<http://www.unk.edu/academics/ecampus/resources-info/students/technology/requirements.php>). The paper assignments must be completed using Microsoft Office.

Mode of Instruction:

This course is entirely online and will primarily consist of readings, discussions and a short paper.

Grades:

The course grade is based on an introductory discussion board post (10 pts), weekly discussion board posts (126 points) and assignments culminating in a short paper (120 pts). Letter grades, using the plus/minus system, will be assigned using the standard grading scale for the Dept. of Biology, as follows: A (93-100%), A- (90-92%), B+ (88-89%), B (83-87%), B- (80-82%), C+ (78-79%), C (73-77%), C- (70-72%), D+ (68-69%), D (63-67%), D- (60-62%), and F (below 60%). Your final grade will be rounded up (so, if you finish with an 82.5% your grade will be a B).

Assignments:

Most weeks you will need to complete a reading assignment and participate in discussion boards. There are also three writing assignments, which will culminate in a short paper (4-6 pages). See

schedule on the last page for deadlines. Except under extraordinary circumstances, late assignments will not be accepted.

Discussions

For discussion board assignments, I will post multiple questions/topics per week. You will be required to respond to one of these original questions or pose/respond to one of your own questions related to the week's reading, as well as interact with your classmates (18 pts per post). A rubric will be provided. You will not be allowed to see other posts until after your initial post. I plan to fully participate in discussion boards.

Paper Assignments

There will be three additional assignments which will culminate in a short paper. The first assignment will consist of a brief explanation of three potential paper topics and at least one appropriate reference (per topic) related to the subject of the human microbiome (20 pts). The second assignment will be a detailed outline on one of the approved topics (40 pts) and the third assignment will be an appropriately referenced paper based on this outline (60 pts). More details will be provided at the time of assignment.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You must cite all sources and rephrase content in your own words. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the work you submit. Students who plagiarize any part of their assignments will at minimum receive a zero on that assignment and could potentially fail this course.

Appropriate References:

For the purposes of this course, an appropriate reference is defined as a peer-reviewed journal article or book chapter, assigned reading material (including your text) and lecture material. However, in each week's discussion at least two of these references must be from peer-reviewed sources. More details will be provided on Canvas for how to locate and cite these sources.

Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Disability Services for Students office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

Students Who are Pregnant

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact Sue Pedersen in Student Health, 308-865-8218. The following link provides information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights. <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pregnant-and-parenting-students-rights-faqs-college-and-graduate-students>

Reporting Student Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence or Sexual Assault

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security) 308-865-8911

Title IX Coordinator 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

Course schedule:

Week		Assigned Reading	Assignment (Deadline, 11:59 CST)
1	May 26	Prologue, Intro, Ch 1	Intro. (5/29), Discussion (6/2)
2	June 1	Ch. 2	Discussion (6/9) Paper Topics Assignment (6/9)
3	June 8	Ch. 3-4	Discussion (6/16)
4	June 15	Ch. 5	Discussion (6/23) Paper Outline Assignment (6/23)
5	June 22	Ch. 6-7	Discussion (6/30)
6	June 29	Ch. 8	Discussion (7/7)
7	July 6	Coda, Epilogue	Discussion (7/14)
8	July 13	-----	Paper Assignment (7/17)

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