

Virology: Biol. 841
Course Syllabus – Fall 2021

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Office hours: MWF 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm or by appointment

Course Description

An in-depth discussion of the principles of modern virology. Major topics of discussion will include: virus replication strategies, virus structure, virus infection and disease, and host resistance to disease.

Course Objectives

1. Understand how the virus is able to infect a host, including the steps involved in the infectious cycle including attachment, entry, replication, and exit from the cell.
2. Be able to describe the structure of a virus and the differences that exist between viruses.
3. Know different barriers to infection and the mechanisms viruses employ to get through these barriers.
4. Have a general understanding of how viruses interact with the immune system, mechanisms of pathogenesis and the basis of vaccines.

Textbook

Principles of Virology, 5th edition.

Vol I: Molecular Biology

Vol II: Pathogenesis and Control

Flint J, Racaniello V, Rall G, Skalka AM,

ASM Press, 2020

Computer and Software:

Access to a computer with internet access, Microsoft PowerPoint. Software can be purchased through UNK bookstore at a discount. We will have video presentations that require the use of a webcam. These can be found through Walmart or Amazon starting around \$10.

Communication

The best way to reach me is through email. I will respond to email fairly quickly and if you need to talk to me please email me and we can set up a time to talk further. You should frequently check your UNK email and Canvas for course assignments or announcements. Slides will be posted on Canvas but you will still be required to watch lectures as additional information provided during lectures will be pertinent.

Grading

Discussion (5-10pt)	100
2 Exams (30pts each)	60

Quizzes (10pts each)	130
Case Studies (20pts each)	60
Design a Virus (30pts)	30
Short Presentation (20pts)	20
Viral Presentations (40pts)	40
<hr/> Total	440

Grades will be assigned using the Department of Biology standard grading scale: 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%).

Discussion

I will post papers on Canvas on Monday and you will have until Friday for your first post and until the following Monday for your second post. To receive full credit, students must have **two significant contributions** weekly for each paper we discuss and **one comment** on each lecture discussion topic. Your responses must contribute something new to the discussion and not simply agree or disagree to the previous response. References will be required to support your statement - at least one post each week must have a reference. Please be considerate of your classmates' responses, abusive comments or attacking other student's comments will not receive credit as comments should be constructive even if you strongly disagree with another student.

Exams

Exams will consist of a take home portion consisting of short answer or essay questions and worth 30 pts each. Students will be given one week to complete the exam, however there will still be lectures and other assignments at this time so please do not procrastinate. Exam dates are as follows:

Exam 1: Oct 25

Exam 2: Dec 13

Case Studies

For the case study assignments, students will work in groups, and each group is assigned the same case study. Everyone in the group needs to participate and students that do not contribute to their group will not receive credit for that assignment. The same guidelines for discussion also apply to participation with the case studies.

Case Study 1: Sept 17, 20

Case Study 2: Oct 29, Nov 1

Case Study 3: Nov 5, 8

Disease Presentation

We will not have the time to cover individual viruses in detail in this class, to cover individual viruses of interest, students will be assigned a virus the week of Aug 23rd. Students will create a PowerPoint presentation. PowerPoint presentations will be due **Sept 27th at 11:59pm CST**. I will post the presentations over two weeks. Same

guidelines apply as stated above in the discussion section when commenting on these presentations, you need to have 2 questions or comments on different posts by Friday of each week. If it is your week to present, you are responsible for frequently logging into the discussion board and responding to comments as well as commenting on one other presentation. Presentations should be concise as students are responsible for viewing multiple presentations and filling out evaluations. Approximately 10 – 15 minutes should suffice depending on the virus. Presentations significantly shorter or longer will not receive full credit (aim for 5-15 slides, avoid wordy slides, and be sure to use references).

Short Presentations

We will have questions that require further research to answer. Answer these questions with references and create a short presentation (4-7 min). You will post your video to the discussion board by **Nov 8th at 11:59pm CST**. You will be responsible for viewing and commenting on three presentations by Nov 12th. Final discussion on these topics will finish on Nov 15th.

Designing a Virus Project

Throughout the semester we will go through the different components of a virus (genome types, structure, attachment and entry, replication, release from host cell). This assignment is designed to integrate with what you learn each week and apply it to a semester-long project. You will build a virtual virus and then build a physical form of your virus out of household items. You will want to design a human pathogen that has pandemic potential. Use references to justify why you are selecting the features that you are. For example, if you select dsRNA genome, you need to justify why you selected this genome. As for building your virus, you can use any material you want. Common materials might include push pins, yarn, pipe cleaners, wire, ribbon, used plastic containers, styrofoam shapes, etc. You may need to cut away part of the capsid to showcase the inside of your viral particle. Alternatively, you can take pictures at multiple steps in the process. This will be due by **December 6th at 11:59pm CST**. You will need to submit a photo and a 1-2 page (single spaced) report describing key aspects of your virus and why you selected those attributes for your virus and how they may contribute to the ability to cause a pandemic. I will award bonus points to the most creative design.

Key elements that you need to include or discuss in your report include:

Virus name, genome type, shape, capsid, enveloped or non-enveloped, replication strategy, reservoirs, transmission, tissue tropism, incubation period, symptoms associated with the virus, R0 value, mortality rate

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, please refer to the student handbook or ask me for more clarification on the subject if unsure what constitutes plagiarism. It is expected students work independently on assignments unless otherwise stated by the instructor.

Group work where not specified will be considered cheating and students will receive a zero for that assignment. Multiple offenses will result in the student(s) receiving a failing grade for the course and possible removal from the program.

Withdraw (W) and Incomplete (I)

In unusual circumstances beyond the student's control, an incomplete (I) may be issued. The (I) is issued as a final grade with the student having 12 months to complete the necessary work. If the coursework is not completed in this time the (I) will be converted to a failing grade (F) on the student's transcript. Students may withdraw from the course before 9 weeks have been completed and a (W) will appear on the transcript. Students are responsible for filling out the necessary paperwork to complete this process. Instructors are not able to withdraw students. If the student drops the class, the (W) will not contribute to the student's overall GPA.

Student Accommodations

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 the UNK Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu

UNK Statement of Diversity & Inclusion:

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our Latinx and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences. The following link provides resources and other information regarding D&I: <https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.php>

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 Cindy Ference in Student Health, 308-865-8219. 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.

Veterans Services

UNK works diligently to support UNK's military community by providing military and veteran students and families with resources and services to help them succeed. Veterans Services assists with the GI Bill process and acts as a liaison between the student and the Veterans Administration. If you need assistance or would like more information, please contact Lori Weed Skarka at 308-865-8520 or unkveterans@unk.edu.

Copyright Law and Compliance

The materials on the course website are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated. The materials on this course website may be protected by copyright, and any further use of this material may be in violation of federal copyright law.

Preparation for class	Dates	Schedule	Assignment
Vol 1. Ch 1	Aug 23	Introduction	Disc.
Vol 1. Ch 2	Aug 30	Infectious Cycle	Disc., Quiz
Vol 1. Ch 3	Sept 6	Genome	Disc., Quiz
Vol 1. Ch 4	Sept 13	Structure	Case Study, Quiz
Vol 1. Ch 5	Sept 20	Attachment and Entry	Disc., Quiz
Vol 1. Ch 6, 7, 8	Sept 27	RNA synthesis	Disc., Quiz
Vol 1. Ch 9	Oct 4	DNA Replication	Disc., Quiz, Presentations
Vol 1. Ch 10, 11	Oct 11	Processing, Protein Synthesis	Disc., Quiz, Presentations
	Oct 18	Exam 1 Due October 25	Quiz
Vol 1. Ch 13	Oct 25	Assembly, Exit, Maturation	Case Study
Vol 2. Ch 2, 3, 4	Nov 1	Barriers, Immune System	Case Study, Quiz
Vol 2. Ch 8	Nov 8	Vaccines	Short Presentations, Quiz
Vol 2. Ch 5,10,11	Nov 15	Pathogenesis	Quiz

	Nov 22	Evolution and Emergence	Quiz
	Nov 22	Thanksgiving	
	Nov 29	Designing a Virus Project	Designing a Virus, Quiz
	Dec 6	Exam 2 Due December 13	