Biology 316: Biology of Cancer

Instructor: Courtney Nance-Sotelo
Office Hours: Before or after class or by appointment. You can also try to find me in Science Hall 1, Rooms 313 or 317.
Email: I can be contacted at my email: cnance@csusm.edu

Course Description: This course offers an overview of the chemistry, cellular and molecular biology and etiology of human cancer. It examines characteristics and types of cancers, malignant transformation of cells, tumor viruses, environmental carcinogens, oncogenes, diet, pathology and treatment of cancers.

Course Objectives: Provide a comprehensive overview of the basic biology of cancer. Compare the biology of normal cells to the malignant neoplastic state in order to understand how cancer develops and the rationale to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of malignant disease.

Class Policies: Food and drink are fine as long as you clean up when class is over. Please turn off all electronic devices before entering the classroom. If you are more than 5 minutes late for class, don’t interrupt the class.


Test and quiz material is taken directly from the lecture notes and the textbook.

GRADING:
1. Exams:
   There will be two midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam. The midterms are worth 100 points each, and the final is worth 200 points. Exams include matching, short answer and essay. Make-up exams are not allowed unless approved prior to test day.

2. Quizzes:
   (3) 20-point quizzes will be given periodically during the semester. Quizzes include matching and short answer. These cannot be made-up.

3. Report and Presentation
   A four page (double-spaced) paper will be due in conjunction with a short 10 minute presentation. This will be a group project with 3 students per group. At the end of the presentation you will have to fill out a form evaluating the participation levels of your group mates. The topic will have to revolve around cancer in general or a particular kind of cancer. You may pick your own topic but it must be approved by the end of September by the instructor. This two-part project will be worth 50 points. Failure to perform both parts will result in a zero for the project.
Breakdown:

Final = 200 points
Midterms (2) = 200 points (100 points each)
Quizzes (3) = 60 points (20 points each)
Report and Presentation = 100 points
Participation = 40 points
TOTAL: = 600 points

Grading is based on a percentage of the total number of points earned divided by the total number of points possible:

A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F Below 60%

4. Academic Honesty: Cheating of any form, including plagiarism, will result in an “F” on the assignment and could result in an “F” in the course and expulsion from the class.