BIOL 5230/6230 Virology Syllabus

Course Name: Virology  
Course Number: BIOL 5230/6230  
Instructor: Dr. Sharon R. Roberts, Rm. 127 LSB  
Phone #: 844-1634; e-mail: robersr@auburn.edu  
Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45AM in Rm. 112 LSB  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:00 AM or by appointment  
Text: Virology, Principles and Applications, by Carter, and Saunders  
Prerequisites: BIOL 5220/6220 or BIOL 5260/6260 (either may be taken as a co-requisite)

Course content:

This is a course on concepts of virology. The initial material covers the molecular biology of viruses, including infection, replication, assembly and release. Later topics cover the impact of virus replication on the infected cell, viral pathogenesis, the host's response to infection, the epidemiology of viral infections and the development of anti-viral therapies.

The emphasis throughout the class will focus on the application of this knowledge to the following challenges:

1.) Understanding the replication of new and emerging viruses and the development of new anti-viral drugs for these and existing viruses.
2.) Development of appropriate control responses to new and emerging viral infections
3.) Development of new molecular tools using viruses and viral components

Course Policies:

1. **Exam schedule and grading:** There will be three midterms given in class and a final exam. Additional assignments will be given through the term and students will complete a Virus Project. The contribution of each assessment to your final grade is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate students</th>
<th>Graduate students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterms</td>
<td>Midterms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% each</td>
<td>15% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virus Project</td>
<td>Term paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Undergraduate Assignments:** There are a number of assignments through the term. Each is worth 5 pts. Some of these will be done in class and some will be done outside of class and turned in. The dates of the assignments and when they are due is on the lecture schedule. Late assignments will be reduced by 1 pt. for each day that they are overdue, unless a medical or approved University event excuse is provided. The undergraduate Virus Project will require the development of a public service announcement on a particular virus, using information available from the CDC or NIH websites.

**Graduate assignments:** In addition to completing the same assignments as the undergraduate students, graduate students will also complete a term paper which will require an extensive review of a topic in virology. It will require the synthesis of at least 7 original research articles.

**Extra Credit:** There may be opportunities for extra credit assignments during the term.

2. **Final Grades:** Final grades will be assigned using a 10-point scale.
   
   A=90-100%
   B=80-89
   C=70-79
3. **Classroom civility:** In creating a classroom environment that promotes learning, all participants share the responsibility of creating a civil atmosphere. In that spirit and out of respect for the instructor and your fellow students, please arrive on time, turn cell phones and other electronic devices off, and do not distract others by chatting, text messaging or packing up your belongings before the class ends.

4. **Exam attendance:** Attending the exams is mandatory. Valid reasons for absences as outlined in the Tiger Cub are: 1) severe illness, 2) documented personal or family emergencies, 3) official University excuses. All absences from exams will require documentation. If possible, advise me beforehand regarding absences on an exam day. Please make arrangements with me to make up any missed exam as soon as possible. If you miss an exam and fail to notify me by the first Monday following the exam, then you will forfeit the points from that exam.

5. **Grading:** If you have any questions regarding the grading of an exam or assignment, you are encouraged to bring your questions/concerns to my attention, but I ask that you do so promptly. Grade adjustments will only be made within a week of the exam or the assignment being returned to students.

6. **Academic Dishonesty:** Any violations of the Academic Honesty Code of Auburn University will be reported to the University Academic Honesty Committee. **SGA CODE OF LAWS, TITLE XII** (Tiger Cub). This may result in failing grade, suspension, and/or expulsion from the University. Note this includes turning in an excuse for an absence that cannot be verified as true.

7. **Students with Special Needs:** Students requiring special accommodations in class should contact the Office of the Program for Students with Disabilities, 1232 Haley Center (844-2096). Students who need special accommodations are encouraged to see me so we can discuss your situation and the appropriate accommodations, **confidentially.** If at any time during the semester you feel that the accommodations we have put in place are not working, please consult with me and/or the professional staff in the PSD office. Accommodations will not be granted to students who have not visited the Office of the Program for Students with Disabilities.

8. **Justification for graduate credit:** Graduate credit is justified by the requirement of a term paper. This assignment will provide greater intellectual challenge as well as helping graduate students develop the essential skills of a literature review, including developing the topic to research, using appropriate databases and synthesizing information from a number of sources into a coherent review. The term paper will be 10-15 double-spaced pages in length and requires the use of at least 7 original articles from the literature.