

Exams: You will be responsible for all reading assignments, all handouts, and everything presented in lecture. The exams will emphasize the material discussed in class and will be prepared strictly from lecture notes.

Many exam questions will require you to apply concepts or facts learned in class to new but related situations or topics. Understanding the logic and direction of a question often requires a true understanding of the material, not just memorization of the facts. If you have not only memorized facts and figures but also critically thought about the material, you will find such questions easier to deal with. When reviewing your notes, do not simply memorize, but try to understand the underlying principles and concepts and try to relate new material to that covered previously. Ask yourself questions such as, what is the significance of this and why was it emphasized? Try to reason through the processes we cover and understand the rationale or logic behind them--Could they be done in another way? Why or why not? If so, what would be the consequences? The details and facts are important and you must know them; but just as important are the underlying principles, logic, and interrelationships between various cellular processes. The best way to come to such an understanding is to think about what is going on as you review your notes, reason through the material, look for generalities and commonalities, and try to think about why a particular process is as it is. It is best to come to class having read the material beforehand and then spend more time thinking during the lecture rather than taking meticulous notes.

Class attendance is essential since the lectures will go into more depth than the text and sometimes include material not found in the text. More than many other classes, we build upon the facts and concepts learned during the previous lectures. Thus, it is very important for you to stay up with the material and make sure you understand each topic before proceeding to the next. If not, subsequent lectures will become more and more difficult to grasp. Review your notes after each class, attend help sessions, and make regular office hour visits when confused. You will find it difficult if you skip class and try to cram prior to the exams.

Web Site: <http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bsci110b/index.htm>

This site is the home page for BSCI 110 (both a and b). If you go here and follow the links to our class, you will find copies of the syllabus, course information, and old exams.

Vanderbilt's Honor Code governs all work in this course.