

CHEM 567, Biochemistry Lab

Fall 2025

COURSE INFORMATION

Lectures: Mondays in GMCS 305 11:00-11:50 am

Laboratories: Tuesdays and Thursdays in CSL 226 4:30-7:10 pm

Instructor: Kathy McNamara Schroeder

Office: CSL 505

Email: kmcnamara@sdsu.edu

Phone: 619-582-5332

Office hours: Upon request

THIS COURSE IN YOUR DEGREE:

Prerequisites: Chemistry 560 or equivalent.

It is strongly recommended to take one or more of the biochemistry electives (Chemistry 562, 563, 564) before or concurrently with Chemistry 567- .

This course fulfills a requirement for majors in Chemistry or Biochemistry with an emphasis in Biochemistry

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a combined lecture and laboratory class. The lectures will cover what you need to know to successfully complete the labs, but additional material is often covered to expand your knowledge of modern biotechnology. We will cover isolation of membranes, separation of membrane components, enzyme kinetics, protein purification and analysis, DNA isolation, PCR, recombinant DNA, and associated topics such as tissue culture, sequencing, and use of radioactivity. You will work with a group to complete all tasks so communication and planning is essential.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Chem 567 "Biochemistry Laboratory" by Stumph, Metzger, and Adams in the form of "Day1Ready" on your Canvas page. Also if desired in loose-leaf folder in Aztec Shops bookstore. This is shelved under the name "Stumph".
- An actual bound laboratory notebook.
- Please note the university charges a lab fee for this class.
- You must wear an apron or lab coat during the class, it will prevent stained clothing which is certainly possible during some of the experiments. It may be kept in the locker if desired. Proper PPE is required, available lab spectacles for some experiments, long pants, closed to and heel shoes. You will also need gloves for some of the experiments.

IMPORTANT NOTE- Because the lab manual is on computer you may be tempted to keep your laptop open when buffers and chemicals are being used. You do this at your own risk- please carefully consider placement of computers near sources of liquids as accidents occur and we are not responsible for replacing your computer if an accident occurs,

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students that have completed this course should be able to:

1. Explain the purpose of each chemical component used in an experiment, and how it aids in the ultimate goal of the experiment.
2. Safely set up and use standard laboratory equipment such as superspeed and ultracentrifuges, pipets, acrylamide and agarose gel electrophoresis modules, spectrophotometers, shakers, thermocycler, fraction collector, gravity chromatography columns.
3. Carry out measurements and calculations of results obtained using standard biochemistry laboratory equipment.
4. Perform techniques commonly used in biochemical research including PCR, electrophoresis, western blotting, enzyme kinetics, expression of recombinant proteins, isolation and purification of DNA, and growth of bacterial cells.
5. Observe safe practices in the laboratory, follow proper procedures and regulations for safe use and disposal of chemicals.
6. Interpret results of experiments in lab reports that include background information on the topic, a plan to accomplish the experiment, an outline of the theory behind relevant lab techniques, and results/discussion of the experimental outcome that allow students to draw reasonable, accurate conclusions from analysis of the results.
7. Conduct work in lab both independently and as part of a team.
8. Troubleshoot an experiment with the intention of improving the outcome.
9. Devise an experiment using previously practiced techniques

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

Lab notebook inspection: There will be one unannounced inspection of the lab notebook.

4 lab reports: Introduction and flow-chart are due before the onset of the experiment (see schedule). Complete reports are usually due 1 week after completion of the experiment (see schedule).

There are 4 exams:

Exam 1, Photosystems experiment and lab techniques	Monday Sept 15
Exam 2, LDH Kinetics	Monday Sept 29
Exam 3, Aldolase purification	Monday Oct 27
Exam 4, DNA section	Monday Dec 8

Homework: DNA sequencing

There is no final exam

KEEPING A LAB NOTEBOOK

1. Leave several pages blank at the beginning of the notebook to keep an up-to-date **Table of Contents**.
2. **Introduction and Flow-chart:** To be written prior to starting the experiment. Copies are to be handed into the TA on the date due, but copies must also be kept permanently in the notebook, placed there on the date each intro is due.
3. **Experimental Procedures and Results:** Record any and all deviations from the protocols provided in the lab manuals or handouts, whether these are intentional or done in error. Record primary data (obtained during the lab period) and derived data. That is, record your raw data as it is gathered, and then show how you get from your raw data to your final tabulated data. An example of every single calculation you do to get from collected data to any result needs to be shown.
4. **Conclusion and Discussion:** Same as for lab report, this is also placed in the notebook the day it is due in class.
5. Your entries into the lab notebook do not have to be pretty. However, one should be able to read and follow what was written. The goal of keeping a notebook is to be able to take a primary protocol along with your research notebook and be able to completely **understand and reproduce** the work that was accomplished.

LAB REPORTS

A. Introduction

One single space typed page minimum. Usually takes two (sometimes more) for a full explanation. The Introduction will contain the following:

- Brief background of the topic of research- ~1/3 page
- Purpose of the experiment. Give the goal of the experiment, 1-2 sentences
- General plan Describe in general terms how you are going to carry out the experiment - 3-5 sentences
- Theory behind the lab techniques mentioned. Discuss the function of different chemicals that are used in the various steps of the experiment or purpose of techniques.
- Typically, 1, 2, and 3 occupy about 2/3 to 1 page, and 4 occupies a full page.
- Sections should be separated and have clear headlines

B. Flow chart

One page, unless otherwise noted. This should be a general outline of the experimental procedures to be followed.

Important notes:

Sections A and B (i.e., Introduction and Flow Chart) should be written as if you were planning out this experiment in your own mind prior to initiating work on the experiment. Sections A and B must also be included in your lab notebook. (It is suggested to type A and B, copy them, and then tape these copies into your notebook)

Sections A and B are due at the **beginning** of the lab period experiment. This is usually, but not always, the day on which you begin the experiment. See schedule for due dates.

C. Experimental procedures

If you are provided with a detailed step-by-step protocol, you only need to mention any actual variations from the protocol provided. However, be sure to mention any and all deviations. You do **not** have to re-copy the protocols from the laboratory manuals. If there is not a detailed protocol provided for a particular experiment, you will need to include more details in this section. This section will be handwritten in your notebook, but should be typed for your lab report.

D. Results

The length of this section will vary from experiment to experiment. Present the results in the most clear and understandable fashion possible. This may involve Figures, Tables, Charts, and/or Graphs, **but must also contain typed explanatory text**. You cannot just present a collection of tables and graphs and call that your Results section; **you must explain in words** what the charts and graphs demonstrate. Data shown in a graph also must be presented in a table.

E. Conclusion and discussion

Discuss the results of your experiment. In your introduction there was a purpose statement. Address this statement by explaining the results gathered, and if the experiment accomplished what was said in the purpose. Finally, do include error analysis. Describe what errors may have taken place **and the impact that these had**.

GRADING POLICY

• Photosystems report	100 points
• LDH report	100 points
• Aldolase report	150 points
• Plasmid isolation report	75 points
• PCR/STR report	75 points
• GST-SH2 domain purification report	75 points
• Photosystems exam	150 points
• LDH exam	150 points
• Aldolase exam	150 points
• DNA exam	150 points
• Notebook inspection	100 points
• DNA sequencing homework	25 points
• Total	1300 points (100%)

DUE DATE POLICY

Failure to submit the **Introduction and Flow Chart** at the date and time due will result in a **10 point penalty per week (or part thereof)**. (I expect you to come to class prepared.) This penalty will be subtracted from the total points. Moreover, if you do not submit a copy when initially due, you are still expected to prepare and include these sections as part of your lab report, or you will **lose even more points** in the grading of your report.

Late lab reports will be accepted up to the last day of wet lab work (but not after). Failure to hand in the lab report at the due date result in a **10 point penalty per week (or part thereof)**.

LETTER GRADES

Percentage	Points	Letter grade
93 and above	1209 and above	A
90	1170-1208	A-
87	1131-1169	B+
83	1079-1130	B
80	1040-1078	B-
77	1001-1039	C+
73	949-1000	C
70	910-948	C-
67	871-909	D+
63	819-870	D
60	780-818	D-
below 60	779 and below	F

Resources for students: A complete list of all academic support services--including the [Writing Center](#) and [Math Learning Center](#)--is available on the Student Affairs' [Academic Success](#) website. [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (619-594-5220) offers confidential counseling services by licensed therapists; you can Live Chat with a counselor at http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/cps/therapist-consultation.aspx between 4:00pm and 10:00pm, or call San Diego Access and Crisis 24-hour Hotline at (888) 724-7240. Laptops may be available for loan at the library. There are also resources listed at this page: <https://sacd.sdsu.edu/health-promotion>

SDSU Economic Crisis Response Team: If you or a friend are experiencing food or housing insecurity, or any unforeseen financial crisis, visit sdsu.edu/ecrt, email ecrt@sdsu.edu, or walk-in to Well-being & Health Promotion on the 3rd floor of Calpulli Center.

FLOW-CHART EXAMPLE

Large Scale Plasmid Preparation - Flow Chart

Day 1

1. Prepare and autoclave media.

Day 2

1. Inoculate 1 liter cell cultures. Incubate with shaking at 37°C.
2. Read absorbance of culture at 2, 2.5, 3 hrs etc.
3. When A_{600} reaches 0.55-0.6, add chloramphenicol. Incubate overnight and centrifuge cells on the following morning.

Day 3

1. Thaw cell pellet and lyse cells on ice.
2. Remove cell debris by centrifugation in Sorvall high speed centrifuge. Save supernatant containing the plasmid DNA.
3. Set up CsCl-ethidium bromide equilibrium gradient centrifugation. Spin in ultracentrifuge at 41,000 rpm in TV-850 rotor at least 18 hours.

Day 4

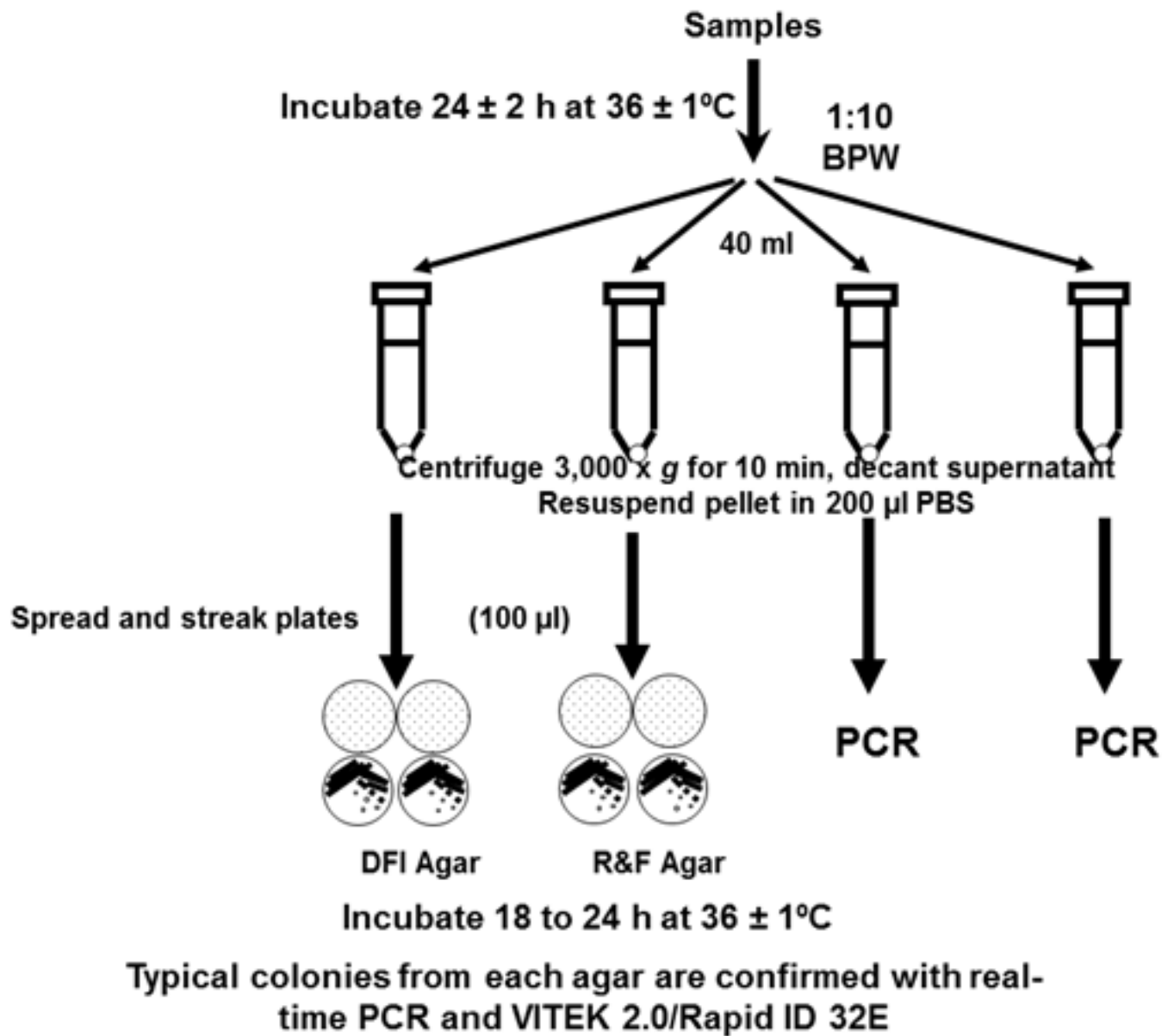
1. Bring down ultracentrifugation run. While illuminating with UV light, remove plasmid DNA band from centrifuge tube using needle and syringe.
2. Set up second CsCl-ethidium bromide centrifugation in TV650 rotor. Spin at 41,000 rpm at least 18 hours.

Day 5

1. etc.

*Sometimes, depending upon the particular experiment, it may be preferable to **diagram** the flow chart as shown on the following page Try to choose whichever method (or combination of the two) is best for getting across the points most clearly.*

Alternative Flow Chart Format



Include or leave out as much detail as required to meet the 1 page limit. Aim for 2/3 to 1 page in length. Most importantly, demonstrate that you have planned out the experiment and that you know what you are going to be doing.

COURSE SCHEDULE

attached

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS

Consistent with University policy, I retain the right to adjust course design, including assignments, assessments and deadlines. Major departures from the syllabus shall be made only for compelling reasons. “Any major changes to the course syllabus will be announced in class, communicated to all students electronically, and incorporated into an updated and posted version of the syllabus.”

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and are in need of accommodations for this class, please contact Student Ability Success Center at (619) 594-6473 as soon as possible. Please know accommodations are not retroactive, and I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Ability Success Center.

Student Privacy and Intellectual Property: The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) mandates the protection of student information, including contact information, grades, and graded assignments. I will use [Canvas / Blackboard] to communicate with you, and I will not post grades or leave graded assignments in public places. Students will be notified at the time of an assignment if copies of student work will be retained beyond the end of the semester or used as examples for future students or the wider public. Students maintain intellectual property rights to work products they create as part of this course unless they are formally notified otherwise.

Religious observances: According to the University Policy File, students should notify the instructors of affected courses of planned absences for religious observances by the end of the second week of classes.

Academic Honesty: The University adheres to a strict policy prohibiting cheating and plagiarism. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- copying, in part or in whole, from another's test or other examination;
- obtaining copies of a test, an examination, or other course material without the permission of the instructor;
- collaborating with another or others in work to be presented without the permission of the instructor;
- falsifying records, laboratory work, or other course data;
- submitting work previously presented in another course, if contrary to the rules of the course;
- altering or interfering with grading procedures;
- assisting another student in any of the above;
- using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work);
- copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it your own;
- using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit;
- replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting your own words or phrases.

The California State University system requires instructors to report all instances of academic misconduct to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. Academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary review by the University and may lead to probation, suspension, or expulsion. Instructors may also, at their discretion, penalize student grades on any assignment or assessment discovered to have been produced in an academically dishonest manner.

Classroom Conduct Standards: SDSU students are expected to abide by the terms of the Student Conduct Code in classrooms and other instructional settings. Violation of these standards will result in referral to appropriate campus authorities. Prohibited conduct includes:

- Willful, material and substantial disruption or obstruction of a University-related activity, or any on-campus activity.
- Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University or infringes on the rights of members of the University community.
- Unauthorized recording, dissemination, or publication (including on websites or social media) of lectures or other course materials.
- Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including
 1. physical abuse, threats, intimidation, or harassment.
 2. sexual misconduct.

Medical-related absences: Students are instructed to contact their professor/instructor/coach in the event they need to miss class, etc. due to an illness, injury or emergency. All decisions about the impact of an absence, as well as any arrangements for making up work, rest with the instructors. [Student Health Services](#) (SHS) does not provide medical excuses for short-term absences due to illness or injury. When a medical-related absence persists beyond five days, SHS will work with students to provide appropriate documentation. When a student is hospitalized or has a serious, ongoing illness or injury, SHS will, at the student's request and with the student's consent, communicate with the student's instructors via the Vice President for Student Affairs and may communicate with the student's Assistant Dean and/or the [Student Ability Success Center](#).

Sexual violence / Title IX mandated reporting: As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I am a mandated reporter in my role as an SDSU employee. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep the information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual violence on SDSU's campus with the Title IX coordinator, Jessica Rentto 619-594-6017. She (or her designee) will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at SDSU and possibilities for holding accountable the person who harmed you. Know that you will not be forced to share information you do not wish to disclose and your level of involvement will be your choice. If you do not want the Title IX Officer notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus and in the community. They can connect you with support services and discuss options for pursuing a University or criminal investigation. Sexual Violence Victim Advocate 619-594-0210 or Counseling and Psychological Services 619-594-5220, psycserv@sdsu.edu. For more information regarding your university rights and options as a survivor of sexual misconduct or sexual violence, please visit titleix.sdsu.edu or sdsutalks.sdsu.edu.