

**AGR 11500 Syllabus
Fall 2025**

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Office hours: by appointment

LECTURE TIME AND PLACE

Thursdays, August 28 - October 16, 1:30-2:20, BCHM 105

All lectures will be recorded and will be available for students who cannot attend a class or who would like to review a lecture. Recordings are available in the course media gallery in Brightspace (Course Tools -> Kaltura Media Gallery).

INSTRUCTIONAL MODALITY

Face-to-Face

COURSE OBJECTIVES

AGR 11500 is the departmental section of AGR 10100. As such, its primary role is to prepare you for success as an undergraduate in the Department of Biochemistry. The course will provide an overview of the curriculum with an emphasis on the scientific process, critical thinking, and undergraduate research. We will also emphasize the importance of career development in non-classroom settings.

PREREQUISITES

None.

DEPARTMENTAL LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED BY THIS COURSE

AGR 11500 students will gain practice with key aspects of the scientific method, including developing hypotheses, designing experiments, and critically analysis of results to create new knowledge.

AGR 11500 students will communicate scientific knowledge, experiments and conclusions effectively as speakers and writers.

AGR 11500 students will locate, evaluate, and utilize information in the disciplines of biochemistry and molecular biology as required for research, data analysis, and communication in the field of Biochemistry.

AGR 11500 students will gain awareness of the ethical issues facing professionals in the life sciences.

AGR 11500 students will critically analyze the contributions of our discipline to society, including improvements to medicine, agriculture, the economy and the environment.

TEXTBOOK AND LEARNING RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH CLASS

Achieve for Biochemistry (10e Stryer) is the textbook and associated online learning platform that you will use for multiple Biochemistry courses throughout our program. We will review the general content of the textbook, and practice using it in Achieve during this course. ***We have worked out a deal with the publisher, Macmillan, whereby students will pay for all 4 years of access in two installments, this semester and at the beginning of the spring semester.*** This plan saves students' money overall while providing the diverse and powerful online learning tools of the Achieve platform. Students have two different options to purchase:

1. Click on the link in the course Brightspace page under the ACHIEVE module and purchase directly from the publisher (follow the registration instructions below)
2. You may also purchase an access code from the bookstore using the following ISBN number. **9781319417482**. You will be purchasing one term access. (Follow the registration instructions below).

Achieve and the Stryer electronic textbook have been integrated into the course Brightspace so [please use these registration instructions](#).

Here are some technical resources for Achieve that you might find helpful:

- [How to download your eBook to read offline](#)
- [Achieve Getting Started Guide for Students](#)
- [Macmillan Self Help Knowledge Base](#)
- If you have a technical issue, please contact the Macmillan Support for Achieve and get a case number prior to contacting your instructor. Should you need to contact your professor please provide them with your case number. [Here is how to get a case number from Achieve Support](#).
- [Online Chat](#) - if you choose to call you can reference your case number

Brightspace learning management system

The syllabus, course assignments, and all course material will be available via the Purdue University Brightspace site at: <https://purdue.brightspace.com>. Each week has a separate module in Brightspace in which you will find relevant material and any assignments. Please make sure you check each week's module for assignments and preparatory reading material well in advance of each Thursday class. See the Student Services widget on the campus homepage for resources such as Technology Help, Academic Help, Campus Resources, and Protect Purdue.

HOMWORK ASSIGNMENTS

You are expected to complete all reading and/or writing assignments before class on the date indicated. An electronic copy of each writing assignment is due by midnight two days before class (Tuesday) to Brightspace. A hard copy of the writing assignment should also be brought to class on that day.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

There will be multiple in-class assignments that will also be graded.

GRADING

There are no exams for AGR 11500. Grades will be based on homework and in-class assignments, and on class participation.

Grading Scale for AGR 11500

A+, A = 93-100 percent
A- = 90.0-92.9 percent
B+ = 87.0-89.9 percent
B = 83.0-86.9 percent
B- = 80.0-82.9 percent
C+ = 77.0-79.9 percent
C = 73.0-76.9 percent
C- = 70.0-72.9 percent
D+ = 67.0-69.9 percent
D = 63.0-66.9 percent
D- = 60.0-62.9 percent
F = <60 percent

OBTAINING EXTRA HELP

Dr. Hall will be available to answer your questions immediately after class or by appointment (arranged in class or by e-mail). Alternatively, you can submit questions by e-mail that can be answered in class or by return e-mail

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

AGR 11500-specific guidance

Attendance in AGR 11500 is mandatory unless you are ill or have a university-approved excuse. Important information about your success in our program will be covered and it is important that you attend and participate. You are expected to be attentive to the presentations at all class sessions. Each student will be called on (or will volunteer) a minimum of three times over the entire course (not per class) and will be awarded a point for each contribution.

- **Students that are more than 5 minutes late to class will be marked as tardy. Students that are more than 10 minutes late to class will be marked as absent. Due to the participatory nature of this course, greater than 1 unexcused absence or greater than two tardies will result in a failing grade. *Whether absences will be considered “excused” will be consistent with “general Purdue guidance” described below. Please contact me if you have any questions/concerns regarding an absence that you feel is not addressed by the guidance provided below.***

General Purdue guidance

This course follows the [University Academic Regulations regarding class attendance](#), which state that students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and lateness will be noted. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University-sponsored activities and religious observations, you should inform me of the situation as far in advance as possible. For unanticipated or emergency absences when advance notification is not possible, contact me as soon as possible by email or phone. For absences that do not fall under excused absence regulations (see below), this course follows the following procedures:

1. Do not come to class if you are feeling ill, but DO email me at mchall@purdue.edu, with the subject line: AGR 115 absence. I do not need details about your symptoms. Just let me know you are feeling ill and cannot come to class. If it is an emergency situation, please follow the University regulations on emergent medical care (see below).
2. Unless it falls under the University excused absence regulations (see below), any work due should be submitted on time via our course Brightspace.
3. If that day's class involves assessed work such as a test or presentation, you and I will plan if and how you can make up the work, following the assignment guidelines. This plan must be done before the next class period, so again, email me immediately when you know that you will miss class.
4. The most important consideration in any absence is how it will affect your achievement of the assignment objectives and the course learning outcomes.

For cases that fall under excused absence regulations, you or your representative should contact or go to the [Office of the Dean of Students \(ODOS\) website](#) to complete appropriate forms for instructor notification. Under academic regulations, excused absences may be

granted by ODOS for cases of grief/bereavement, military service, jury duty, parenting leave, or emergent medical care. The processes are detailed, so plan ahead.

PROTECT PURDUE

Any student who has substantial reason to believe that another person is threatening the safety of others by not complying with Protect Purdue protocols is encouraged to report the behavior to and discuss the next steps with their instructor. Students also have the option of reporting the behavior to the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). See also [Purdue University Bill of Student Rights](#) and the Violent Behavior Policy under University Resources in Brightspace.

USES OF AI IN THE COURSE

Unless otherwise directed, students are not permitted to use artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, to complete assignments. Students who use AI in any of their assignments in this course will be deemed to be in violation of the academic integrity expectations for this course. Violations can include a failing grade on the assignment in question or a failing grade for the course. All suspected incidents of academic dishonesty will also be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review of the student's status with the University as described below. ***There will be times in the course where we will explore AI tools and how they can be used effectively and appropriately for scientific purposes.***

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated in any course offered by the Department of Biochemistry. Information on Purdue's policies with regard to academic misconduct can be found at http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/student_conduct/regulations.html

Any incidence of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. Academic misconduct may result in disciplinary sanctions including expulsion, suspension, probated suspension, disciplinary probation, and/or educational sanctions. In addition, such misconduct will result in punitive grading such as:

- receiving a lower or failing grade on the assignment, or
- assessing a lower or failing grade for the course

Punitive grading decisions will be made after consultation with the Office of the Dean of Students. Please note reported incidences of academic misconduct go on record for reference by other instructors. Further, a record of academic misconduct is likely to influence how current/future situations are handled.

To provide you with an unambiguous definition of academic misconduct, the following text has been excerpted from "Academic Integrity: A Guide for Students", written by Stephen Akers, Ph.D., Executive Associate Dean of Students (1995, Revised 1999, 2003), and published by the Office of the Dean of Students in cooperation with Purdue Student Government, Schleman Hall of Student Services, Room 207, 475 Stadium Mall Drive West Lafayette, IN 47907-2050.

"Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, *Student Regulations*] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing

dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

More specifically, the following are a few examples of academic dishonesty which have been discovered at Purdue University.

- substituting on an exam for another student
- substituting in a course for another student
- paying someone else to write a paper and submitting it as one's own work
- giving or receiving answers by use of signals during an exam
- copying with or without the other person's knowledge during an exam
- doing class assignments for someone else
- plagiarizing published material, class assignments, or lab reports
- turning in a paper that has been purchased from a commercial research firm or obtained from the internet
- padding items of a bibliography
- obtaining an unauthorized copy of a test in advance of its scheduled administration
- using unauthorized notes during an exam
- collaborating with other students on assignments when it is not allowed
- obtaining a test from the exam site, completing and submitting it later
- altering answers on a scored test and submitting it for a regrade
- accessing and altering grade records
- stealing class assignments from other students and submitting them as one's own
- fabricating data
- destroying or stealing the work of other students

Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another person's ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarist's own product. This is most likely to occur in the following ways:

- using the exact language of someone else without the use of quotation marks and without giving proper credit to the author
- presenting the sequence of ideas or arranging the material of someone else even though such is expressed in one's own words, without giving appropriate acknowledgment
- submitting a document written by someone else but representing it as one's own"

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information is submitted the greater the opportunity for the university to investigate the concern. More details are available on our course Brightspace under University Policies and Statements

NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT PROTECTION OF COURSE MATERIALS

See the University Policies and Statements section of Brightspace for guidance on Use of Copyrighted Materials. Effective learning environments provide opportunities for students to reflect, explore new ideas, post opinions openly, and have the freedom to change those opinions over time. Students and instructors are the authors of the works they create in the learning environment. As authors, they own the copyright in their works subject only to the

university's right to use those works for educational purposes Students may not copy, reproduce, or post to any other outlet (e.g., YouTube, Facebook, or other open media sources or websites) any work in which they are not the sole or joint author or have not obtained the permission of the author(s).

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

A link to Purdue's Information on [Emergency Preparation and Planning](#) is located on our Brightspace under "University Policies and Statements." This website covers topics such as Severe Weather Guidance, Emergency Plans, and a place to sign up for the Emergency Warning Notification System.

The first day of class, I will review the **Emergency Preparedness plan for our specific classroom**. Please make note of items like:

- The location to where we will proceed after evacuating the building if we hear a fire alarm.
- The location of our Shelter in Place in the event of a tornado warning.
- The location of our Shelter in Place in the event of an active threat such as a shooting.

ON-LINE COURSE EVALUATIONS

During the last two weeks of this course, you will be provided an opportunity to evaluate this course and your instructor(s). To this end, Purdue has transitioned to online course evaluations. On Monday of the 7th week of classes, you will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. You will have two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation in this evaluation is an integral part of this course. Your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University. I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. A hyperlink to Purdue's full [Nondiscrimination Policy Statement](#) is also included in our course Brightspace under University Policies and Statements.

MENTAL HEALTH/WELLNESS

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#). Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 am - 5 pm.

If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc. sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a [Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell](#). Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is completely free and can be done on BoilerConnect.

If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office on the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMODATIONS

Purdue University is committed to making learning experiences accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247.

BASIC NEEDS SECURITY

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and Student Support Services is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is subject to change.

Lecture Schedule (subject to revision)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	Introductions	28-Aug
2	Biochemistry Curriculum/our philosophy	4-Sep
3	Biochemistry Curriculum/future careers	11-Sep
4	Undergraduate research	18-Sep
5	The scientific process/Generating hypotheses	25-Sep
6	Testing hypotheses/Experimental design	2-Oct
7	Plans of study/Other program opportunities	9-Oct
8	Final thoughts and advice/how to be successful	16-Oct