004:029, First Year Seminar Evolution on the Molecular Level, Fall 2010

Instructor: Professor Amnon Kohen  Office: E274 CB

Web Site: Online content for the course will be managed using the ICON (Iowa Courses Online) system (http://icon.uiowa.edu/index.shtml). The site will be used to post class material, grades, and occasional announcements.

Email: amnon-kohen@uiowa.edu (please include "4:029" in the subject line)

Lectures: Mondays 5:00 - 5:50 PM, E264 CB. Changes, in either time or location will be announced and discussed in class.

Office Hours: Mondays 10:35-11:35. Additional office hours will be scheduled as needed.

Course Outline: The course will address the relations between molecular processes in organisms (e.g., enzyme activity, mutations, protein expression, and other adoption mechanisms) and evolutionary pressure. For example, if organism is expose to new antibiotic drug, what molecular changes need to take place for it to develop antibiotic resistance. Another example would be the cellular, genetic, metabolic, and enzymatic changes that would let an organism and a whole ecological system respond and survive an environmental change.

Course Grades: Grades will be based on attendance (20 pts) and participation (20 pts) in all classes. In case of unforeseen circumstance, a student can miss up to two classes – no questions asked. Additionally, a few assignments will be graded throughout the semester (20 pts). Finally, oral presentations will be given by all students (~10 slides, 15 min + 5 min questions and discussion), and the quality of the seminar will be graded (40 pts). These presentations will take place in the second half of the semester, and will be explained in more details in class. These will give each student the opportunity to present and lead a discussion on a topic relevant to the class.

Drop-Add Slips: Drop/add signatures can be obtained and signed by the Chemistry Center (E225 CB). Please note that the deadline this semester for undergraduate students to drop a course is Monday, November 1. The last day to drop without receiving a “W” is Friday, September 3.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: For UI policies on academic misconduct, plagiarism and cheating, forgery, student complaints concerning faculty actions, and procedures for complaints, see the Student Academic Handbook: http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook.

Special Needs: The instructor, Prof. Kohen, needs to hear from anyone who has a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located in 3101 Burge Hall (335-1462). If any such special arrangements are needed for exams, please contact your instructor during office hours and inform the Chemistry Center as well (E225 CB; 5-1341).
Other Course Information:

This course is being offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Thus, class policies on matters such as requirements, grading, and sanctions for academic dishonesty are governed by the College. These policies are summarized in the last page of this syllabus and can be found at: http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching/policies.shtml and at the end of this document.

Students wishing to add or drop this course after the official deadline must receive the approval of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Details of the University policy of cross-college enrollments may be found at: http://www.uiowa.edu/~provost/deos/crossenroll.doc.

Public health authorities have recommended that people with flu-like illnesses stay home and not return to public spaces until 24 hours after they have no fever. In order to prevent the spread of disease, please do not come to class, meet with other groups of students, attend office hours, or contact offices in person while you are ill.

CLAS: Teaching Policies & Procedures

Administrative Home The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Electronic Communication University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Fraud Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS Academic Fraud section of the Student Academic Handbook.

CLAS Final Examination Policies Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.
Sexual Harassment  Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather  In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety web site. *These CLAS policy and procedural statements have been summarized from the web pages of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and The University of Iowa Operations Manual.