Announcements

A Final Note  edit — delete

Hi all,

Thanks for a really enjoyable semester!

Over the course of the semester, you've been tasked with building your intuitions about complex biological phenomena from physical and chemical first-principles; and you all have demonstrated a strong grasp of this material! Assignments/tests are simply an assessment of practice in solving a particular type of question and not always correlative with the underlying appreciation of the ideas that you've developed.

I simply hope that you have the opportunity to build upon the latter, i.e. the appreciation of these biological ideas, going forward. And if (at any time in the future) you're looking to delve into these concepts in greater depth and would want to know more about research at MIT or elsewhere being done in one of the myriad topics you've been exposed to this semester, just send me an email and I'd be happy to talk about it and/or direct you to certain faculty members or classes!

As I've sporadically alluded to this semester, what really excites me is that our ability to precisely measure biological quantities has
reached a level where we now can move from just assembling the parts–list of components inside cells to testing theoretical models of why specific molecular systems evolved to have certain properties. And there are many opportunities to contribute to this interface of quantitative biology/biophysics from individuals of diverse scientific backgrounds/interests!

Best wishes for your exams and everything up ahead at MIT (and beyond)!

Take care,
Manraj

P.S. If you’re unable to attend any of the upcoming office hours or review sessions prior to the final but need help on reviewing material (perhaps from specific lectures you might've missed and/or from any of the problem sets/handouts/exams/practice exams), please let me know!

Announced on 10 December 2019  9:09  p.m. by Manraj Gill

**End of Semester Logistics**

Hi all,

Firstly, the average of this last exam was ~83 (official statistics will be posted imminently by the course instructors) so well done! Given that the final exam is cumulative, let me know (manraj@mit.edu) if you’d benefit from a review of this most recent material or would want to meet to address any concepts or sources of confusion.

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Here's an overview of some relevant logistics in the upcoming weeks:

- [12/10] Last Recitation: Handout questions pertinent to recent lectures on cholesterol/cancer and practice questions from some earlier course material.
- [12/12] My Office Hours (10-531 from 3pm–5pm)
- [12/13] Optional Final Exam Review (Instructor–Led, 34–101 from 10am–12pm)
- [12/14] Optional Final Exam Review (TA–Led, 10–250 from 2pm–4pm)
- [12/18] My Office Hours (10–531 from 3pm–5pm)
- [12/19] Final Exam (Johnson Track from 9am–12pm)

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That's all! Best wishes for your preparations and a reminder, as always, to seek help if you need/want it, especially during this time of the semester.

Thanks a bunch for a fun semester and hope you’ve garnered some appreciation for all the funky biological phenomena out there!

–Manraj

Announced on 08 December 2019  3:59  p.m. by Manraj Gill

**Re: Reminders**

Hi all,

A reminder regarding my extra office hours tonight (starting in 1–132 at 7pm) where we can continue review of the relevant material that we’ll start in this afternoon’s recitation; namely: addressing practice questions from the 2018 set, reviewing common sources of confusion, reviewing challenging questions from problem sets 6 and 7.

As always, reach out (manraj@mit.edu) if you need/want help and, most importantly, remember to take care of yourself!

Best wishes for 'morrow,

–Manraj

Announced on 05 December 2019  11:10  a.m. by Manraj Gill

**Reminders**

Hi all,

Hope you've had a fun break! Here's a fun video of a video of an immune system cell's Thanksgiving dinner:

[https://youtu.be/Z_mXDvZQ6dU](https://youtu.be/Z_mXDvZQ6dU)

This Friday's exam (Exam 4) will cover the following material corresponding to lectures 24–31:

- Cell structure / Protein localization
- Neurobiology
- Genomics
- Immunology

The content for this 4th unit of the class is comprehensively covered in The Secret of Life online textbook. And I'd additionally recommend the following materials as resources for your preparation:

- Notes from corresponding lectures
– Problem sets 6 and 7
– Practice questions from 2018's Exam 4
– Recitation handouts (handouts and solutions posted under 'Section Materials')

If you have questions/concerns regarding Problem Set 7 and/or any of the above material, drop by the following office hours this week:
– Monday (Today!) 7–8pm in 1–132
– Thursday 7–8pm in 1–132

Additionally, Thursday's recitation will serve as a review of this material which will be facilitated by going over some of the problems from 2018's Exam 4. And e-mail me (manraj@mit.edu) If you'd want to schedule a meeting to individually review this material.

Best wishes!
– Manraj

Announced on 02 December 2019 4:53 p.m. by Manraj Gill

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**Genetic Markers / Logistics**

Hi all,

I've written up a brief descriptor/overview of genetic markers/SNPs and how we can contextualize their inheritance when thinking about problems analogous to Question 4 of 'Recitation 22- Handout' (solutions posted under 'Recitation Handout- Solutions' section of recitation materials) and Question 1 of Problem Set 7. I'm posting the descriptor under 'Additional Study Material' section of recitation materials.

Additionally, a few logistics to keep in mind:
– Problem Set 7 (due 12/4, i.e. the Wednesday after the Thanksgiving break)
– Exam 4 (on 12/6, i.e. the Friday after the Thanksgiving break)

In light of these, I'll be holding the following office hours:
– Monday, 11/25, 7–8pm in 1–132
– Monday, 12/2, 7–8pm in 1–132
– Thursday, 12/5, 7–8pm in 1–132

So, if you have any questions or sources of concern on this most recent material (and/or any other topics), feel free to email me (manraj@mit.edu) to discuss/schedule a meeting and/or drop by the above office hours!

Best wishes!
– Manraj

Announced on 24 November 2019 8:51 p.m. by Manraj Gill

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