



# Welcome to Biochemistry 3LT3!

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## Contact information

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## Course description

Hello everyone and **welcome** to Biochemistry 3LT3!!!

We designed this course to provide an opportunity for you to experience both fundamental and advanced biochemistry technical skills. We divided the course into four thematic modules that depict key biomedical techniques routinely used in biomedical research. Throughout the course you will have an opportunity to explore thematic modules that focus on Bacterial-based Assays (such as growth curves), DNA-based Assays (such as Polymerase Chain reaction (PCR), quantitative (q)-PCR, restriction enzyme mapping of DNA, DNA minipreparations), Protein-based techniques (such as IgG antibody purification using the AKTA FPLC, Bradford assay, SDS-PAGE/Coomassie staining), and Mammalian Tissue Culture-based Assays (such as passaging cells, counting cells, RT-qPCR).

The following is a brief overview of the techniques covered in the course:

**Bacterial-based Assays (BA) module** – In this module we will explore a mix of fundamental laboratory techniques - like pipetting basics- and bacterial based techniques like bacterial transformations, growth curves, antibiotic dose response assays. We will also focus our discussion on how these techniques are applied to biomedical research. Included in this module is a discussion on cell-based high throughput screening techniques.

**DNA-based Assays (DA) module** - In this module we will explore DNA-based techniques often used in molecular cloning. These techniques include DNA minipreparations, restriction enzyme digestions, agarose gel electrophoresis, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), qPCR, etc. We will also focus our discussion on how these techniques are applied to biomedical research.

**Protein-based Assays (PA) module** - In this module we will explore Protein-based techniques like purifying antibodies (IgG) from rabbit serum using AKTA FPLC (Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography), Bradford assay, SDS-PAGE/Coomassie staining, etc. We will also focus our discussion on how these techniques are applied to biomedical research.

**Tissue culture-based Assays (TC) module** - In this module we will explore mammalian cell culture techniques like passaging cells and counting cells with a hemocytometer. We will also learn the following techniques: cell lysis (preserving mRNA), Reverse Transcription (RT) to generate complementary DNA (cDNA), quantitative (q)-PCR.



### **We developed this course structure with the hopes of:**

- Engaging you in advanced biochemistry techniques and their biomedical applications
- Providing an immersive lab environment conducive to collaboration, technical skill development, and knowledge translation
- Developing your technical communication skills

### **Materials & Fees**

- McMaster standard calculator, safety goggles (must be UV protective) and lab coat must be purchased by each student and brought to each lab. Lab consumables (timer, sharpies, etc.) will be provided for you in the lab.
- Lab notebook – required for all labs. The lab notebook can be purchased from the McMaster campus store. (lab notebook description: Blue Lab Book, 8 x 10 ¼, 200 pages, lab ruled with margins. This lab notebook is bound in a hardy, blue vinyl cover.) This is the only type of lab notebook accepted.

### **Safety training requirements**

Available online through the Mosaic portal. Instructions on how to proceed with these requirements will be posted on the 3LT3 A2L course, “course information” folder (all safety training is due Friday Jan 12 at 11:59 pm):

1. FHS Fire Safety (hospital locations, must be re-taken annually) - course code: FHSFSF
2. WHMIS training (Must be taken once every 5 years. If you already completed this within the last 5 years, you do not need to do it again) - course code: WHMS15
3. Biosafety core training is taken once (the BBS teaching labs are designated Risk Group 1) - course code: BSLTRA If you already took this course last year, you need to complete the biosafety update (BSUPD).

**Please note: No food or drink is allowed into the lab (includes empty food containers, wrappers, bottles, gum). No cell phones, tablets, laptops allowed in the lab.**



## General lab safety rules



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**Safety:** please ensure that when working in the lab you designate an area for your lab notebook, and you do NOT work over this area so as to avoid spillage on your books. If you do spill on your books, please let your TA know so they can help you clean up your books appropriately.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please be alert at all times while in the lab. Notify your TA/Felicia/Vivian immediately if you observe any unsafe practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No food or drink in the lab. This means that you may NOT bring food or drink into the lab and you may NOT throw out empty food/drink containers in the lab garbage.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No laptops/cell phones/etc. are allowed during the lab.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You cannot work alone in the laboratory (a TA/Felicia/Vivian must be present at all times).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will have a storage area for your book bags and jackets that is not in the actual wet-lab space. You must leave your pencil case, hats, etc. in this area.</li> <li>You may NOT eat or drink in this area. In addition, you cannot store any food or drink in this area. All water bottles/drinks and any food MUST be stored in your bag so that they are not visible to anyone standing in this area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please note, if you forget your lab coat or goggles you will be asked to purchase them from the bookstore prior to attending the labs. We do not provide you with lab coats or goggles.</li> <li>Dangling jewelry is a hazard in the laboratory and should be secured.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You need to carry your lab coat in a separate plastic bag. Please do NOT wear your lab coat outside the lab space. The hallway is NOT an appropriate place for you to put on your lab coat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may not eat or drink anything from the lab. You may not take anything home from the lab (test tubes, gels, reagents, Petri dishes, pipette, etc.) or bring any outside experiments into the lab.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please keep your hands away from your face, eyes, mouth, and body while using chemicals or lab equipment. Wash your hands with soap and water in the designated hand washing sink after performing all experiments and prior to leaving the lab.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please make sure that you do not walk around the lab and distract other students during the lab period. Please focus on your own work and on conducting the lab in a safe manner.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please make sure that you take notes during the lab safety walk through and you know the location of safety features in the lab. Please make sure that you know the proper procedures in case of emergencies. These will all be discussed during the labs and your safety training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Never return unused chemicals to their original container.</li> <li>All chemicals/biologicals in the laboratory are to be considered dangerous. Avoid handling chemicals without gloves. Always read the SDS prior to handling any chemicals/biologicals and follow the proper safe handling instructions. Do not taste or smell any chemicals/biologicals.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please maintain good housekeeping practices. Work areas should be kept clean and tidy at all times. Any area in the lab left untidy will result in a mark of zero on the day's participation sheet for the students (individual, pairs or entire team). This includes communal lab areas, like weigh scales and fume hoods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report any accident (spill, breakage, etc.), injury (cut, burn, etc.) or broken equipment to your TA immediately. <u>Do not panic.</u> If you or your lab partner is hurt, immediately (and loudly) yell out your TA's name to get their attention. Do not panic.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of all chemical waste properly. Never mix chemicals in sink drains. Check with your TA for disposal of chemicals and solutions. Never dump any chemicals down the hand washing sink.</li> <li>Please do not touch any of the equipment without proper training and supervision by your TA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform only those experiments authorized by your TA. Carefully follow all instructions, both written and oral. Unauthorized experiments are not allowed. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask your lab TA before proceeding with the activity.</li> </ul>

## Course Schedule

*This schedule is based upon current university and public health guidelines and may be subject to changes during the term. Any changes to the schedule or course delivery will be communicated on the course announcements section on Avenue to Learn. Please check the announcements prior to attending class.*

week	Monday class 1:30-3:20 PM in LS B130E		Tuesday lab 1:30 – 4:20 PM in HSC 1H1-8	
1	Jan 8	Welcome to 3LT3 – course overview	Jan 9	<b>Bacterial-based Assays (BA) module lab week 1</b> – pipetting basics
2	Jan 15	BA module - overview	Jan 16	<b>BA - module lab week 2</b> – see BA module manual for a description of the lab day.
3	Jan 22	BA module – growth curve discussion	Jan 23	<b>BA – module lab week 3</b> – see BA module manual for a description of the lab day.
4	Jan 29	BA module – experimental design worksheet	Jan 30	<b>BA - module lab week 4</b> – see BA module manual for a description of the lab day.
5	Feb 5	DA module overview	Feb 6	<b>BA - module lab week 5</b> – see BA module manual for a description of the lab day.
6	Feb 12	BA-module Test	Feb 13	<b>DNA-based Assays (DA) module lab week 1</b> – see DA module manual for a description of the lab day.
	Feb 19	Midterm recess	Feb 20	Midterm recess
7	Feb 26	DA module – PCR and qPCR discussion	Feb 27	<b>DA - module lab week 2</b> – see DA module manual for a description of the lab day.
8	Mar 4	PA module - overview	Mar 5	<b>Protein-based Assays (PA) module lab week 1</b> – see PA module manual for a description of the lab day.
9	Mar 11	TC module - overview	Mar 12	<b>PA – module lab week 2</b> – see PA module manual for a description of the lab day.
10	Mar 18	DA and PA modules - Test	Mar 19	<b>Mammalian Tissue culture-based Assays (TC) module lab week 1</b> – see PA module manual for a description of the lab day.
11	Mar 25	TC module – cell lysis and RT qPCR	Mar 26	<b>TC - module lab week 2</b> – see PA module manual for a description of the lab day.
12	Apr 1	3LT3 wrap-up lecture	Apr 2	<b>TC-module collaborative assignment</b>
13	Apr 8	No class	Apr 9	No lab



## Course Assessment

Assessment Type	Percent (%)
Lab preparedness and participation (this mark includes weekly lab notebooks and lab attendance and preparedness)	10
Bacterial-based Assays (BA) Module -Test	25
DNA-based (DA) and Protein-based (PA) Assays Modules -Test	25
Bacterial-based Assays Module - Data Analysis Report	15
DNA-based and Protein-based Assays Modules - Data Analysis Report	15
Tissue Culture-based Assays (TC) Module – Collaborative Assessment	5
Lab pair worksheets	5

## Assessment due dates

Assessment Type	Due date
Lab preparedness and participation (individual assessment)	throughout the course
BA module lab pair worksheet 1 (lab pair assessment)	Mon Jan 29, end of class time
BA module lab pair worksheet 2 (lab pair assessment)	Tues Feb 6, end of lab time
BA module test	Mon Feb 12, end of class time
BA module data analysis report (individual assessment)	Mon Feb 26, 11:59 pm
DA and PA modules – Test (individual assessment)	Mon Mar 18
DA and PA modules data analysis report (individual assessment)	Mon Apr 1, 11:59 pm
TC module collaborative assessment (lab pair assessment)	Tues Apr 2, end of lab time



## Lab notebook requirements

A well-maintained laboratory notebook is vital to your success in this course. You are required to keep an up-to-date lab notebook as part of this course. This component will be checked on a regular basis by your lab TA. This is part of your lab participation mark.

Your lab notebook serves two important purposes. In the first place, it helps ensure that you are prepared for the week's experiments and have familiarized yourself with the appropriate protocols. Second, your lab notebook helps keep track of your work and stands as a record of your activities in the lab. It will help you stay organized and assist you as you prepare your lab reports! The more details you include in your lab notebook-the better. Even small changes, modifications, or observations can make a BIG difference to the outcome of an experiment. The lab notebook will also help us, as instructors, follow your progress over the semester. The contents of the notebook should be brief and concise, yet descriptive. It should be written in enough detail that another person with no knowledge of your experiment could reconstruct your study and reproduce your results. Maintaining an effective notebook will also facilitate the future writing of a good quality lab report or scientific research paper, or act as a starting point for future experiments.

One lab entry should encompass the entire week and needs to include the following sections. Your TA will check the lab notebook entry at the beginning of each lab.

**Purpose:** Concise but informative. You should include information on what your team is working on at the same time. You cannot work in isolation:

- ✓ Why are we doing this experiment?
- ✓ What came before that led us to this line of questioning?
- ✓ What might the expected results be?
- ✓ What will the next logical steps be?

**Safety and Reagents:** Always have the following "Wear lab coat, gloves, and goggles." Review all reagents you are using and list them in a concise table. If dangerous briefly describe why and proper handling procedures. Here's an example for acrylamide:

Acrylamide: Neurotoxin, carcinogen. Avoid skin exposure and inhalation. Use in fume hood, wear gloves, lab coat, goggles. See SDS (reference, APS citation style).

Nice and simple. Do not write an essay but make sure you understand the safety considerations of each lab (this includes the reagents your team members are working on, since you will be working in the same space).

**Protocols/Procedures:** Please write down all step-by-step protocols required for the day. Record all changes to the protocol.



**Observations/data/results/discussion:** Please write out all observations/results.

Each week the lab notebook will be checked by your lab TA at the beginning of the lab. This is part of the lab preparedness and participation mark. The marking scheme is as follows:

<b>Lab preparedness (/3)</b>		
Please assign mark (/3) based on the following criteria:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has proper personal protective equipment (i.e. goggles, lab coat) and has brought the lab notebook, a pen/pencil, and a calculator to the lab.</li> <li>Has completed the lab notebook entry. If the lab notebook entry has not been attempted for the day's lab (or the lab notebook was not brought to the lab), please assign a mark of zero for the entire day's participation (0/7).</li> </ul>		
Assign a mark of 1/3 if the student: has not completed more than 50% of the criteria specified for this section.	Assign a mark of 2/3 if the student: has completed almost all of the criteria specified for this section.	Assign a mark of 3/3 if the student: has completed all the criteria specified above.
<b>Lab work (/3)</b>		
Please assign mark (/3) based on the following criteria:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using equipment properly and safely</li> <li>Following the protocol properly and listening to instructions (and keeping proper observations in the lab notebook)</li> <li>Actively participating in lab work</li> <li>Maintaining a clean work environment</li> <li>Understanding and following lab safety rules</li> </ul>		
Assign a mark of 1/3 if the student: does not follow more than 50% of the criteria stated above.	Assign a mark of 2/3 if the student: follows most, but not all, of the criteria stated above.	Assign a mark of 3/3 if the student: follows all of the criteria stated above.
<b>Lab progress (/1)</b>		
Please assign mark (/1) based on the following criterion:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student shows progress with respect to understanding and performing lab work based on feedback received</li> </ul>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(/7 possible marks)</b>	





## Course policies

### Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): Lab times are mandatory. In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Even with submission of an MSAF, a minimum of 9 lab weeks must be attended (i.e., attendance to lab and completion of all assessments) to be considered for completion of this course.

### MSAF Course Specific Information

- ✓ The lab times are extremely important for this course and so they are mandatory. However, if the lab time must be missed due to unforeseen circumstances (such as illness), proper documentation (such as an MSAF) must be provided. Once proper documentation is provided, we will accommodate the missed lab on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, you must complete all requirements of the missed assessment component.
- ✓ Missed assessment components also require supporting documentation. We will tackle these on a case-by-case basis, but we typically ask that you complete the assessment at a later time.
- ✓ Try not to be late when handing in your assignments. Late penalties are usually 10%/day unless otherwise specified.

### Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (Riso)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

### Courses with An On-Line Element

**Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other



students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **Online Proctoring**

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

### **Academic Integrity**

The [Academic Integrity Policy](#) states that students are responsible for being aware of and demonstrating behaviour that is honest and ethical in their academic work. Breaching academic ethics is ultimately destructive to the values of the University; it is, furthermore, unfair and discouraging to those students who pursue their studies with integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. It can result in serious consequences such as a grade of zero, loss of credit or even expulsion from the university.

**The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:**

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in teamwork.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**Generative AI:** Students are not permitted to use generative AI in this course. In alignment with McMaster academic integrity policy, it "shall be an offence knowingly to ... submit academic work for assessment that was purchased or acquired from another source". This includes work created by generative AI tools. Also stated in the policy is the following, "Contract Cheating is the act of "outsourcing of student work to third parties" (Lancaster & Clarke, 2016, p. 639) with or without payment." Using Generative AI tools is a form of contract cheating. Charges of academic dishonesty will be brought forward to the Office of Academic Integrity.

### **Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection**

**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.



Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to the [McMaster Office of Academic Integrity's](#) webpage.

### **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities \(the "Code"\)](#). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

### **Copyright and Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.