

Teaching Plan for GENE 315 (Molecular Genetics)

Instructor: Ian Ray

Semester: Fall 2020

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

GENE 315 (Molecular Genetics): Covers fundamental principles of DNA structure and replication, transcription, translation, gene regulation, recombinant DNA technology, and a survey of genomics and bioinformatics.

DELIVERY METHOD TO ENSURE SAFETY

GENE 315 is a three-credit course that meets twice per week for lecture (T/TH 0900-1015 am). This course does not have a laboratory. We typically have 15 to 20 students in the class. I intend to teach the course with a similar content as in prior semesters. The lectures were originally scheduled to meet in Skeen Hall W139. However, the following exceptions will be made for the implementation of safety practices to help prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the instructional environment.

1. Lectures. Lecture activities and lecture exams will be planned for online dissemination using Zoom or Adobe Connect via Canvas. That is, we will NOT meet in person in Skeen W139. This practice will eliminate student presence in the building and its vicinity during our lecture times.
2. Labs. This course does not have a lab.
3. Contact tracing: I will maintain email and telephone information of all students and will keep daily attendance. This class will only meet online to prevent physical contact among students. However, given the possibility that students enrolled in this course might become ill through various other types of contact, I will ask that they immediately notify me if they suspect they are ill (fever in excess of 100.4 degrees F, cough, or shortness of breath), or if they are notified that they may have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Once I learn that a student may have a virus, or has been tested as presumptively positive, I will remind them of their responsibility to isolate themselves so that they do not transmit their illness. I will also ask the student to make up a list of anyone they may have come in contact with, and to notify those individuals immediately. I will remind the affected student that they, and any potentially affected individuals on their contact list, should immediately call their physician, their Department of Health COVID Hotline for the state in which they are residing during fall semester, or the NMSU student health center and, if not already done so, will arrange for a test. In extreme cases, they will call 911. I will remind the affected student that they should remain isolated until they have been tested and notified that test results were negative. If the test is positive, they must self-quarantine for 14 days. I will subsequently notify Dr. Rolston St. Hilaire (Department Head) if a student is ill and if positive test results are obtained. I will also work with any affected students to assist them with successfully completing the course. For more information on contact tracing, go to <https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200504/what-is-contact-tracing-and-how-does-it-work#1>