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BIOC 495.01: RNA Structure and Function

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Lodmell, J. Stephen, "BIOC 495.01: RNA Structure and Function" (2003). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 1179.

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BIOC495– Spring 2003 – RNA structure and function

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Lodmell

Office: SC202 Phone: 243-6393

Meeting time: Fridays, 3:30-5:00 /arrange as necessary to fit student schedules

Meeting place: SC229 (or arrange)

This class is designed to give students an opportunity to present both primary research and research materials from the current literature concerning the structure, function, and biochemistry of RNA and ribonucleoprotein complexes. Specific topics will include, but are not limited to, structure of retroviral genomic RNAs and components of the translational apparatus, including ribosomes and associated protein and RNA factors.

The format of the class is as follows: Each hour and one half class period will be devoted to an individual presentation with group discussion of either original research or a review of a paper from the current literature. Each student will present twice during the semester.

When a student is presenting his/her original research, we will discuss results, problems, interpretations, and future directions of this research in an open forum format. Broad student participation in these discussions is essential.

When the presentation is centered around a current research article, the student will provide each member of the class with a copy of the paper he/she will present several days in advance so that all class members will be familiar with the material for the presentation. The presentation is designed to be a critique of the paper, and the presenter should offer his/her view about experimental design, results, and interpretations. Papers may be on any topic, as long as it is related to RNA, retroviruses, or translation.

Grading/assessment: This is a one credit course. Grading is on a Pass/ No credit basis. Students will be evaluated on the the quality of their presentations as well as their participation in discussions during class. Students are expected to have prepared for the class by reading the chosen literature article(s) prior to class time to promote informed discussion on the research at hand. Consistent failure to adequately prepare for presentations or discussions will result in a grade of NC.