

BSc 516W – Medical Microbiology

Syllabus (Summer I, 2026)

Instructor: DongWon Choi, PhD

Office: NHS 326

Phone: 903-886-5221

Fax: 903-886-5988

Email: dongwon.choi@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: Email anytime (no immediate responses guaranteed)

June 1 – July 2

Web based class

University Statements

Academic integrity: As members of East Texas A&M University academic community, we all are responsible to underpin the principles of academic integrity expressed by this community. We are expected to watch these principles to be kept and appreciated by others.

- The first instance of cheating will result in an automatic Zero on the exam. A second instance will result in Zero course grade (automatic F).

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying another's test, assignment, or lecture slides
 - Communication with another during an exam (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
 - Giving or seeking aid from another
 - Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
 - Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key
- Plagiarism is a serious academic criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information with properly accredited. Copying material, whether parts or whole, will result in Zero for your term paper and can incur in further University disciplinary consequences.

Nondiscrimination Notice: Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal

Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus

document and/or consult your event organizer;

found at

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Accommodations: The American with Disability Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other aspects, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have disability requiring accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources or Services

East Texas A&M University

Gee Library, Room 162

Tel) 903-886-5150, 903-886-5835

Fax) 903-468-8148

Email) StudentDisabilityService@tamuc.edu

Access to student work: Copies of your work in this course including copies of any submitted papers and your portfolios may be kept on file storage for institutional research, assessment, and accreditation purposes. All work used for these purposes will remain anonymous.

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Course Description

BSc 516, Medical Microbiology, is a course for biology graduate students designed to provide principles of pathogenic microorganisms and infection to help student

developing means of analyzing the nature of infectious. Specific topics covered during this class include pathogenic microorganisms, diagnostic procedures, infection controls & treatment, and emerging diseases. This course will focus on the principles of pathogenic mechanisms of microorganisms aided with corresponding exemplary cases of diseases, in order to foster critical thinking and problem solving techniques applicable for their future research.

Prerequisite:

BSc 306, Applied Microbiology or Equivalent.

Textbook:

Kenneth J. Ryan and others. 2010. Sherris Medical Microbiology. 5th edition. McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-163854-7

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to;

1. Explain the nature of infection with regard to host-pathogen interactions.
2. Distinguish pathogenic and non-pathogenic microorganisms.
3. Identify different morphologies of pathogenic microorganisms and determine corresponding, efficient treatments.
4. Explain principles of disease control.
5. Explain how disease control is tightly linked to the growth control of microorganisms.
6. Explain the importance of the growing incidence of antimicrobial resistance and seek possible solutions to control antimicrobial resistance.

On-line Class Policy

This is a “web-based” course - you don’t actually attend lecture classes. Instead, all class activities will be held in D2L enters through MyLeo page. Check the website frequently (daily!!!) for announcements, instructions, and discussions. Try navigating the site early so you know that you can access everything. If you have difficulties with any material, talk to me immediately.

It is VERY important to keep up with the material (if you fall behind, there isn’t much time to catch up!!!)

- Students should check lecture material, assignments, and tests on regular basis. It is strongly recommended that you schedule your specific work time that works best for you. Don’t forget that the websites is active 24/7.
- The material for this class will be organized around content blocks. Students are expected to read the assigned textbook material and lecture notes and comply with given due dates for the assignments

Exams access will be available only during the pre-announced period of time. After this given period, you will not be able to have an access to that exam.

Academic Honesty

Students who violate Texas A&M University - Commerce rules of scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) receiving a failing grade on the assignment/assessment and/or test, the possibility of failure in the course, and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. In all instances, incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Graduate School. Please be aware that academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating is defined as:

- Copying lecture materials while taking tests/exams
- Copying another's test or assignment
- Communication with another during a test or assignment (i.e. written, oral or otherwise)
- Giving or seeking aid from another when not permitted by the instructor
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Plagiarism is a criminal activity and defined as:

- Using someone else's work in your assignment without appropriate acknowledgement
- Making slight variations in the language and then failing to give credit to the source. Students must cite all sources of information. The copying of material whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a grade of zero and can result in further disciplinary action.

Collusion is defined as:

- Collaborating with another, without authorization, when preparing assignments and taking exams/tests.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution.

Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
 - For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
 - The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.
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- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

 - You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.

 - Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)

 - Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\)](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.

System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Getting Started

Be sure to explore the class site at D2L. Use the first couple of days to become familiar with the class site. Remember that this is a GRADUATE level course, and therefore you will be expected to show appropriate levels of effort. You will be expected to take part in discussions in a mature and in-depth manner, to write in a clear and professional voice and you should not need excessive amount of instructor’s hand-holding.

Grading Policy

Term paper (see details on next page)	= 150 points
○ Topic selection & paper outline (50 pts)	
○ Completed term paper (100 pts)	
3 lecture exams (100 pts. each)	= 300 points
5 quizzes	= 50 points
Total	500 points

Grading Scale

The final course grade will be assigned based on the following break-down;

90 - 100%	= A
80 - 89%	= B
70 - 79%	= C
60 - 69%	= D

59% and below = F

Teaching Methodology

Web-based Course It is VERY important to keep up with the material (if you fall behind, there isn't much time to catch up!!!). Students are strongly encouraged to print lecture slides and use them as study guide. Periodically check (daily!!) course homepage as well as your email for course announcements.

Term paper Write a review paper on one of below pathogenic microbiology topics. Topic selection and paper outline is due by **June 6**, and the paper is due by **June 27**. Both the outline and term paper need to be prepared in MS word (.doc or .docx) and uploaded to the corresponding "dropbox". Misplaced assignments will not be graded.

Skin and Wound infections (chapt. 57)

Bone and Joint infections (chapt. 58)

Eye, Ear, and Sinus infections (chapt. 59)

Dental and Periodontal infections (chapt. 60)

Respiratory infections (chapt. 61)

Enteric infections (chapt. 62)

Urinary tract infections (chapt. 63)

Genital infections (chapt. 64)

Central nervous system infections (chapt. 65)

- **Contents of the paper:** Summarize the textbook chapter corresponding your chosen topic; the summary should include i) the nature of specific infections, ii) causative agents and their mechanisms of pathogenesis, iii) diagnosis, iv) treatment & prevention, and v) summary of one exemplary case study. For item v), case studies, you have to find a scientific, peer-reviewed case study report (Pubmed is the most famous search engine you can use). The length of the paper is minimum 8 pages of double spaced text (font size no bigger than 11). You can provide figures. Write with your classmates as the targeted readers.
- **Sources and their use:** In recent years there has been a tendency to rely more heavily on web pages as sources. Students are warned that plagiarizing any source is a serious violation of academic standards—credit and use your sources properly. A definition of plagiarism can be found in the section of University Statement. ****Note:** I allow the use of some figures downloaded from the web, but you should cite the reference or give the website. Figure legends should be your own with succinct and clear information.
- **Style:** Papers will be judged on their organization and the clarity of writing. Papers that have numerous misspellings or grammatical errors will be rated poorly and this rating will seriously impact the grade. Proofread carefully. Use spelling checkers. Have others read the paper both for clarity and content. The paper should follow a review paper writing style with citation systems of either Citation-Sequence or Name-Year.
- **Paper outline:** You have to provide **1- page outline** of your term paper along with minimum one reference (full-text scientific research paper you are going to use for the item v) in PDF format covering your term paper topic (**Due: June 6**). Your paper outline assignment comprises 20% of your term paper gradepoint (i.e. 10 points out of 50 points).

Exams There will be 3 weekly exams starting from 2nd week. The exams will consist of multiple choices and short answer & short essay questions. Considerable portion of EXAM questions will be drawn from the same test pool as quiz pool. Thus, make sure to study materials covered by quiz-pool first.

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- Giving or seeking aid from another
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during the test
- Buying, using, stealing, transporting, or soliciting a test, draft of a test, or answer key

Quizzes There will be 5 quizzes given during the semester. A typical quiz comprises seven 1-point questions. You will get 3 points by simply taking the quiz.

Makeup The student is responsible for requesting a makeup when they are unable to take the regularly scheduled exams. The request should be made within 3 days of the absence. Makeup exams will be scheduled only in the event of EXCUSED absence (as defined in the Student's Guidebook). If the test is not made-up, the student will receive Zero for that exam. No make-ups for quizzes. Excused absences include;

- Verified illness (with Doctor's note)
- Death in a student's immediate family
- Obligation of student at a legal proceedings in fulfilling responsibility as a citizen
- Elective TAMUC activities (with the activity director's note)

Class Schedule

Week 1 (June 1)

Introduction – read your course syllabus, navigate through D2L course shell

The nature of infection

- Infection vs. disease
- Host Immune response
- Growth control of pathogens

Topic Selection & Paper outline (June 6)

Week 2 (June 8)

Pathogenic bacteria – Gram (+) Cocci and Bacilli; Mycobacterium

- Infectious diseases and Bacterial pathogenesis
- Antibacterial agents and resistance
- Pathogenic bacteria
- **Exam I (Friday)**

Week 3 (June 15)

Pathogenic bacteria – Anaerobic bacteria; Enterobacteria; Neisseria & Chlamydia

- Infectious diseases and Bacterial pathogenesis
- Antibacterial agents and resistance
- Pathogenic bacteria
- **Exam II (Friday)**

Week 4 (June 22)

Term paper due (Saturday)

Pathogenic bacteria – Spirochetes; Rickettsia; Vibrio, Campylobacter, Helicobacter

- Infectious diseases and Bacterial pathogenesis
- Antibacterial agents and resistance
- Pathogenic bacteria

Week 5 (June 29; Class ends at July 1)

Exam III (Monday)

All dates and assignments are tentative and subject to change.