

## **Biological Physics for Engineers**

EML 6934 Section 21047

**Class Periods:** MWF 9:35 am – 10:25 am

**Location:** Zoom via Canvas (<http://ufl.instructure.com>)

**Academic Term:** Spring 2021

### **Professor:**

Assistant Professor: Xin Tang, Ph. D.; [xin.tang@ufl.edu](mailto:xin.tang@ufl.edu)

Office Phone Number: 352-294-1194

Office Hours: MWF 10:25 am – 11:00 am, Zoom via Canvas

### **Teaching Assistant/Peer Mentor/Supervised Teaching Student:**

NA

### **Course Description**

Course catalogue, "Frontiers in biological physics, including molecular and cell biology, mechanobiology, optical imaging, statistical analysis and physics, intermolecular and cellular forces, and thermodynamics in biology." (Credits 3)

### **Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites**

Elementary Differential Equations, Linear Algebra, or equivalent

### **Course Objectives**

Emerging physical concepts and innovative tools have transformed the way many biological problems are addressed. This interdisciplinary course will explore the physics and mechanics underpinning of life processes, such as the interactions of molecules, macromolecular structures and cells in warm, wet, squishy environments. Statistical analyses and numerical simulations of important biological processes will be covered throughout the course. We aim to foster the next generation of leading engineers and scientists to approach scientific inquiry in a way that crosses conventional academic disciplines.

### **Required Textbooks and Software**

Various handout materials will be provided digitally by professor. MATLAB programming is needed to complete homework and projects. Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are needed to complete proposal/reports and capstone presentation.

### **Recommended Materials**

These books are not required to purchase. Relevant chapters and articles will be provided by professor.

- Phillips, Kondev, Theriot, Physical Biology of the Cell, Garland Science, 2009.
- Ken Dill, Molecular driving forces: statistical thermodynamics in biology, chemistry, physics, and nanoscience, Garland Science, 2003.
- Philip Nelson, From Photon to Neuron: Light, Imaging, Vision, Princeton University Press, 2017.

### **Course Schedule (the content may adjust slightly according to students' preferences)**

Week 1: Introduction. Role of physics (and physicist) in biology. Examples of biological problems amenable to physical solution

Week 2: Basis of molecular and cell biology

- Week 3: Basis of molecular and cell biology
- Week 4: Statistics of Brownian Motion. Statistical distributions in biology
- Week 5: Diffusion equation and its solutions. Diffusion in a potential
- Week 6: First passage problems and implication in biology, such as cancer. Diffusion-limited reaction rates.
- Week 7: Applications of Brownian motion: Chemotaxis in *E. coli*; limits on size of organisms; tumor growth
- Week 8: Correlation function and power spectra. Fluorescence correlation spectroscopy (FCS)
- Week 9: Optical imaging; Fluorescence microscopy
- Week 10: Super-resolution and two-photon fluorescent microscopy
- Week 11: Ion channels and pumps. Electrogenic transporters
- Week 12: Membrane potential and Nernst equation
- Week 13: Intermolecular forces, Coulomb, van der Waals, Keesom
- Week 14: Continuum mechanics of rods, cytoskeleton, and membrane. Bending, twisting, buckling.
- Week 15: Future challenges and opportunities in biophysics; Capstone presentation by students

### ***Online Course Recording***

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### ***Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy***

- It is expected that students attend class.
- Required statement by the University of Florida: Excused absences must be in compliance with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation.
- The student is responsible for their education. The professor is the guide to their understanding of the field.
- In class students (does not apply to online students) - Cell phones, laptops, etc.: Under no circumstances will devices be used in the classroom. Students are expected to take handwritten notes.
- Late submission of class material is not accepted. If a tragedy has occurred then instructor notifications are required. See <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications> for details. Note that, "Professors have the right to accept or reject the notification."

### ***Evaluation of Grades***

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Percentage of Final Grade</b>
Homework Sets (5)	100 each	20%
Quizzes (5)	100 each	10%
Midterm Exam (2)	100 each	30%
Final Projects	100	30%
Proposal / Reports	100	10%
		100%

## ***Grading Policy***

The following is given as an example only.

<b>Percent</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Points</b>
90.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
87.0 - 89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 - 86.9	B+	3.33
81.0 - 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 - 80.9	B-	2.67
75.0 - 79.9	C+	2.33
72.0 - 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 - 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 - 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 - 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.9	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

## ***Students Requiring Accommodations***

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## ***Course Evaluation***

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## ***University Honesty Policy***

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### ***Policy on Ethics and Cheating***

Any kind of cheating, lying, dishonesty, or honor code violations results in a failing grade of the entire course.

### ***Commitment to a Safe and Inclusive Learning Environment***

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering values broad diversity within our community and is committed to individual and group empowerment, inclusion, and the elimination of discrimination. It is expected that every person in this class will treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture.

If you feel like your performance in class is being impacted by discrimination or harassment of any kind, please contact your instructor or any of the following:

- Your academic advisor or Graduate Program Coordinator
- Robin Bielling, Director of Human Resources, 352-392-0903, [rbielling@eng.ufl.edu](mailto:rbielling@eng.ufl.edu)
- Curtis Taylor, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, 352-392-2177, [taylor@eng.ufl.edu](mailto:taylor@eng.ufl.edu)
- Toshikazu Nishida, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, 352-392-0943, [nishida@eng.ufl.edu](mailto:nishida@eng.ufl.edu)

### ***Software Use***

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

### ***Student Privacy***

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <https://registrar.ufl.edu/ferpa.html>

## **Campus Resources:**

### Health and Wellness

#### **U Matter, We Care:**

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

#### **Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, Assault, or Violence**

If you or a friend has been subjected to sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, or violence contact the **Office of Title IX Compliance**, located at Yon Hall Room 427, 1908 Stadium Road, (352) 273-1094, [title-ix@ufl.edu](mailto:title-ix@ufl.edu)

#### **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

### Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu).  
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.  
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.  
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

**Student Complaints Campus:** <https://care.dso.ufl.edu>.

**On-Line Students Complaints:** <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.