

Welcome to the Third Exam!

BNFO 300: Molecular Biology Through Discovery

The primary purpose of this exam is to serve as an educational tool. With this in mind, do not be surprised if some of the problems go beyond your present abilities and try to connect things you may not yet have connected. Still, almost all of the elements have been drawn from the problem sets and study questions. If you ask yourself, “*Have I seen something like this before?*” the answer is generally yes. Answer what you can and go as far as you can (and further) with the rest.

Don't allow yourself to get stuck! There are always ways of getting through or around a problem. It exists. Find it. If you find yourself going in circles, stop and ask for directions.

RULES OF THE GAME

- **The Prime Directive:**

Be honest! Speak in your own voice. No quotes, no paraphrases. Say what you've found to be true. Qualify what you do not know to be true.

Be transparent! Explain how you have come to your decisions. No assertions without thought processes and sources.

- **Available resources:** This is an open book exam. It is an open notes exam. It is an open web exam. Most important, it is an open brain exam.
- **Unavailable resources:** ...but not an open people exam. If you disagree with my admonition, at least show your conviction by listing those with whom you had contact and why.
- **Major exception - Consultations:** Cove, Shahzeb, and I *are* open resources for this exam. We would be delighted to consult with you any time you feel the need. In fact, you and I have a scheduled time to meet – that's part of the exam.
- **Ask questions that help me answer them:** If you say “*I don't know what is going on*” I may respond “*I'm sorry to hear that.*” Instead, describe the problem you've encountered, the steps you have taken to overcome it, and what you feel you need to make further progress.
- **How to consult:** E-mail, telephone, walk-in... all work, within the limits of my schedule. To the contact information on the web (click on *Who we are*), add the home phone 285-2447, open for business until 10:30 PM, every day including weekends. I'm often at VCU on weekends during the day.
- **Where to find the exam and related files referred to in the exam:** In your e-mailbox.
- **When to submit:** Your responses are to be submitted in two parts:
 - Part 1: By the end of **Saturday, December 1**, you will respond to an on-line survey that asks for each question what, if anything, prevents you from answering the question – e.g., what factual information you think you are lacking. I will respond to each stated need as soon as I can.
 - Part 2: By **7:00 AM, Thursday, December 6**, not later, all your responses to the questions must be submitted Why then? (1) You will have had ~160 hours to work on the exam (2) We need to move on. (3) We will be rehashing the exam in class. (4) It is a kindness to have closure to projects that could otherwise go on forever.
- **What to submit:**
 - One or more files generated by a word-processor – no scanned text. Figures may be scanned and embedded into the word-processor document. Additional files OK.
 - For all files you submit, ***be sure the filename begins with your last name*** (so I don't get a mailbox full of files named “Exam.doc”). ***Any file sub-mitted whose file name does not begin with the last name of the submitter will have its spirit extracted and placed inside a doll, which I will then stick pins in.***