

Content Summary Assignments

I. Assignment overview. These assignments are rooted in the understanding that cognitive rehearsal of material one is trying to learn increases the retention of that material. Studying material in preparation for an exam is a common way to experience cognitive rehearsal. Because there are no exams as part of this course, these assignments aim to reinforce the rehearsal, and therefore the retention, of course material. In addition, these assignments aim to deepen your understanding and develop your ability to discriminate fundamentals of complex material. To achieve these goals, I am asking you to articulate (write) a clear summary of the material covered by recommended readings (texts, handouts, literature reviews and papers) and class time for four of the six topical units of the class.

II. Learning Objectives.

- Deepen understanding and promote retention of new subjects in protein biochemistry
- Develop the ability to communicate a clear and meaningful (written) summary of a complex subject

III. Directions.

You are to provide a summary for four of the six units of material we will be covering in this class. Specifically, you must provide a summary for the Protein Synthesis and Interactions units, one for either Localization or Features, and one for either Antibodies or Degradation. To prepare a unit summary, assess the material covered through readings and class time to determine where review is needed. Spend time reviewing the material necessary to prepare for writing the summary (see note about group work below). Review the evaluation criteria (below) for the assignment. It would be my recommendation to prepare for writing by formulating an outline of your summary that reflects the most important material and the fundamental concepts from the unit. With this outline in hand (or on the computer screen), first write a draft summary of the topical unit material (without being overly concerned about page length). Consider writing as if you want to produce a high quality summary of the unit material that you could use to review the subject for a course in your first year of graduate or medical school. **Be sure to cite sources** as appropriate in your review of the material **and include a bibliography**. Once you have achieved coverage of the significant material, you will want to edit your draft for clarity and length. **Page length limits are one page, single-spaced, for each day that is scheduled for the topical unit (one inch margins all sides for text body, excluding headers, etc., and font of at least 12 point)**. Clarity often comes with brevity, so you are by no means required to achieve the page length maximums. Turn in a cleanly printed copy on the due date (duplex is fine).

IV. Assessment.

Point Value and Due Dates for Content Summaries by Topical Unit

Protein Synthesis	48 pts	Mar. 14
Localization	22 pts	Mar. 24
Features (of proteins)	22 pts	Apr. 14
Interactions	48 pts	May 6
Antibodies	22 pts	May 23
Degradation	22 pts	May 23
Total	140 pts	

The criteria for evaluating the content summaries stem directly from the learning objectives of the assignment. The first learning objective is implicit to the assignment and will be evaluated in large part by how your understanding is reflected in the written summary (retention will not be explicitly evaluated). In addition, the summaries will be evaluated principally by the following.

Coverage (65%) - The summary should review, directly and evenly, the material (much as a literature review covers the literature) for the topical unit. It should not be a description of what material was covered nor should be it noticeably spotty in its coverage.

Fundamental (20%) - The summary should reflect the most important material and the fundamental concepts of the topical unit. This necessarily includes some, but not all, detail and will require some discrimination by the writer.

Clarity (15%) - The summary should be clear, which means logically consistent, reasonably well organized and well written (i.e. complete sentences, grammar, spelling, etc.).

Notes:

As with studying for exams, it can be effective to study or 'rehearse' material with others. You may do so for this assignment. It is my expectation that all writing for the summary will be done individually, and that the work you submit will be solely your own. The class policy for plagiarism applies (see syllabus). **This includes using a bibliography to properly cite source material when appropriate.**

This assignment is still somewhat new, so please see me about concerns. I am willing to make reasonable alterations to more effectively achieve the objectives of the course and/or the assignment.