Learning Goals
Biochemistry illuminates the molecular details of living things. This semester, you will:

1. Acquire and effectively use the language of biochemistry.
2. Characterize the chemical, physical, and biological basis of reactions and interactions that take place in living things.
3. Evaluate the relationship between molecular structure and function.
4. Analyze and calculate thermodynamic and kinetic parameters of biological systems.
5. Describe, predict, and construct biochemical transformations with chemical detail.

You will show your learning through formative and summative assessments:

Practice: 72 points
You will practice biochemistry skills in a Weekly Practice Exercise that includes reflection and problem solving questions. You will electronically submit each Practice Exercise by **Monday at 12:01 am** each non-exam week (see schedule on Latte). Each of these assignments is worth 8 pts; your best 9 assignments will be counted toward your final grade. **No** late submissions will be accepted.

Fundamentals Quiz: 18 points
In the first few classes, we will review key concepts and skills from general and organic chemistry. During recitation on September 13, you will show your knowledge of these topics on a quiz.

Interview: 10 points
You will show your understanding of biochemistry in two interviews with Professor Westover. You will sign up for an interview time and come prepared to discuss specific biochemistry questions. You will be assigned a group for the first interview.

Exams: 300 points
You will show your biochemical understanding on four 100-point exams; your lowest exam score will be dropped from your final grade. All exams will be comprehensive and require extensive problem solving. Exams will be given on Thursdays October 4,
November 1, and December 6 during the recitation period (6:30-7:50 pm). Make-up exams will only be given for University-sanctioned events. The final exam is currently scheduled for Thursday, December 20, 9:15 am - 12:15 pm. *Do not make travel arrangements that interfere with this exam.*

Grades: Your BCHM100 grade signifies your preparation for further classes in the major. I assign letter grades based on the percentage of total points you earn (9 best Practice Exercises, Interviews, and 3 best Exams) using a standard scale: A: >93%, A-: 93-90, etc. No extra credit will be given.

Expectations
As per University policy, success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (e.g., readings, practice exercises, recitations, and exam preparation).

I expect you to faithfully follow the University’s Academic Integrity policies. You should do your own work unless explicitly stated in course assignments.

I expect you to stay apprised of all information given in class and via LATTE. Please refer to the “Dynamic Class Schedule” on LATTE for current assignments.

During class, I ask you to only use electronic devices to participate in class activities.

To be fair to all students, I do not give make-up exams or assignments. I want you to learn biochemistry well; to this end, all assessments will be comprehensive.

If you need a University-sanctioned accommodation, please contact me immediately.

Top 10 things I hope you’ll take away from BCHM 100...
1. Biochemistry is the study of life’s molecular details.
2. Biological processes—normal and abnormal—can be understood at a biochemical level.
3. Water’s chemical properties underlie life as we know it.
4. The four biomolecular classes (proteins, carbohydrates, lipids and nucleotides) have unique properties and biological roles.
5. Molecular structure/form determines function.
6. Covalent bonds constrain biomolecules; non-covalent weak interactions dictate biochemical structure and associations.
7. The laws and principles of general and organic chemistry apply to biological systems.
8. Chemical energy drives biological processes.
9. Biochemical processes are highly regulated.
10. Studying biochemistry will help you develop these transferable skills:
    a. Integrating a large body of information,
    b. Solving complex, data-based problems,
    c. Interpreting and analyzing data,
    d. Understanding, applying, and developing conceptual and theoretical models,
    e. Communicating effectively.