

**All Student Comments from the Anonymous Online Course Evaluation for
Cancer Biology (CBIO101), Spring Quarter, 2007-2008**

<p>This course was great. I'm entering a Cancer Biology Ph.D. program at Sloan-Kettering this summer, and I feel much more prepared with cancer biology basics. Thank you!</p>
<p>The class was amazing. Dan was a really great TA. He explained everything in a clear and organized manner. I think cancer bio would not have been as fun without him. The lectures were also very informative. The way Professor Lipsick explains the material is very easy to follow.</p>
<p>My discussion section was great- Dan was an amazing discussion leader and helped me understand anything that I might not have before. I found that the lecture slides were very interesting and informative, but only after I read over them a few times and therefore fully comprehended them. The notes at the bottom of each slide were very useful, and there should be more of these in order to help students understand the material more easily. Thanks for a good quarter! I really enjoyed learning about this aspect of biology and medicine that I previously knew very little about.</p>
<p>I thoroughly enjoyed this course and the set-up of the class. I felt like I was challenged at an appropriate level and I think the mid-quarter participation evaluation that Jeanine gave us in section was helpful in self-improvement. I enjoyed the lectures and the readings. I think if there was a scientific paper component to the class, students would be able to better synthesize the lecture materials and get a better sense of the sorts of experiments that led up foundational concepts.</p>
<p>I really appreciate the lecture notes added to each slide. This made the review process for me much more effective and pleasant. The notes themselves were brief yet very informative, containing just enough info for me to understand the slide and to remember what was said during the lecture. If lectures were recorded on video, I would certainly watch them for review. I really enjoyed the organization of the lectures. I also really appreciate the time instructor took to answer questions during the break and after the lectures. The fact that we focused more on how the research was done, including various research methods, rather than just on findings, was very important for me because I plan to become a researcher. I was also very happy with my discussion section leader, Marina. Overall, cbio101 was a wonderful experience! Thank you Joe and TAs!</p>
<p>I enjoyed this class very much! I just wanted to take this opportunity to really thank Dr. Lipsick. It seemed like as a group the students were pretty low energy this quarter (myself included; studying for the MCAT wiped me out), but Lipsick always brought a lot of enthusiasm and kept asking those questions, even if they tended to linger in the air. I really appreciated the effort he put in to make lectures both informative and entertaining. What an excellent professor!! The textbook was not very helpful. I found that the lectures usually covered the topics in greater depth. I would have liked a textbook more focused on laboratory technique. There were several times when I wanted to look up detailed information on a method and couldn't find a good explanation on the internet or in the text. Section was awesome---very friendly and smart TAs. Please keep teaching this course! I'm going to recommend it to my friends.</p>
<p>This was one of the best classes I've taken at Stanford. Professor Lipsick is a great lecturer who is really good at explaining difficult concepts and making the lecture interesting. The order of the topics was well-constructed. The cartoons/pictures that professor Lipsick includes in his lecture slides were greatly appreciated! I also really enjoyed most of the papers we had to read</p>

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<p>for discussion. Shuai, our discussion leader, was also very good at answering our questions. She was very easy to approach and was very knowledgeable. I liked how the exams were problem-based rather than memorization-based. A lot of techniques we learned in class can be applied to other areas of science. Overall I thought this was a very good introductory course for cancer biology. Thanks again!</p>
<p>while the amount of material covered by the course was "about right," it was hard to catch up with other students who had a better / more recent molecular background. learning how to use / interpret blots, IP, etc. was half of the battle in this class (and on the exams). the ideas and concepts arent difficult, its the methods that are. i would suggest having an extra session taught by Joe (not the TAs) explaining each method- why we do it, what it shows, what inputs are required and why, etc. I say that the TAs shouldnt do it b/c while the TAs were helpful in discussion, they really only know slightly more than the students. otherwise, the class was excellent. i learned a ton. joe is an amazing lecturer, powerpoint was used as a tool to aid joe's lecture rather than a replacement for lecturing (it is so rare that a prof uses powerpoint effectively at this school).</p>
<p>I think this course could be improved by focusing more on the current state of cancer research. Covering the history of cancer research is important for understanding where we are now, but I think where we are now should be more of the focus of this course, rather than the history of cancer research. I do think that it is very valuable to read famous papers of some of the important earlier experiments of cancer biology.</p>
<p>Dr. Lipsick could speak a BIT slower!! but he's an awesome teacher</p>
<p>A list of the various experimental techniques and their applications in a handout given at the beginning of the quarter. I had a great TA (Tiffany Hung) who was always available to answer my questions. I asked her many questions through e-mail. Also, before the final, she kindly met with me to answer the lingering questions that I had.</p>
<p>I would have appreciated more information on the slides. Often there would not be enough labels and explanation about the figures, making reviewing them difficult.</p>
<p>i thought that the questions on the exam were too ambiguous; i had a hard time deciphering exactly what the questions were asking. also, concepts on the exam were never stressed or explained clearly in lecture (ex. RFLP); concepts were glossed over in lecture and students were expected to understand them fully.</p>
<p>A main concern of mine was the importance of experimental techniques/procedures and a lack of emphasis in teaching these methods in lecture. Thus there was a significant disconnect between material covered in lecture, section discussions, and exams.</p>