

Classroom Observation Form for Peer Review of Teaching

Faculty Member: Dr. Natalie Mountjoy

Course Observed: Biol 120 001 S19 Cell & Molec
Prefix Course No Section Semester Name

Time: 11:30-12:25 Date: 4/24/2018 Observer: Dr. Bruce Schulte

Write a review of the class observed noting areas described in the guidelines.

146 students enrolled; >100 students present.

Before class started Dr. Mountjoy was answering questions by students and in general interacting actively with students.

Class started on time.

Topic: DNA Synthesis & started with "What did we look at on Monday?"

Observations:

Dr. Mountjoy used a microphone for this large lecture space and she projected slides on the two screens available at the front of the room. The slides and video clips were clear and relevant; Dr. Mountjoy integrated them well into her lecture points. She opened with Socratic questioning to have students provide hypotheses on DNA synthesis as part of a review from Monday. The video shown at the start was how she ended class on Monday. She used a nice technique of asking students to visualize the twisted ribbon structure of DNA and then using their fingers pull the DNA apart. She also used an online quiz system (with cell phones) for asking questions. Students were engaged and participated. Dr. Mountjoy had a clear speaking voice and was knowledgeable about the material. I left the class a little early.

Suggestions:

No major inputs as Dr. Mountjoy did a very nice job conducting the class. Given that the material was a direct continuation from the previous class, I wonder how a few in-class questions would have worked at the start to check what was retained and to have an idea of how firm a foundation was built for today's lecture. It could even be done without revealing the correct answers, then ask the questions again later and compared the two distributions. This assumes the software has this capability!

Syllabus:

The appearance of the syllabus is appealing. All the necessary information is present in a clear and informative manner.