

Welcome to the Second 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

- **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:** Akhil, Vince, 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 will schedule a time to meet – that's part of the exam.
- **Ask questions that help me answer them:** Consultations that begin with “*I don't know what is going on*” are likely to end with “*I'm sorry to hear that.*” More successful consultations will begin with your setting forth the problem you're confronting, 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. 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:** Submit your responses in either one or two rounds (your choice):
 - Round 1 (optional): By the end of **Saturday, February 27**, submit an **on-line survey** that asks for each question what, if anything, prevents you from answering the question – e.g., what factual information you see you are lacking. Then by the end of **Saturday, March 5**, submit your responses to the partial exam released Feb 25. You will get feedback prior to the March 25 withdrawal deadline based on these responses.
 - Round 2: By the end of **Saturday, March 12**, submit an **on-line survey** that asks for each question what, if anything, prevents you from answering the question. Then by **7:00 AM, Thursday, March 17**, not later, submit your responses to the complete exam released March 4. You may revise answers submitted in Round 1 or choose to submit all your answers in Round 2.
- **What to submit:**
 - In general, electronic submission is preferred. Hard copy is a distinct second choice, but will not be refused.
 - If you send one or more attached files, **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.**
 - **Show your thought processes! No answer without reasons (except Q1-4).**
 - **Any assertion that is not obvious must be cited, in your own words, no quotes.**