



UQ PREMEDICAL SOCIETY



COURSE GUIDE

-2022-





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FOREWORD

The University of Queensland Premedical Society (UQPMS) is proud to present their flagship publication, the UQPMS Course Guide for 2022.

We have continued to update this course guide to provide the most up-to-date and detailed reviews of UQ courses. We hope that premedical students will find some guidance when selecting courses to make the most of their university experience.

We would like to sincerely thank the many UQ students who have generously passed on their invaluable feedback, experiences and advice. The course guide arises as a combination of their efforts. At UQPMS, we are strong believers of the team effort and collaborative learning as we progress into medicine and beyond. We hope to continue fostering this sense of community and support for the years to come.

We acknowledge that UQPMS members engage with a range of disciplines during their undergraduate studies. However, the majority of our members study courses related to biomedical science. As such, most of the courses in this publication are of the biomedical science discipline. In an attempt to account for the diverse academic goals for our members, we have strived to include a number of elective courses outside of the science discipline and highlighted a number of courses noted to be particularly useful for GAMSAT preparation or for future MD study.

If you have found this course guide useful, please consider submitting your own thoughts, reviews, and advice at the end of each semester.

We hope this guide will be of use to you and your studies, and we wish you the best of luck in achieving your academic goals. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time if you have any questions, comments or queries.

On behalf of the University of Queensland Premedical Society,

The UQPMS Executive Team



ON COURSE SELECTION

Throughout your premedical degree*, the courses you select within your program* will affect the direction of your studies and your eligibility for MD. For more information on meeting MD pre-requisites please read "[Pathways to medicine](#)".

Currently, a 2022 premedical study plan for program within the Faculty of Science is available [here](#), which present a potential course plan for your premedical degree. This plan serves as a good starting point for building your study plan; however, there is space for choice, especially for elective courses that provide you with opportunities to study outside of the science discipline.

Each program of study also offers a course list, which includes the courses available for you to select within that degree. It will also outline which courses need to be completed to satisfy the requirements of the degree. **You should always ensure that the courses you select allow you to adhere to the program rules for your chosen degree and major.**

Elective courses are an opportunity to focus on specific topics within your major, or study a field outside of your discipline. Many students, especially in late years, choose to lighten their study load by selecting a lower-level course or a course outside of their discipline. UQ academic advisors are also available for students to contact through their respective faculties.

It is important to note that due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, overseas exchange availability is unpredictable. There may be opportunities to study abroad once the pandemic has subsided and international flights are active again. To ease their course selections in overseas institutions, many students 'save' elective units for their exchange semester.

In response to the unique circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 situation, the majority of UQ courses are now delivered both in Internal or external mode. Students who are unable to come onto campus for any reason should select courses that offered externally. Flexibly delivered courses normally combine a mix of online and on-campus activities. Please be aware that a selected few courses are offered internally only, so it is important to consider whether you will be able to attend on campus activities before enrolling in a specific course.

Finally, students seeking to start the MD in 2022 or later (at UQ) are required to complete two prerequisite courses, BIOM2011 and BIOM2012 (or recognised equivalents) to be eligible for entry. Thus, as aspiring premedical students, you should ensure you include these in your study plan.

*At UQ, degree and program are used interchangeably ([link](#))



ABOUT THE SECATS

Student Evaluation of Course and Teacher (SECaT) questionnaires are coordinated by the University of Queensland to evaluate student involvement and response for specific courses using a five-point scale (1 – 5 corresponding to strongly disagree/poor and strongly agree/excellent respectively). The UQPMS course guide presents these SECaT scores as part of their review. These scores are the property of UQ and are also available online on the public domain of the UQ Teaching and Educational Development Institute for any interested parties.

DISCLAIMER

Advice and comments offered in this course guide represent those made in good faith by the students who contributed to this publication. These do not constitute official advice from the relevant schools and faculties. Courses are subject to change from year to year, and comments and information collated here are reflective of the versions of the courses offered in past years. Always consult the electronic course profile (ECP) for further information on course activities and assessments, and/or seek advice from the relevant course coordinator.

Where insufficient reviews for specific courses have been received, the previous year's review has been used instead. The most up to date SECaTs results are used where possible. The 2021, 2020 and 2019 Course Guides are also available at on our website (uqpms.com). Please keep in mind that while many courses remain similar each year, each course is subject to change between years.

The UQPMS executive team is always happy to receive feedback on this publication.



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FIRST YEAR COURSES

BIOL1020

GENES, CELLS AND EVOLUTION

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia, External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 1 Lecture, 1 Tutorial, 3 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL1020

Course Description

Students taking this course will learn about the fundamentals of molecular cell biology and genetics by examining what cells are made of and how the genetic information to build cells and perform cellular processes is encoded, executed, and inherited. The course explores the connections between physical processes at the molecular level and the whole organism phenotype, and identifies how cellular, genetic, and evolutionary processes affect everyday life.

Advantages

- This course is a **great introduction to cellular biology** even for those who have not studied it before, as it covers high school content and builds from it.
- For those who have completed high school biology, transitioning into this course is relatively easy, especially in the first module.
- The **content covered in this course forms a crucial foundation for future studies** in molecular or cellular biology, as many subsequent courses assume a proficient understanding of this content (and in fact list BIOL1020 as a prerequisite).



- **Practical sessions are often well-structured and easy to follow**, provided you perform the assigned readings and pre-work.

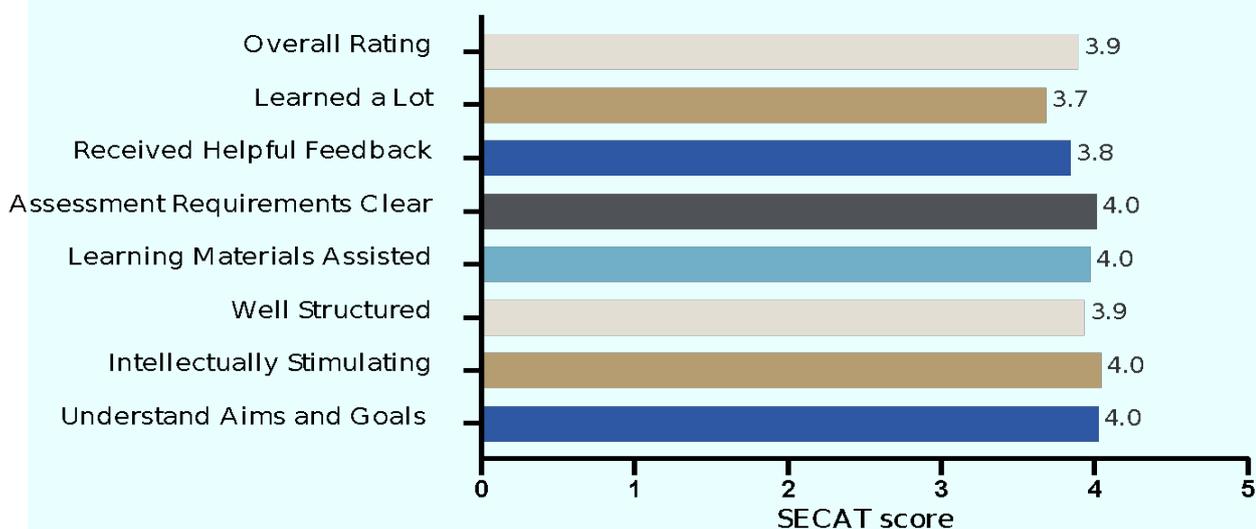
Disadvantages

- The course is quite **content-heavy**, and often relies on you to do the textbook readings to fully construct your body of knowledge. Especially in a course typically done in the first year, this can be **challenging as filtering out novel information from relevant content in self-study may be a new skill**.
- Because the content is delivered in a one-lecture, one-tutorial style, a lot of the course is left as self-study. If you are not **diligent with your studies**, it can be easy to fall behind.
- 40% of the assessment constitutes the mini-tests, for which the questions are uploaded on Bb ahead of time. Although a good opportunity to integrate information and build on the knowledge, doing well in these **assessment tasks relies on time investment and memorisation**, which may not be an efficient mode of study or use of times

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Don't do the pre-readings if you're short on time or motivation; **do lecture slides and EdX first**, then go over the related concepts.
- If lecturers have emphasised a concept this means you should go into more detail in your response to a question.
- Start **deep thought questions** early and discuss with friends.

SECaTs Review





BIOL1030

Biodiversity and the Environment

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia, External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 1 Lecture, 1 Tutorial, 3 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL1030

Course Description

Prior to 2022, this course was titled: Global Challenges in Biology. This course details the living world of which we are a part, from microbe to ecosystem. It provides clear cases of how human health, quality of life and future is intricately linked to the well-being of other organisms and the environment we all share. The course will lead students through a number of global challenges which highlight global biodiversity as a source of biomedical and economical innovation. This lays the foundation for understanding and facing the environmental and biomedical challenges facing humans and the planet.

Advantages

- This course is interesting and well-designed. It involved many **unique learning activities, assessment items and research experiences**, including a field trip to collect evidence for assessment.
- **It does not require high school biology.**
- Great for those interested in general biology, not just the cellular, clinical detail.
- There is a genetic component which complements BIOL1020 content.



- **Relatively low reading load.** It is possible to do well just on lecture content and understanding the examples given. The course isn't heavy on textbook reading.
- It's a **great chance to meet biology students who are not biomedicine majors.**
- There are recognised **volunteering opportunities** during the term – data collection in creek catchments.
- Lecturers are clear on what is expected to be learnt and assessed.

Disadvantages

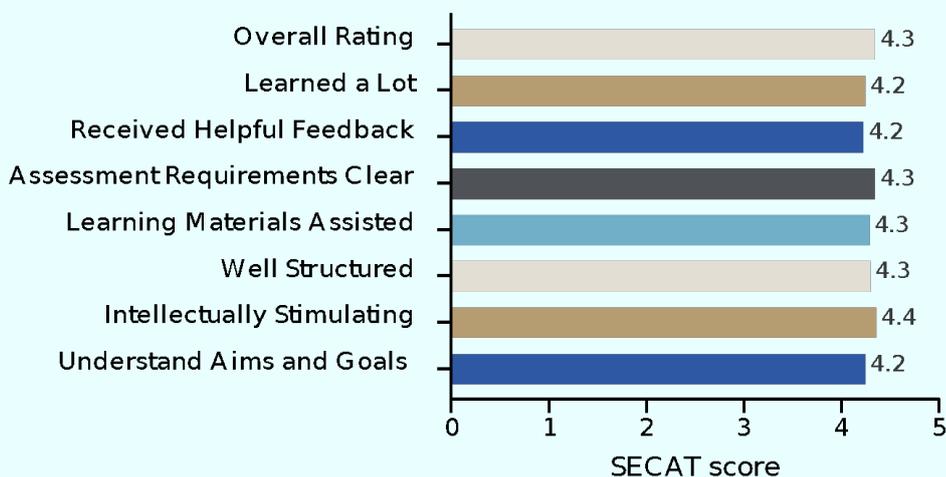
- The exams are not too difficult to do well in, but you will need some exam technique as most of the marks are given in the SAQ section.
- **The course is not directly relevant to the biomedical field.**
- The field trip assessment was largely luck – besides plant identification, there was a scavenger hunt to identify certain organisms, which may be difficult depending on the weather.
- Some of the terminology (e.g. “ecological services” vs “ecological functions”) can be confusing and cannot be resolved by a simple Google search.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Content that is covered in both practical and lectures in broad topics (e.g. plants) will have a high probability of being examined.** Focus on those topics.
- **The textbook covers unnecessary details that aren't examined.** Don't feel the need to read ahead – for the most part, it's mostly something for further reading when encountering a difficult concept. This advice is also given by the lecturers.
- **Make sure you understand why the example or statistic was in the slide.**
- **Explain your exam answers clearly and succinctly** – otherwise, you will lose marks.
- Sometimes it helps to do extra readings in the **Nature publications** (detailed at the bottom of the lecture slides) if you want to clear up a topic.
- **Always read the criteria for the practical reports** – formatting is important, so turn your report into a PDF or risk Turnitin messing it up

SECaTs Review

BIOL1030





BIOL1040

GENES, CELLS AND EVOLUTION

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia, External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 workshop, 1 tutorial, 1.5 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL1040

Course Description

The course covers the fundamental concepts that allow complex organisms to function, with some focus on the human body & other higher organisms. Key concepts include basic cellular transport & signalling mechanisms, neuronal structure & function, motor mechanisms & locomotion, circulation & gas exchange, & the endocrine system. Of key importance is the integration of different concepts as they apply to the structure and function of different regions of the entire organism.

Advantages

- **A well-structured course for covering basic biology**, particularly related to the human body.
- There are many assignments, reports and quizzes with low weighting, which encourage you to stay on track with your work and relieve pressure from the final exam, which isn't weighted too heavily.



- A big portion of the final exam (in 2021) consisted of previous exam questions with tweaks in wording.
- Friendly and engaging lecturers who were willing to help.

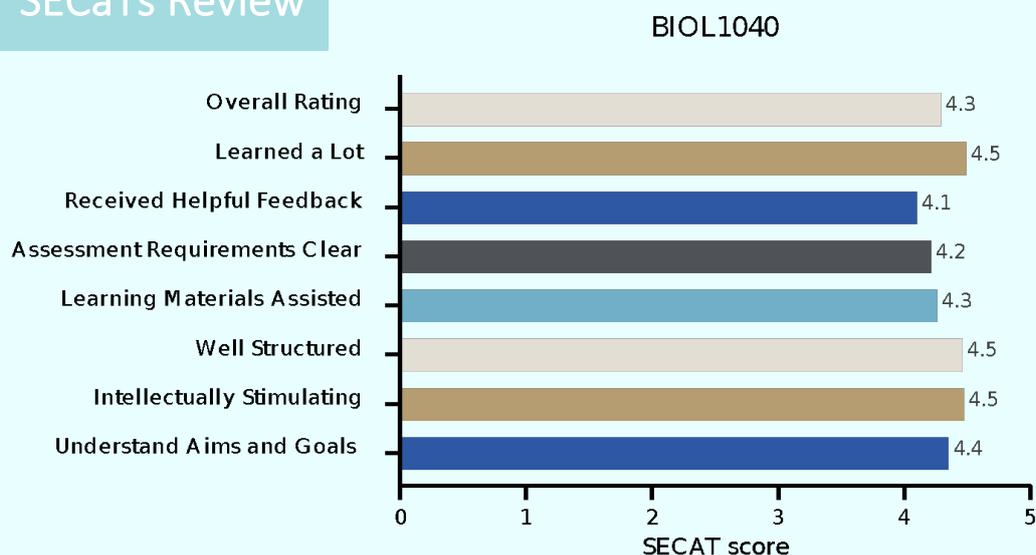
Disadvantages

- **Some lecturers delivered their material better than others**, but this inconsistency could be due to the nature of the content itself.
- **The internal exam was in person**, which might prove difficult if you have become used to online, non-invigilated exams.
- The 'Mastering Biology' quizzes have been criticised for being overly difficult and having a poor user interface.
- **Easier exam questions may throw you off** as the amount of detail required may be ambiguous.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **BIOL1040 is quite content heavy, and you should start studying for it quite early.** If you are using cue cards to help revise, be sure to also start them early and keep on top of them throughout the semester.
- As you learn about different parts of the human system, **you are not only expected to memorise about them thoroughly but also understand how they interact.** For example, how the renal and circulatory systems are linked.
- **Some modules may require different studying methods.** For example, the musculoskeletal module was mainly memorisation/recall while the nervous system module needed a higher level of understanding.

SECaTs Review



BIOM1070

Biology for Health Sciences Part A

HEALTH SCIENCES

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia, External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Tutorial, 1.5 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM1070

Course Description

BIOM1070 provides students with a foundation in the understanding of cell biology and biochemistry, organisation of the human body, support and movement, and regulation and integration of the body.

Advantages

- A **well-structured course** that lays the foundation for future studies in Biomedical and anatomy subjects.
- **This course has you in the Gross Anatomy Facility (GAF)** for your practical to learn hands-on anatomy.
- Complementary to BIOM1071
- **Covers a wide range of content** ranging from anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, cellular processes and more



Disadvantages

- **Some of the initial contents are brushed over very quickly**, previous biology knowledge would be beneficial
- The anatomy and physiology **contents could be overwhelming**, sometimes require a bit of rote learning
- **The practical are hurdles**, so make sure you turn up on time
- **The practical reports can be time consuming**, make sure you allocate sufficient time for them

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Make use of the **past papers** and the **weekly peer-assisted study session (PASS) questions**, they could be similar to what you might get in your exams
- Extra reading are helpful but not necessary, **focus on the contents on the lecture slides**
- **Stay on top of your content**, there are module quizzes that are worth 5% of your grade that can be easy marks.
- **Be prepared for the practical and GAF sessions**, you are able to get out much more if you prepare in advance.

SECaTs Review

Not available

BIOM1071

Biology for Health Sciences Part B

HEALTH SCIENCES

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia, External

Prerequisites: BIOM1070

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Tutorial, 1.5 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM1071

Course Description

BIOM1071 builds on the foundation of BIOM1070, and students will develop a fundamental understanding of a) the structure, function and integration of human body systems, including the cardiovascular, renal, respiratory, digestive and reproductive systems, and b) basic principles of microbiology and immunology.

Advantages

- This course **has you in the Gross Anatomy Facility (GAF)** for your practical to learn hands-on anatomy for two of your modules.
- **Split into six modules** making it easier to learn and study.



- This course **taught me a wide array of knowledge in major organs and systems of the body.** I enjoyed the practical as they were interesting and relevant to everyday processes that occur in our body.
- **PASS tutors and even lecturers were all very lovely and helpful.**

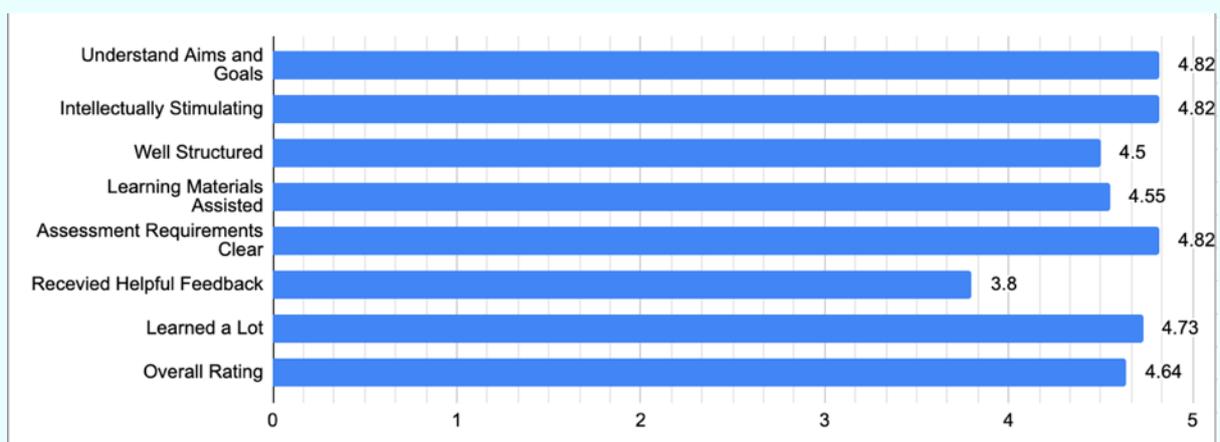
Disadvantages

- Multiple lecturers and multiple styles for learning between modules can cause **inconsistency in your study patterns.**
- **Could be a disadvantage or advantage but PASS classes are a pass/fail.** You must attend **6/10** to pass the course which can be frustrating when you want to be doing other study.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Stay on top of your content, there are module quizzes that are worth 6% of your grade that can be easy marks.**
- **Be prepared for the GAF,** you will be able to get much more out of those practical if you are.
- I wish I knew at the start how much content this course has. **It's almost impossible to cram,** each lecture has a huge amount of course content. Top tips to ace this course, revise contents regularly while not trying to be too behind on lectures. **Take advantage of PASS worksheets and pass exam papers,** they are life savers.

SECaTs Review





CHEM1100

CHEMISTRY 1

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia

Prerequisites: Senior Chemistry or CHEM1090

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=CHEM1100

Course Description

This course provides the foundation in concepts underpinning inorganic, physical and organic chemistry necessary for advancement to the higher levels of study in chemistry and engineering courses. Core topics include: atomic structure, bonding and hybridisation, molecular shape, an introduction to organic chemistry, states of matter and intermolecular forces, chemical equilibrium, aqueous solution equilibria, thermodynamics, and redox chemistry. This course is a prerequisite to CHEM1200 Chemistry 2 for all students in the following programs: BSc, B Biomedical Science, B Biotechnology, B Engineering and B Occupational Health & Safety Science.

Advantages

- **An introductory chemistry course, it's mostly a rehash of Year 12 Chemistry.** If you did well in that, you can expect a relatively easy and straightforward experience.
- In addition to just teaching content, the lecturers also give you practice questions and time to solve them during the lectures. If you're having trouble understanding a concept, **trying out these questions and then watching the lecturer work through them can be game-changing.**



- **The sapling quizzes are a source of easy marks;** you can redo questions, you get plenty of time and they take the best 10 out of 11 quizzes.
- You get **multiple opportunities** to attempt practice questions; workshops, lectures, quizzes.

Disadvantages

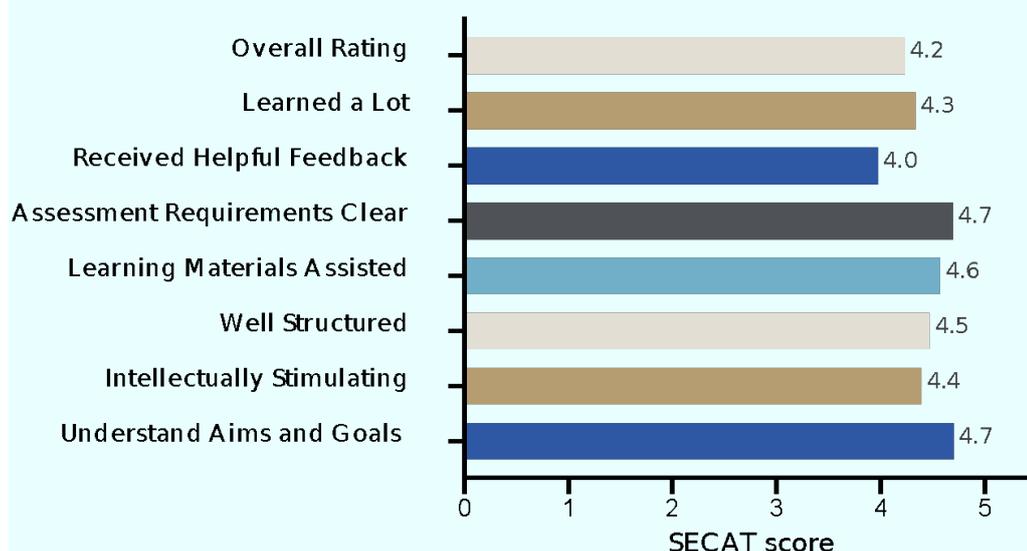
- **Becoming complacent in this course is easy,** so you might get surprised and overwhelmed when they introduce new content.
- The **sapling quizzes may be frustrating** as the answer has to be written exactly as they want.
- Lecturers are sometimes unhelpful in responding to questions online.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **The practical were more engaging than the lectures,** and you should put in some effort to be on schedule with the course content if you want to do well in them. **Remember that the pre and post-lab quizzes both count towards your final weighting.**
- Although the sapling quizzes are relatively straightforward and allow question retries, trying to blindly stumble through them without an understanding of the course content will lead to confusion and a lot of lost marks.
- **The exams are all open-book.** This means that **you don't need to memorise everything that's going on to the exact detail;** simply having good notes should suffice. **Chemistry is more about practice than rote learning.** Go through questions from workshops, lectures and past papers to consolidate your knowledge.
- **Workshops and revision lectures are helpful** for tying up loose ends and asking tutors and fellow students questions.

SECaTs Review

CHEM1100





CHEM1200

Chemistry 2

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia

Prerequisites: CHEM1100

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=CHEM1200

Course Description

This course builds on concepts that have been introduced in CHEM1100 (Chemistry 1) thereby developing the knowledge and understanding across inorganic, physical and organic chemistry necessary for advancement to the higher levels of study in chemistry, biochemistry and engineering courses. Core topics include: reaction profiles and kinetics, structure, reactivity and mechanisms, organic functional group chemistry, structural determination, acid and base chemistry and transition metal chemistry. This course is recommended for all students in the following programs: BSc, B Biomedical Science, B Biotechnology, B Engineering and B Occupational Health and Safety Science.

Advantages

- Introduces many concepts around organic chemistry and electron pushing that become useful in later biochemistry courses.
- **Only 1 lab report** for the entire course, just Sapling, lab quizzes and exams for the rest of the assessment



- It is easier to achieve high grades in practical marks and Sapling quizzes which helps with maintaining a good GPA

Disadvantages

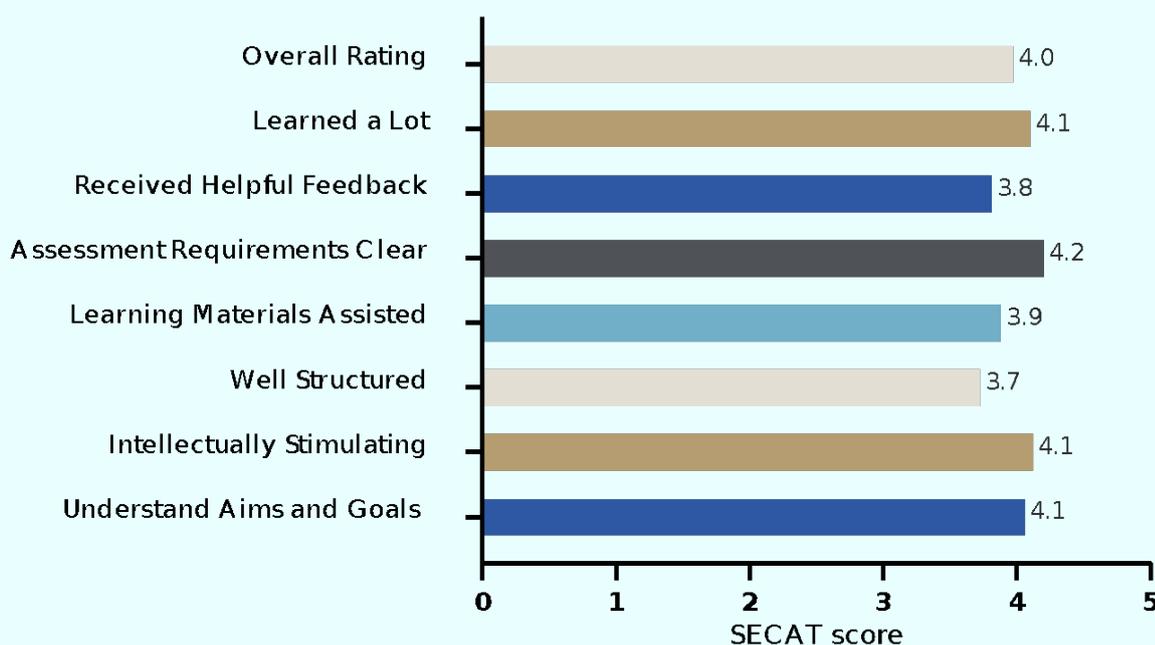
- This is a **study-intensive and content heavy course**.
- Each week there are up to **10 pre-recorded lectures that last between 10-45 minutes each**. This is a **significant amount of content to keep on top of for the final exam**.
- It **can be hard to organise watching lectures** around other classes at times (especially after midsem)

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Learn all the different organic reactions**.
- **Main focus is organic chemistry, but there are also a lot of other interesting topics taught**.
- Reading the textbook will help with understanding key concepts. **The textbook has a list summarising the different reactions learnt**.
- **A lot of content in the final exam**, so it's important to keep on top of the lectures and worksheets each week.
- The **think.chat.learn** does not have participation marks, and is marked based on your responses, so read the rubric.

SECaTs Review

CHEM1200





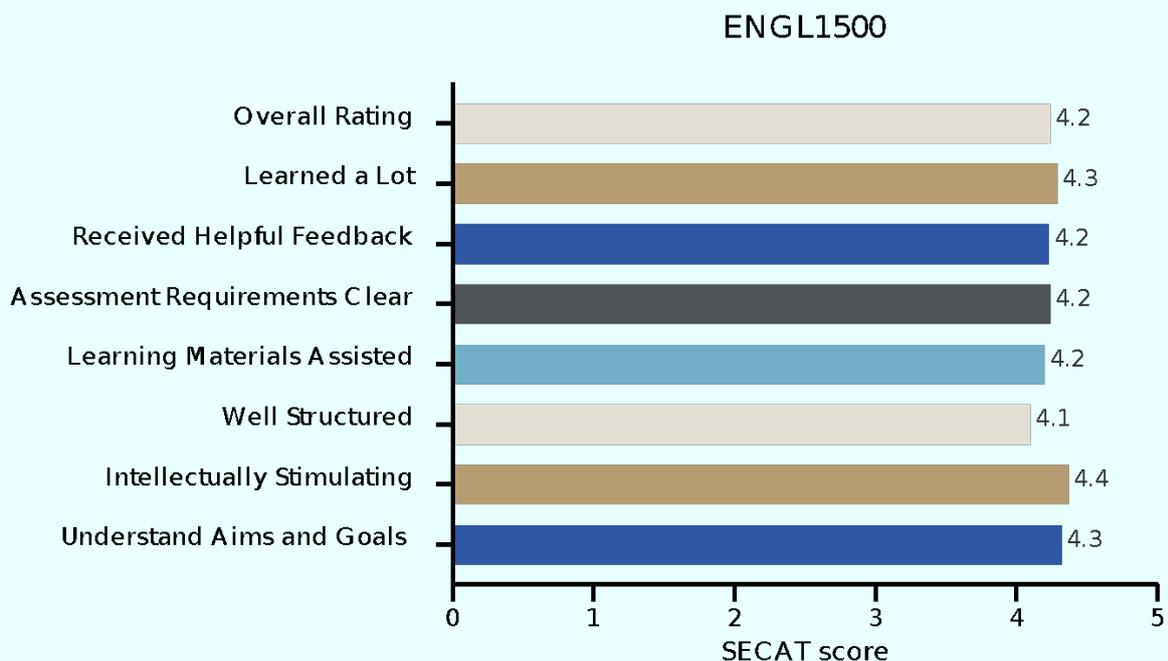
Disadvantages

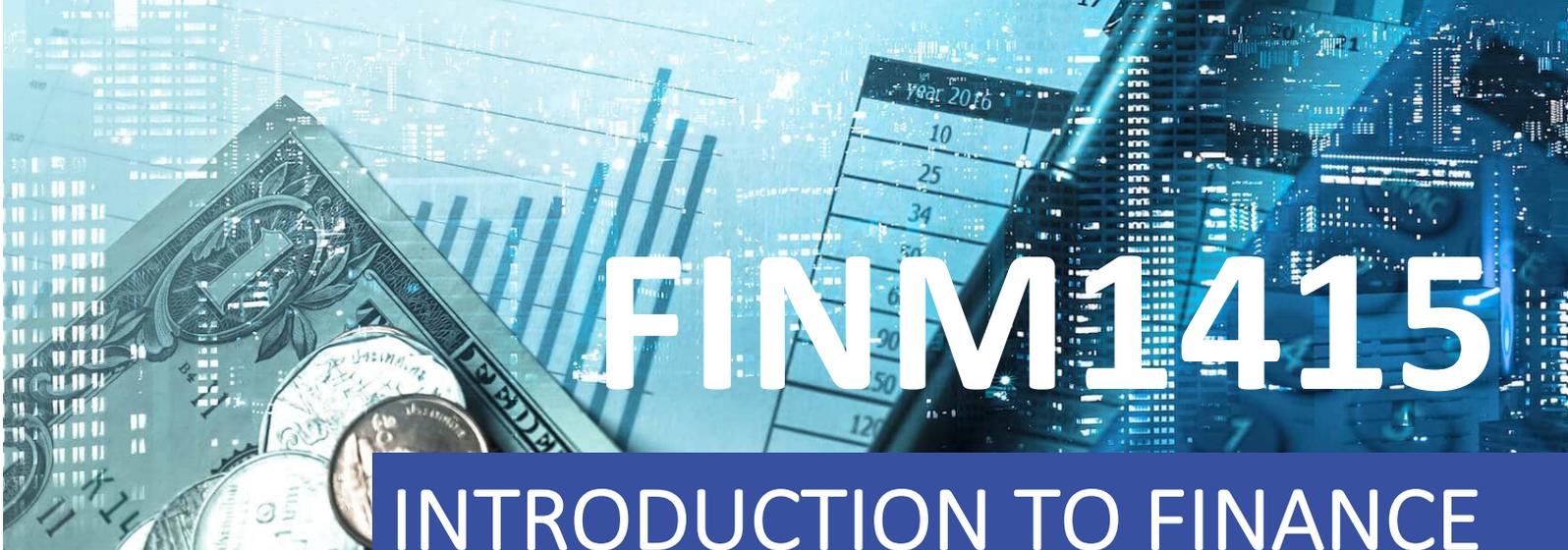
- **It is difficult to comfortably score 7s** as they mark harshly compared to science subjects
- **Criteria sheets are qualitative** (i.e. they don't tell you how much each criteria is weighted so the marks are completely arbitrary) and there is **minimal guidance on the assignments** (they do provide exemplars that got a 7 though).
- **Feedback is very unhelpful unless you harass your tutor.** (The memes on ALL about "great essay! You got 80%" are accurate.)

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Read through the exemplars carefully and try to analyse how/why they did well and apply it to your own writing.**
- **Take the initiative and keep requesting additional feedback from your tutor** until you know exactly how to do better on your next assignment.
- **Pay attention to MLA formatting.** It's worth a surprising number of marks and you'll be kicking yourself for losing them because you didn't spend the extra ten minutes required to read the guidelines more carefully

SECaTs Review





FINM1415

INTRODUCTION TO FINANCE

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia, External

Prerequisites: ACCT1101 or 1110 (Recommended)

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 2 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=FINM1415

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to finance. It describes the role and function of stock markets, bond markets and foreign exchange markets. It develops an understanding of the time value of money and how organisations finance their operations, make investments and distribute profits.

Advantages

- **Easy course to do well in** as there are lots of practice questions from tutorials and past papers - **the structure of questions begin to repeat eventually**

Disadvantages

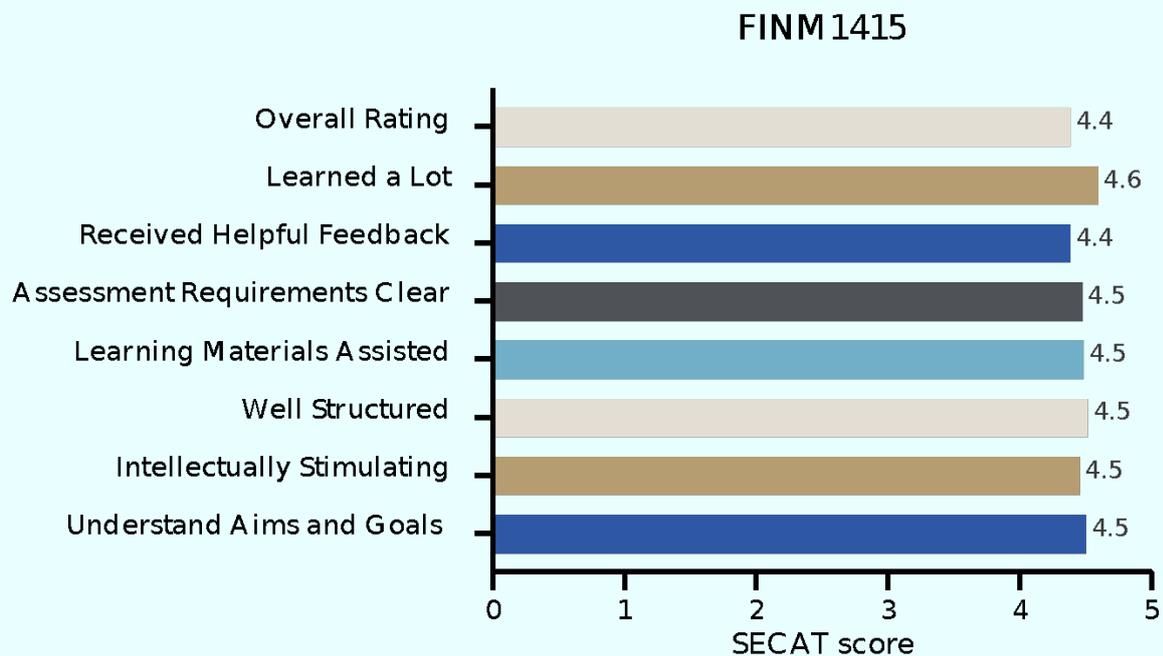
- **Not much course content and just really formulas**, so not the right course if you want to learn a lot of content regarding finance.



Tips & what we wish we knew

- Heavily based on calculations, so do a lot of practice.
- Bring around a **formula sheet** with you everywhere.
- There is a group assignment with heavy weighting. **Make sure you go to all the tutorials otherwise you will be lost for the assignment.**
- They **post tutorial answers** at the end of the week. Utilise this and review the tutorial questions each week.

SECaTs Review





INDH1005

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health

HEALTH SCIENCES

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 1 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=INDH1005

Course Description

Overview of current health status of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, focusing on cultural, social and environmental issues and recent policy initiatives.

Advantages

- **The content was very conceptual and placed a new perspective on medicine's role in wider society in the context of Indigenous health.** This was incredibly beneficial and **eye-opening** for anyone who would be going into medicine as to the story behind people's clinical presentations
- The assignments support this reflective and eye opening experience.
- **The lecturer (Condy) and the tutors are very open** and are prepared to have conversations with you to help you understand different topics presented in the class



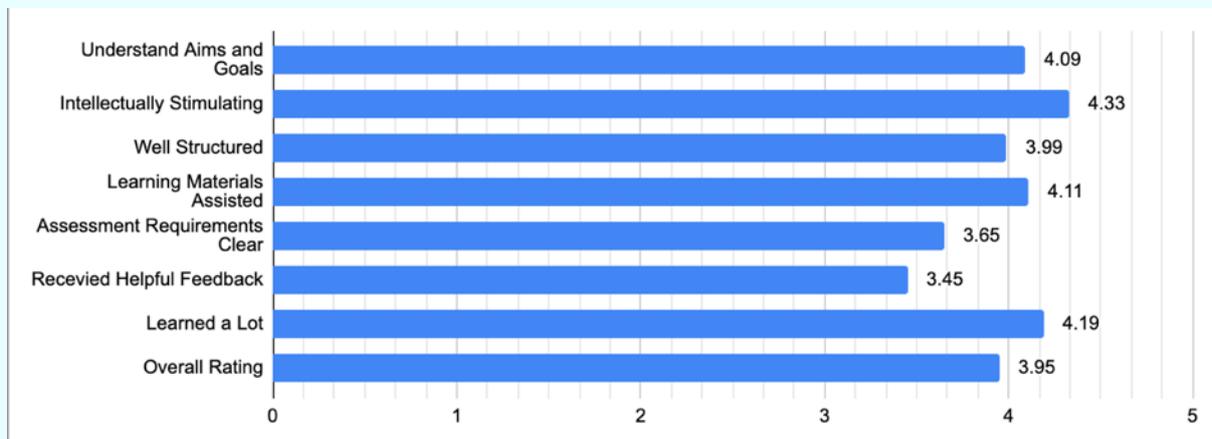
Disadvantages

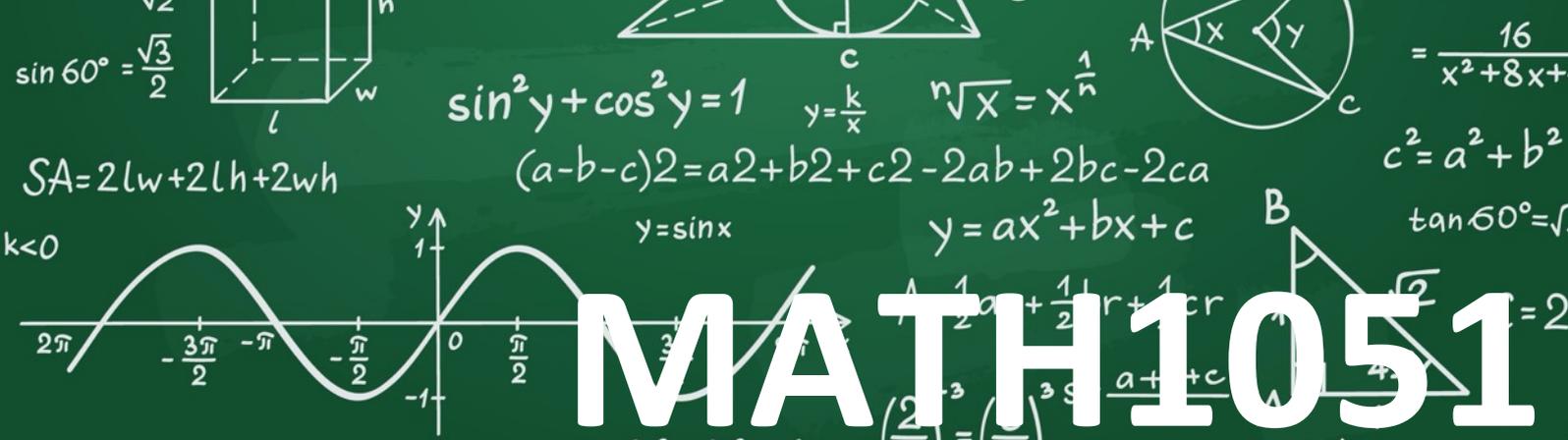
- Although can be interesting, **lectures feel almost irrelevant to the assessment**
- **Can be a bit confronting when discussing racism, but disclaimers are given and the staff are understanding.**

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Start the reflective piece early**, before you start much of the actual course content as the course content may influence your reflection
- **This course is assignment heavy and has no exams**, have a good understanding of argument formation and paragraph structure
- **Don't be afraid to participate in discussions during tutorials**, the tutors are very understanding, the learning is only as good as you make it to be

SECaTs Review





MATH1051

Calculus & Linear Algebra I

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia & External
Prerequisites: MATH1050 or; A grade of C or higher in Queensland Year 12 Specialist Mathematics (Units 3 & 4) (or equivalent).
Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 2 workshops
Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=MATH1051

Course Description

(MATH1051 can be studied concurrently with MATH1052) Vectors, linear independence, scalar product. Matrices, simultaneous equations, determinants, vector product, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, applications. Equation of straight line & plane. Extreme value theorem, maxima & minima. Sequences, series, Taylor series, L'Hopital's rules. Techniques of integration, numerical methods, volumes of revolution.

Advantages

- If you have done high level maths in high school (e.g. Maths C for QCE, Ext 1/2 for HSC), this course is quite easy as most of the content is revisited, **with a few new (interesting) topics that extend** from what you already learnt (e.g. Taylor Series, Squeeze Theorem); hence, it is a **good introduction to university-level maths**
- **You have the choice of either attending lectures or doing Edge;** both allow you to fill in the lecture book notes you are given at the beginning of semester, **while also doing extra problems to consolidate the knowledge.**
- If you are already comfortable with topics, tutorials are not necessary to attend (**if they are no compulsory**)
- **Course coordinator is very passionate and nice;** quite responsive on Piazza if you are stuck on maths question or MATLAB



- MATLAB is organised into weekly modules with instructions and feedback is given each week too

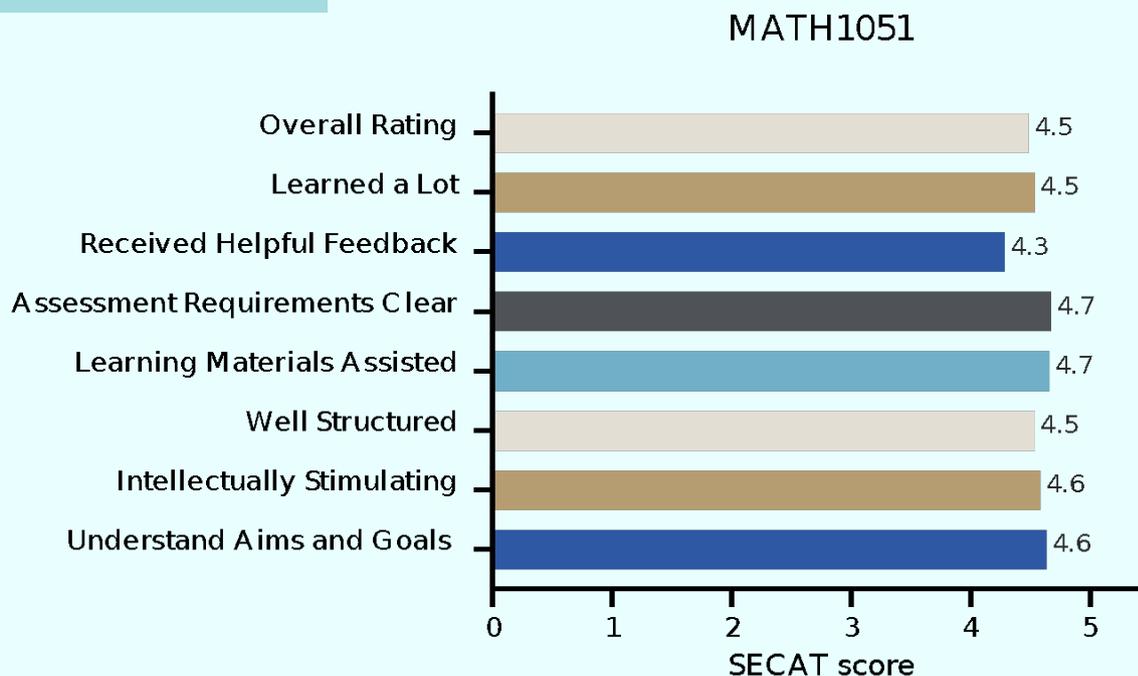
Disadvantages

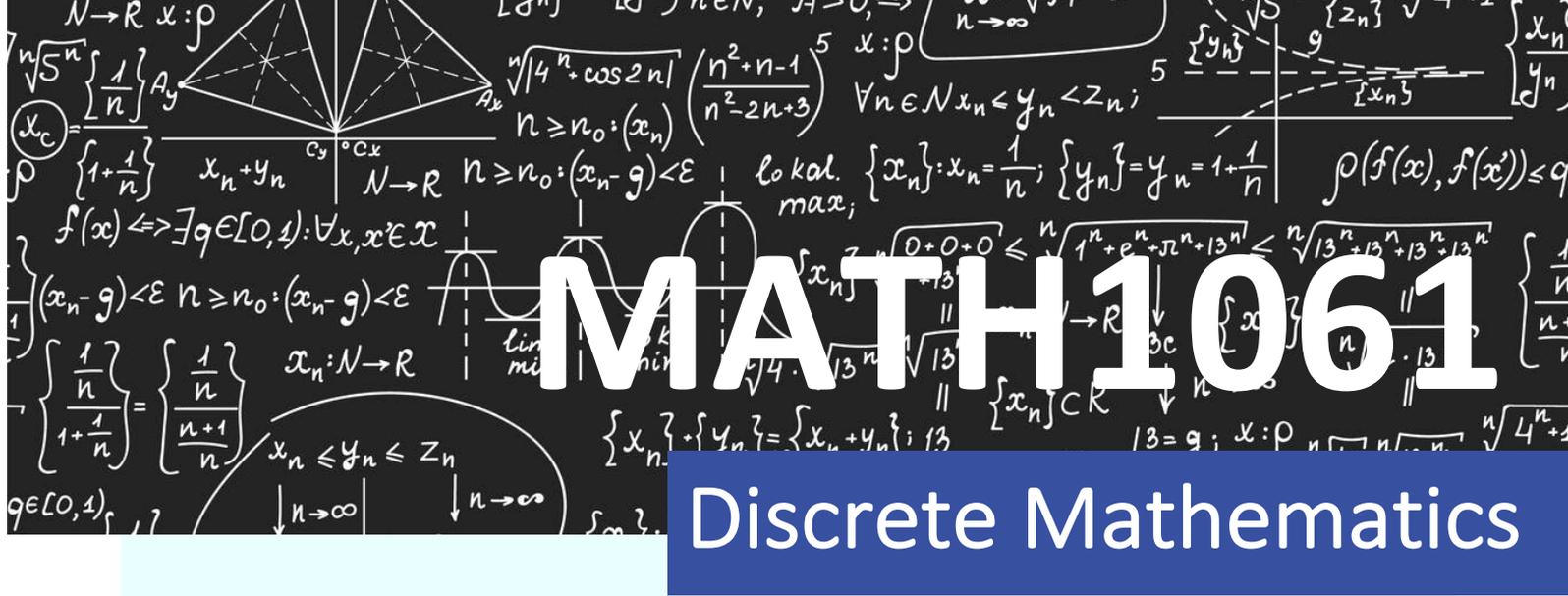
- **MATLAB can be tedious to do**, similar to when you do Python in SCIE1000; **depending on your level in coding, but it can fluctuate from being very easy to taking a long time to figure it out**
- If you are overconfident and then come across a topic you have not learnt/don't know very well, **it can be easy to fall behind and not be motivated to try**

Tips & what we wish we knew

- If you have done higher maths, be aware of any topics that you have not learnt yet especially if you did not do MATH1050; **there is some assumed knowledge (complex numbers, vectors etc.)**
- **MATLAB can be difficult if you're not coding-savvy - hence use the contact hours from previous years to get quite close to the answers or at least guidance**; MATLAB then basically becomes easy marks
- If you are good at maths, it is possible to do the P-sets and study the exams the night before, but **ensure you are keeping up to date with what is due**

SECaTs Review





General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=MATH1061

Course Description

Propositional & predicate logic, valid arguments, methods of proof. Elementary set theory. Elementary graph theory. Relations & functions. Induction & recursive definitions. Counting methods (pigeonhole, inclusion/exclusion). Introductory probability. Binary operations, groups, fields. Applications of finite fields. Elementary number theory.

Advantages

- **MATH1061 does not cover calculus** - instead, the subject covers other, lesser-known, branches of maths such as **logic, graph theory and set theory**. This keeps the subject **interesting**, as many unique forms of maths are explored throughout the semester.
- The forms of maths which are covered in the course provide an **alternate way of approaching and viewing problems**. This is not only in a mathematical sense but in a more general sense.
- **The course does not have much-assumed knowledge on its topics**. This makes it a great course for people who are not strong in "traditional" maths, as the concepts are often far removed from the typical calculus style maths.



- Like many maths courses, there is a workbook available. The course follows the workbook closely, which eases note taking.

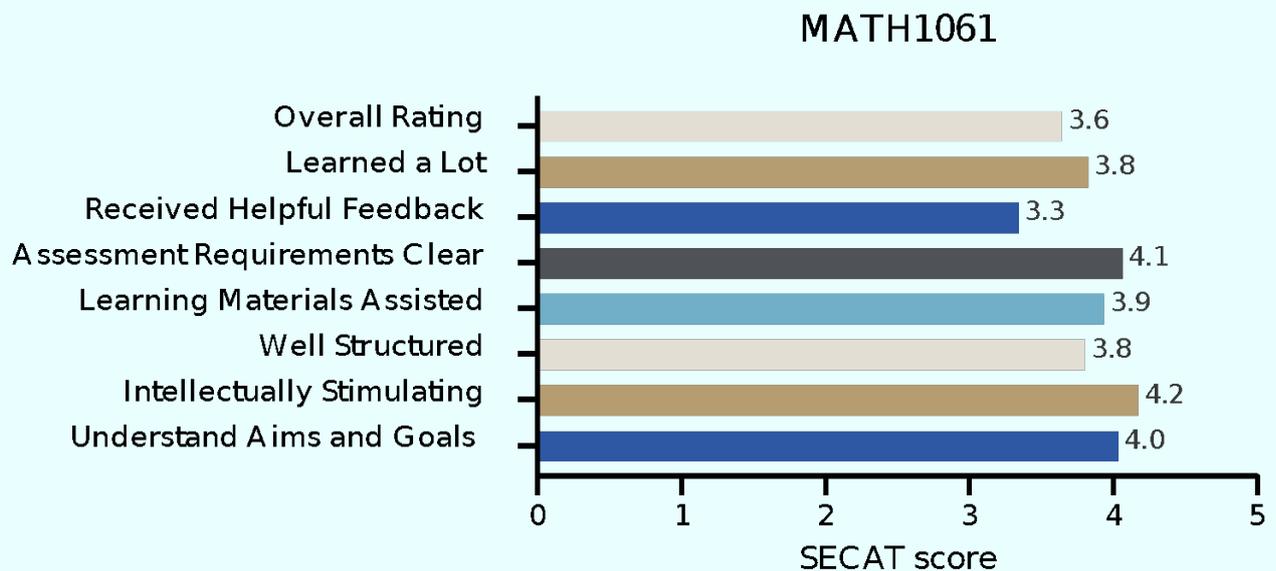
Disadvantages

- At times, when the lecturer is going through some of the more basic topics, it can feel that the **lecture drags quite slowly for those who have had previous experience.**
- **The subject is most valuable for people doing computer science,** and it is a **very different learning style** when compared to other courses in the biomedical degree.
- **There are a lot of pre-class online resources** (videos, readings and quizzes), which may be a lot to get through.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Use the workbook to your advantage.** Like many maths courses, there is a workbook available, **which makes note-taking easier and allows you to pay full attention in class.**
- The **past exams are a handy resource for exam study,** especially the proof-related questions.

SECaTs Review



MATH1071

Advanced Calculus & Linear Algebra I

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites:

- A grade of 6 or above in MATH1050; or
- A grade of B or higher in Queensland Year 12 Specialist Mathematics (Units 3 & 4) (or equivalent).

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Contact, 1 Tutorial, 1 Practical or Laboratory

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=MATH1071

Course Description

1. Elementary linear algebra: Vectors, linear independence, scalar product. Matrices, simultaneous equations, determinants, Gaussian elimination, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, applications. Equation of straight line & plane.
2. Introduction to proof-based calculus: Fields, sequences, limits, continuity, intermediate and extreme value theorems, maxima & minima.
3. Techniques of calculus: Series, differentiation, integration, numerical methods, Taylor series, L'Hopital's rule. This course differs from MATH1051 by treating material in more depth and with greater rigour.

Advantages

- o Interesting to learn how the proofs work.



- Really **great lecturer** (Artem).

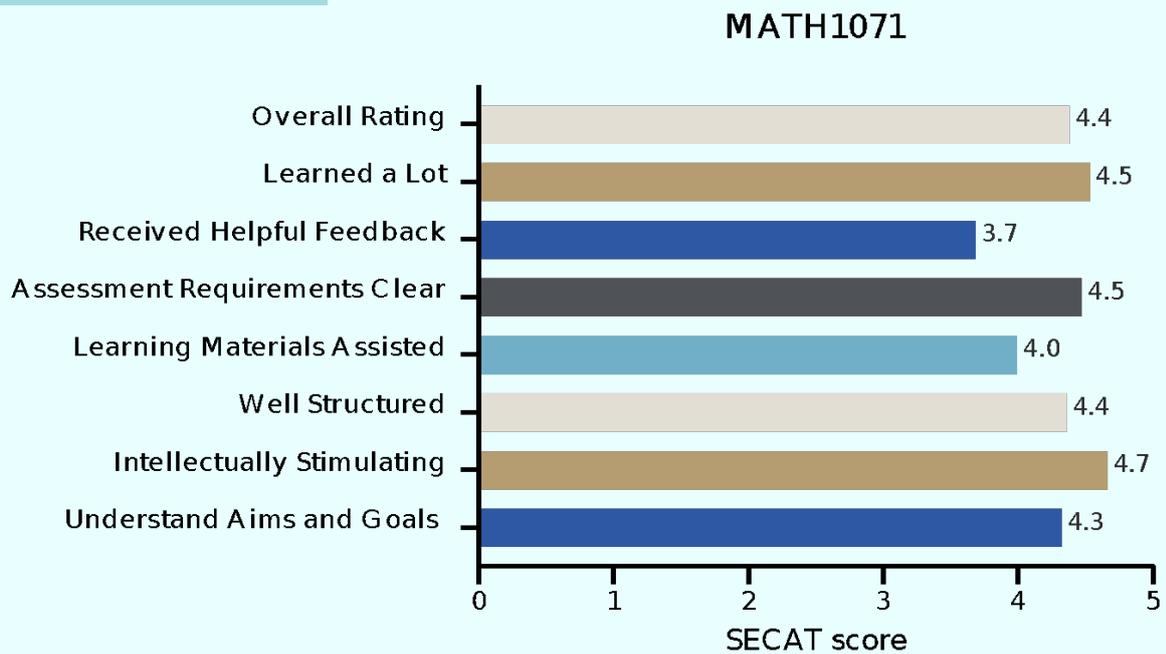
Disadvantages

- A lot of content to remember.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Very theoretical and proof-based.** You need to be able to spend a lot of time memorising and understanding the proofs and it's probably not worth it if that doesn't interest you.
- **Make sure you do the exercises from the lectures.** Sometimes these become assignment questions and it's much easier if you've already done them. They're also good practice for the exams.

SECaTs Review



NEUR1020

The Brain and Behavioral Sciences

General Course Information

(previously PSYC1020)

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 1 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=neur1020

Course Description

Psychology is the scientific study of how people behave, think and feel. This course spans a variety of topics including psychological processes such as perception, attention, learning, memory, and decision-making, as well as the cognitive and brain-based (neural) causes of these phenomena. Students will be given opportunities to participate in both classic and state-of-the-art psychological research and will gain an understanding of the research process to study both the mental and neural causes of human behaviour.

Note: Students who have already completed PSYC1020 do not need to enrol in NEUR1020. If PSYC1020 was completed under a different program, apply for credit in NEUR1020.

Advantages

- **The final exam is only weighted 15%**
- **An interesting and engaging course** that explains a wide range of psychological topics
- **The lecturers were enthusiastic and thoroughly understood the content** they were teaching
- **Questions on the final exam are from the module quizzes** so chances are you've already answered them once before



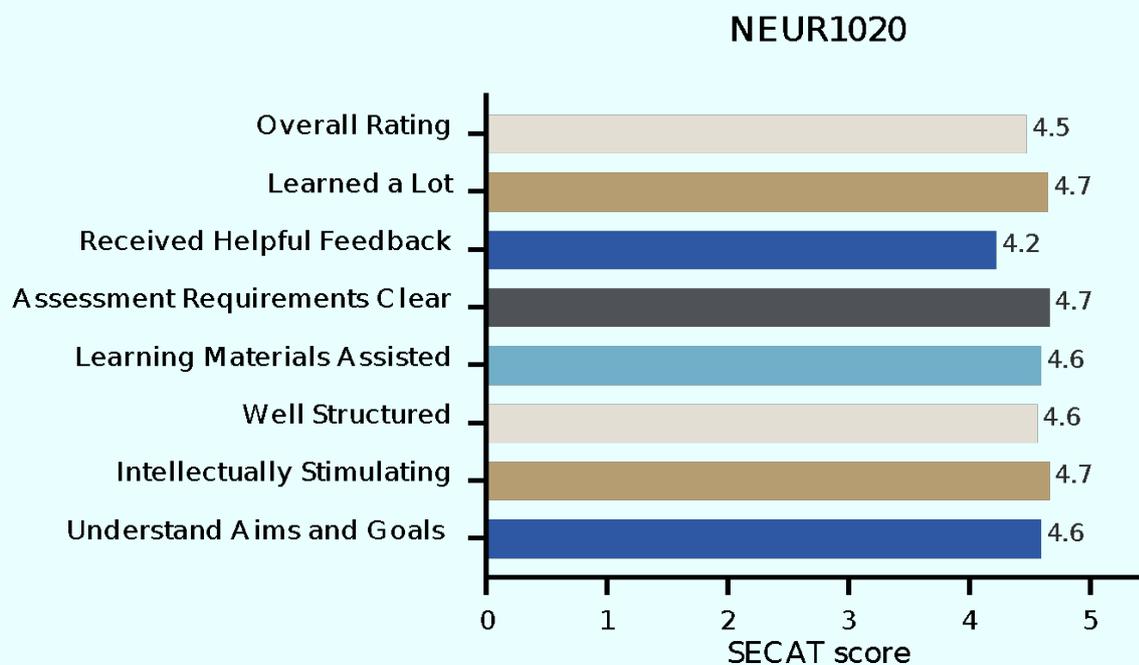
Disadvantages

- The simplicity of the course makes it easy to become complacent and underestimate the essay and final exam
- The tutorial worksheets are tedious and require you to read through large portions of text to answer simple questions
- Tutorial questions are similar from week to week
- Lectures are just recaps of the edX content

Tips & what we wish we knew

- You receive a third of your marks by following the requirements of the course e.g., completing Ripple, SONA, tutorial worksheets
- Don't have to attend tutorials and can complete worksheets on your own
- Ripple questions are made by other students and may include mistakes
- Do not buy the textbook - isn't useful
- Do not cram the research essay

SECaTs Review





NUTR1023

Health & Fitness Through Diet & Exercise

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 2 workshop

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=NUTR1023

Course Description

This course will examine the influence of diet and exercise on health, fitness and well-being. During the course students will learn about - the functions of nutrients in the body; how the body responds to exercise training; how to determine if students' own diet and exercise is meeting current recommendations; how to develop an exercise program to improve health and fitness; how to use diet and exercise to maintain a healthy body weight and how nutrition can be used to enhance exercise performance. The course is structured in a way that will allow the application of knowledge gained about diet and exercise to improve students' own health and fitness.

Advantages

- **Content was manageable and easy to understand** with many resources for further research easily accessible online
- **There are break weeks where you don't need to do anything**
- All assessment items are easy and straightforward to complete



- No final exam

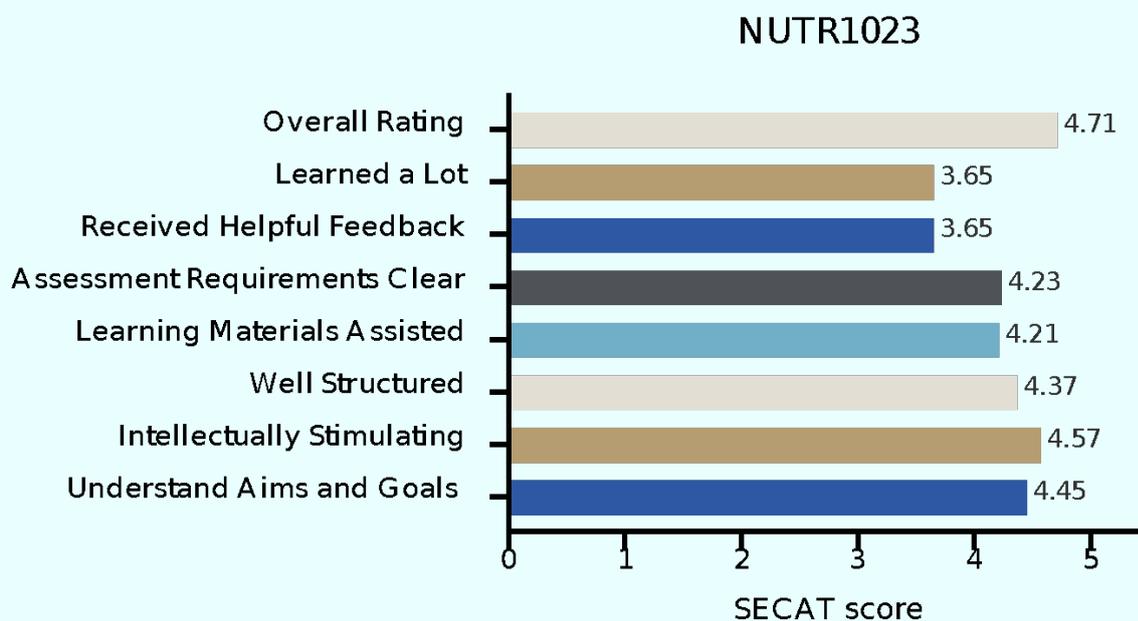
Disadvantages

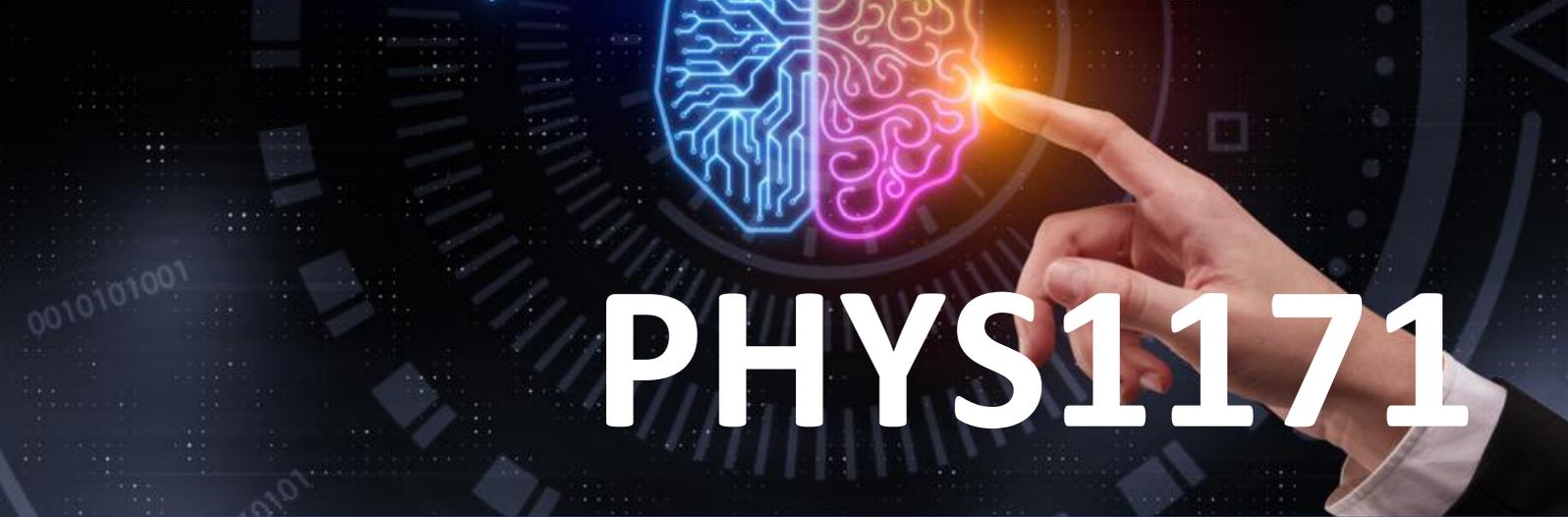
- The workshops and lectures are long and unnecessary repeats of the edX content
- The final assignment takes a large portion of time to complete
- Course readings are required to complete the weekly quizzes and are sizeable
- Hard to choose what specific goals and aspects to focus on e.g., carbs, fats, proteins and more

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Good for introverts - don't need to interact with others to achieve a good mark
- Only need to use edX and supplementary readings to receive good grades
- Do not leave the final assignment to the last minute
- Use the Woolworths site for nutrition values when completing meal plans

SECaTs Review





PHYS1171

Physical Basis of Biological Systems

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Tutorial, 3 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL1020

Course Description

An algebra-based introduction to Physics in a biological context. Topics include forces, motion, thermodynamics, waves, fluids, electricity and biomedical sensing.

Advantages

- If you have done physics before at the senior high school level, this course is relatively easy. It provides a **good overview of basic concepts**.
- **The tutorials are quite flexible, and the tutors are very willing to help out if you have a question.**
- **The course is pretty well structured, with Five Minute Physics for the course being your best friend**, since it covers the basics of the concept, which (if you read it pre-lecture) puts you in a good stance for the information that comes with the lecture. There are also relevant textbook questions that are good for grounding a new concept.
- The **mid-semester exam** is quite relaxed, since it's **all multiple choice with ample time**.



- The **practical are marked in a rather interesting way** – you can get 10/10 for a practical but not get all the marks for one question (e.g. 1/2) because it was cancelled out by bonus marks in another question (5/4). So, there's a **fair number of opportunities to do well**.

Disadvantages

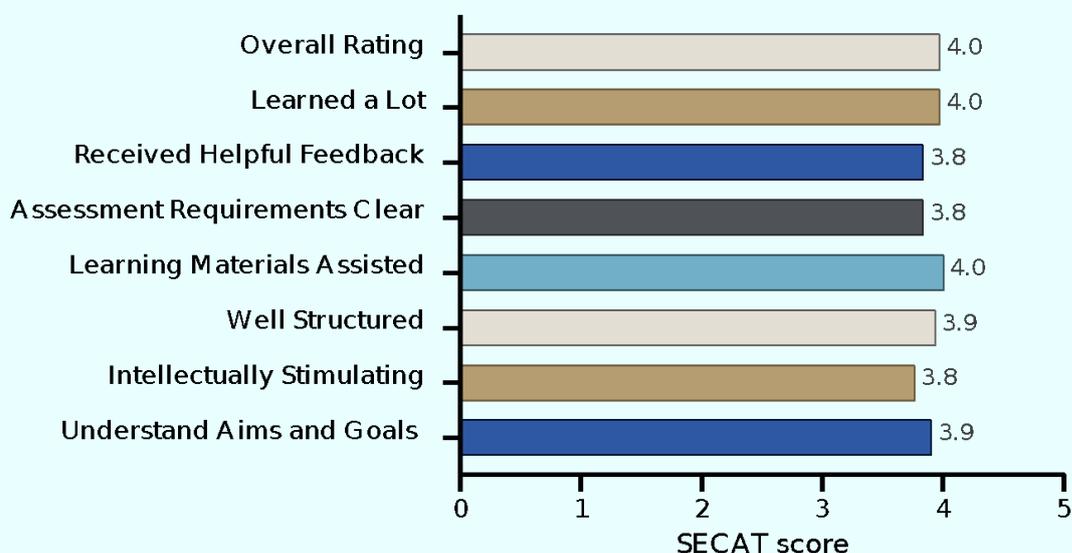
- **Lecturers don't really explain concepts in-depth**, since they **assume you've done the pre-reading on Five Minute Physics** - a significant portion of lecture time is spent on practice problems and clicker questions.
- **Lectures aren't compulsory**, but **certain clicker questions do contribute to a bonus 5%**, so it would be **wise to attend lectures**.
- The **practical can seem bland and repetitive** since you're just taking measurements and finding numbers, plugging in numbers, then dealing with more numbers.
- The **practical lab questions can be slightly hit or miss** – it can be difficult to deduce where the marks are allocated and where the bonus marks come from.

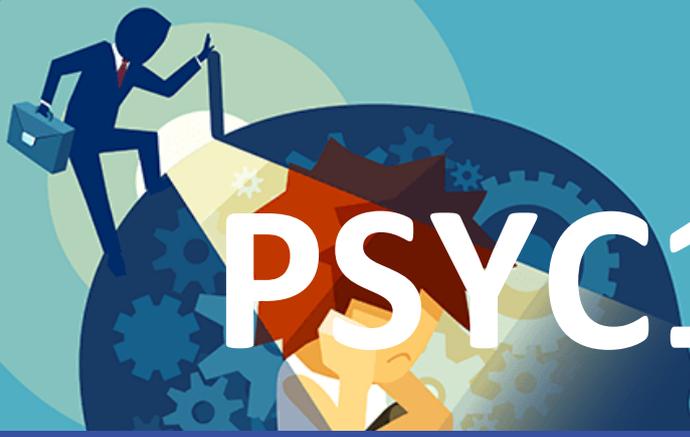
Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Ask your tutor to explain any concepts you don't understand and don't leave it until the last week before exams.**
- Be warned that **Five Minute Physics is not the one and only holy grail of PHYS1171** – the **lectures will not cover as much theory, and instead focuses on the typical questions you should expect in exams and in the course, so it would be wise to attend (not to mention you do need the clicker marks).**
- **Practice.** You could attend every single lecture and listen attentively to how they address the question, but it isn't until you do the questions yourself that you actually learn how to apply the theory behind physics (so do all your tutorial questions, as well as the recommended textbook questions, not just the compulsory ones).

SECaTs Review

PHYS1171





PSYC1030

Introduction to Psychology: Developmental, Social & Clinical Psychology

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External
Prerequisites: N/A
Contact hours: 2 Tutorial, 1 Contact
Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL1020

Course Description

The School of Psychology recommends only two of the three first year courses is undertaken in the first semester of study.

Psychology is the scientific study of how people behave, think and feel. This course spans a variety of topics including the development of thought, language and personality as well as issues in clinical psychology. The course also covers social issues including communication, aggression, and altruism, Students will be given the opportunity to participate in both classic and state-of-the-art psychological research and to demonstrate their understanding of the research process.

Contact hours: Semester 1 and Semester 2: Flipped class model with a two hour tutorial and a one hour learning enrichment session per week. Summer Semester: accelerated Flipped class model with a two hour tutorial and two on-line lectures per week. This course may not be offered over Summer if enrolment is less than 15 students.





Advantages

- Good course structure and interesting content.
- No final exam.
- There aren't too many assessments, and each is fairly straightforward.
- The **weekly summative MCQs are relatively easy to do well in**, and end up counting for a large portion of the overall marks.

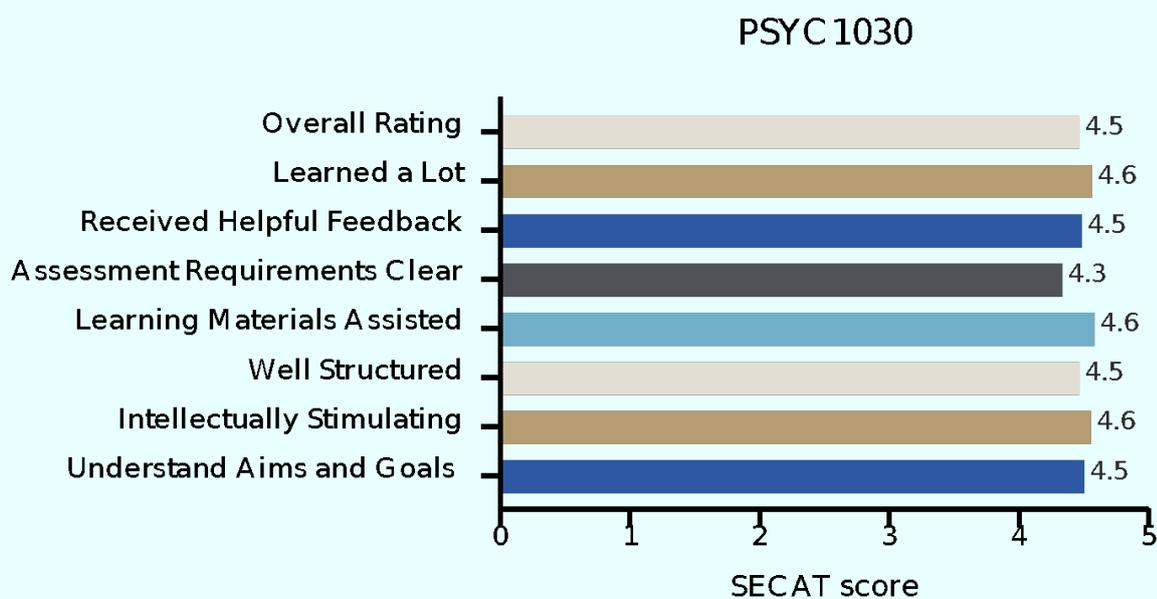
Disadvantages

- About **4 hours of online content to grind through each week**, which could put off some people.
- Having quizzes every week means you really **need to stay on top of the content and cannot cram**.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- The School of Psychology recommends only two of the three first year psychology courses are undertaken in the first semester of study.
- You need **89.5% for a 7**, instead of the usual 85%

SECaTs Review





SCIE1000

Theory & Practice in Science

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 2 Workshops, 1 contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=SCIE1000

Course Description

This foundation course in science introduces students to the broad range of mathematical, analytical, conceptual and computational tools employed by scientists to develop, analyse and interpret models of scientific processes. To emphasize the importance and generality of these tools, a number of key contemporary topics in science will be studied, including climate change, population dynamics, drugs and pharmacokinetics, and epidemics.

The course will demonstrate how and why mathematical models underpin modern science, and students will learn how to develop and analyse such models. The course also introduces computer programming (using the language Python) as a vital tool in modern scientific modelling. Students will be introduced to some fundamental philosophical issues in science, gaining an appreciation of some of the assumptions that underlie science and the supposed scientific method, reinforcing the importance of critical thinking, creativity and quantitative scientific skills.

Advantages

- Mid-semester and final exam are take home with a 12 hour window completion window



- There is an optional contact class that covers python coding
- The lecture book is made specifically for SCIE1000 and focuses on teaching through practice problems instead of long sections of text
- The tutors are always friendly and helpful

Disadvantages

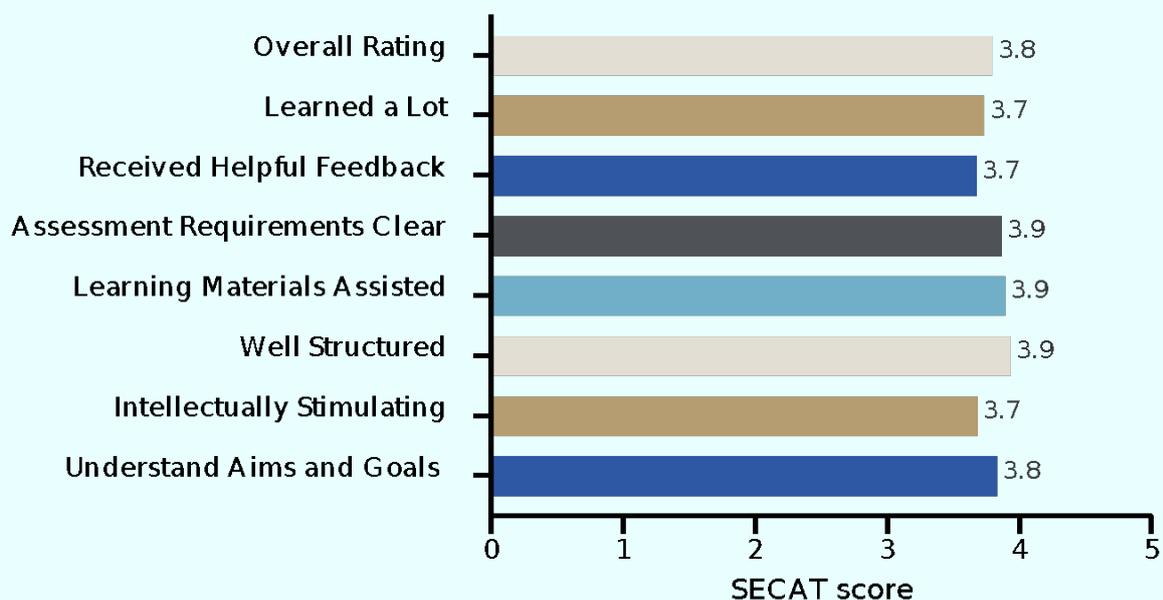
- Heavy emphasis on 'communication' make sure to write your answers clearly
- The workshops are long (two hours) and cover a large volume of content which can be tiring
- Philosophy module can be confusing for STEM students
- The Python coding assignment is the most difficult and requires further research to complete

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Make a coding reference sheet
- If struggling with coding use MyPyTutor
- Watch the lectures in 2x speed instead of attending live
- Pair up with a friend in the workshops to aid learning
- Don't forget the units when writing answers (it's easy to forget them on things like the slope of a line on a graph).
- Start python assignment early or you will be panicking with the other people in the cohort (stressful to watch 😬).
- Do not overcomplicate the philosophy assignment by trying to smart with original opinions and doing a lot of your own research. Focus on the lecture content and be aware that deviating from the 'story' in the lectures is much more likely to be punished than rewarded, no matter how well-researched it is. Generally, it is better to agree with what Karl Popper says.

SECaTs Review

SCIE1000





MUSC1150

Introduction to Guitar

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 2 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=MUSC1150

Course Description

The guitar is a portable and versatile instrument that can be used in a wide variety of musical genres and for a diverse repertoire, from classical to folk to contemporary popular music. This course provides an opportunity for practical study of this guitar, enabling the development of basic skills, knowledge and competencies to prepare you for future use of the instrument in diverse performance settings. Please note that this course offering may be cancelled if fewer than 10 students enrol.

Advantages

- **An extremely relaxed course** exploring various genres of guitar and their associated techniques.
- There are **only two dominant pieces of assessment**: firstly, recording a compilation of performances – some items taught in class, some of your own choosing (approximately 30 seconds in length) and secondly, a final, in-class quiz based on a 25 song playlist introduced at the beginning of the semester.
- **Lecturer/guitar teacher is the coolest guy and runs a relatively informal, relaxed tutorial.**

Disadvantages

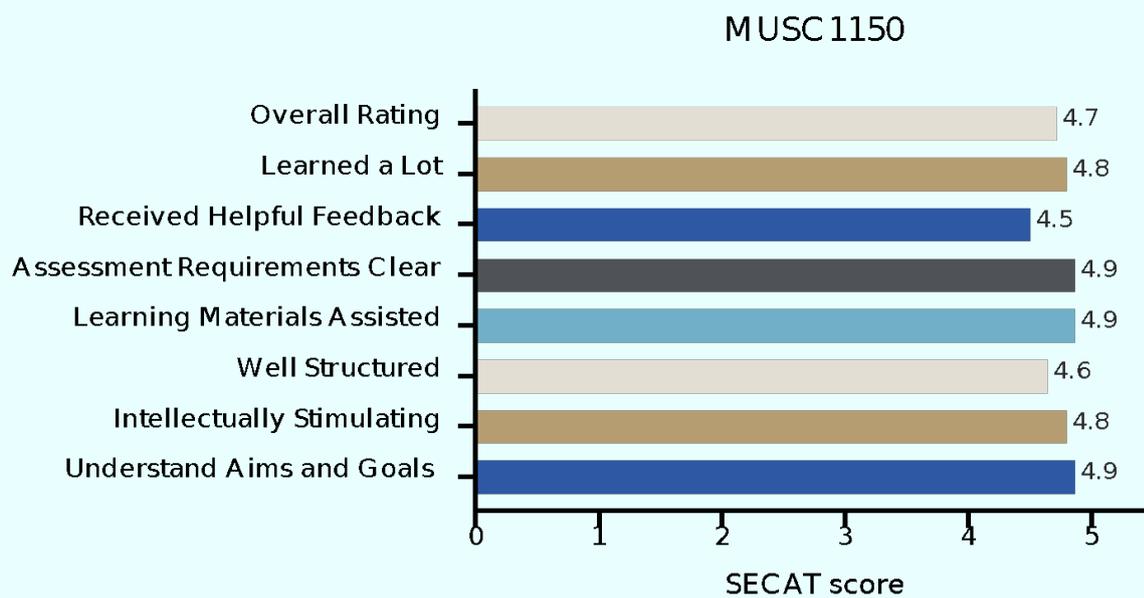


- **None**, unless you consider carrying a guitar to uni twice a week for a GUITAR course a disadvantage.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Start listening to the Spotify list early.** Classical pieces will be harder to identify than the contemporary ones so make sure to listen to the entire track.
- **Attendance is a PASS/FAIL hurdle.** You must attend more than 80% of the tutorials.

SECaTs Review





Introduction to Public Health

HEALTH SCIENCES

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 1 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=PUBH1102

Course Description

This course introduces the history, principles, central concepts and theories of public health. Students will gain an understanding of how health is measured, and the major determinants and risk factors associated with poor health. This provides a knowledge base for understanding the complex 'wicked' health challenges of the 21st Century.

Advantages

- This course offers an opportunity to learn about **researching and using health-related literature**. This is a skill not often taught in other courses but are assumed for higher-level courses.
- There's **no final exam**
- The **content is inclusive and culturally sensitive** making is a **unique and pleasant experience**



- There are short guest lectures given at the start of each lecture by a **Student Services staff member**. This is an opportunity to learn about the support systems available for you at university.
- **Detailed feedback** provided after every assessment piece
- The **lecturer and tutors are relatable and easy to talk to**

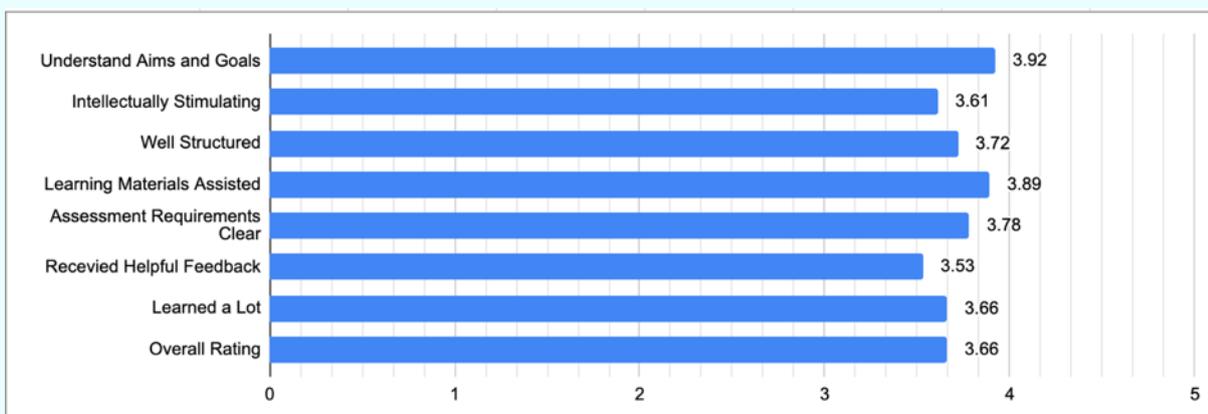
Disadvantages

- **Need to make sure you stay on top of weekly readings** to complete the weekly in tutorial writing assessment
- **Quite different from science courses**, have a focus on the **qualitative** determinants of health as supposed to **quantitative** measures
- The **lectures could be draggy** if you are not actively engaging with the contents

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Make sure you start the assignment early so it's good quality, **since markers are fairly picky**.
- **Not very content heavy**
- Must know how to structure paragraphs well - **use PEEL**
- Skipping lectures but **completing the readings and participating in tutorials** can achieve you a high mark

SECaTs Review





PUBH1103

Health Systems & Policy

HEALTH SCIENCES

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 2 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=PUBH1103

Course Description

This course examines the actors and relationships in the Australian health system and the exchanges that take place between them. Health policy drives the system; how and why policy is created will be examined. The economic context in which health care is provided is examined and students develop the skills necessary to analyse issues relating to health systems from different perspectives. Policies and reforms initiatives in the Australian health system are used to illustrate the application of theoretical concepts. Students will have the opportunity to apply the principles learnt to current issues facing health systems and debate the alternatives.

Advantages

- The course **explains the workings of the health system** and how people interact with the system. It also tackles controversial topics and allows a space for you to have open conversations about your opinions.
- **The readings each week are often multimodal:** documentaries, TV series, audio books, podcasts etc. which makes the course so much more interactive and enjoyable



- **Many engaging guest lectures**, including some big names from different sectors that interact with the health system
- Allow you have a **comprehensive understanding of the Australian health system**

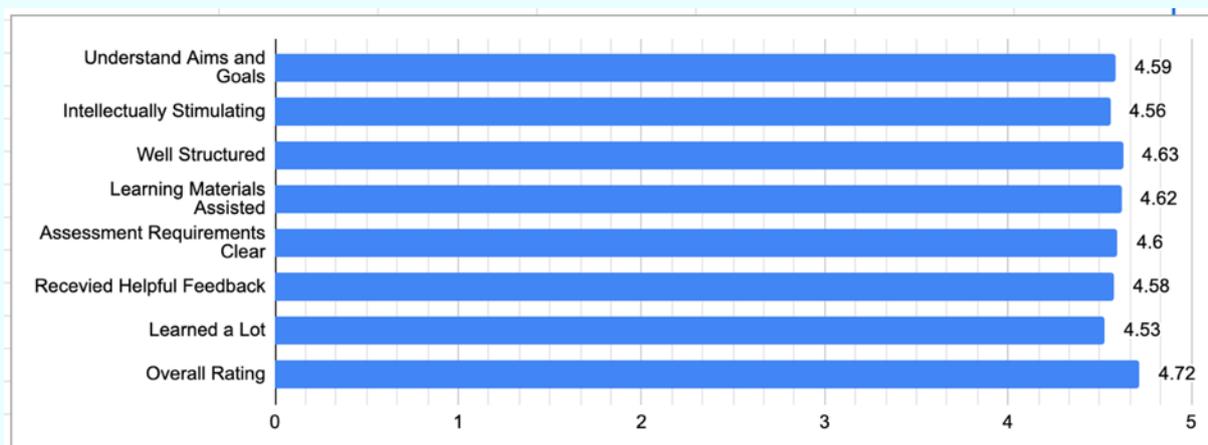
Disadvantages

- **Lots of group discussions at tutorials** and you are assigned those groups for the entire semester - so if you don't like them that's it.
- **Weekly workbooks that add up to 80% of your grade** that are marked strongly in the final version.
- **A lot of weekly requirements**, including weekly reading (yes, you HAVE to do them), weekly workbook (equivalence of assessments), weekly reflections, workbook compilations
- The 8 am lectures and tutorials (depending on your stream) straight after can be a bit draining

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Stay engaged with tutorial content** as that will help you write the workbooks and the eat the week blogs
- Ensure that your **paragraphing structure and your argument formation** is good for this course as this is what all of your assessment is based on.
- Make sure you amend to your workbook answer on the day of the tutorial, this will make the compilation much more manageable
- Make you **allocate sufficient time** to do the weekly reading and workbook before the lectures
- **Learn to reference properly**

SECaTs Review



PUBH1108

Health Research & Evidence

HEALTH SCIENCES

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 1 Lecture, 2 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=PUBH1108

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with an effective working knowledge of health research needed to support high quality, ethical public health practice that is linked to scientific evidence and effectiveness. Specifically this course will address the language, skills and knowledge essential to commence the public health research process. This includes how to source quality evidence, conduct a literature review and identify a gap in the literature for further research. The course will explore the types of evidence and the range of research designs and approaches used in public health practice and the knowledge and skills needed to design a research project to address an identified gap in the literature.

Advantages

- **Assessment felt relevant to the field of public health and taught research skills** that would be relevant in any area.
- **This course has no exam**
- **Allows some creative outlet in the design of the infographic**, however it doesn't have weighting in the marking matrix



- Lectures feel relevant and adequately assessed
- It is a course that was **designed to teach research skills** that were previously assumed to be picked up over time during a student's undergraduate degree.
- The **lecturers and tutors are very approachable and knowledgeable**

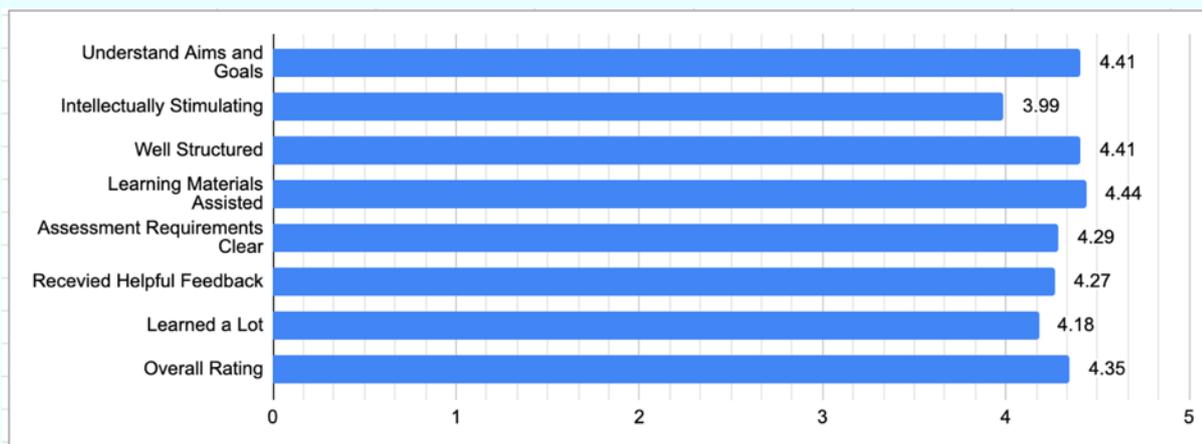
Disadvantages

- **Group assignment which is also a presentation.**
- The **contents of the course** taught can feel irrelevant at first, but it is actually fundamental to future studies and medical practices
- The **assessments require a lot of critical reading**

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Make good use of the tutorials.** These are particularly useful for getting feedback from tutors on your ethical proposal. They are very helpful!
- **Make sure you engage during lectures,** the assessments examine the contents on the lecture slides closely
- **Start your assessments early,** they can be very time consuming, and make sure you follow the assessment instructions closely to get high grades
- **Make use of the assessment templates, they are a life saver**

SECaTs Review





PUBH1109

Measurement in Health

HEALTH SCIENCES

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 1.5 Lecture, 1.5 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=PUBH1109

Course Description

This course will focus on ways that population health data is collected and population health is assessed. It will consider the basic concepts of epidemiology, epidemiological study designs, quantitative measures used to describe the health of populations and identify potential determinants of ill health. The formulation primary data research tools will be considered to address perceived knowledge gaps that address both quantitative and qualitative methods and reflect ethical principles of research practice and data collection. The benefits of piloting primary data collection tools will also be undertaken with a view to establishing best practice in applying research principles covered in this course.

Advantages

- **Explains terms used in public health research** that were previously assumed to be picked up during study
- **Assessment is relevant to the public health area** and feels like something that you would be required to do as a public health worker



- Quiz is open book and quite straightforward

Disadvantages

- **Can seem irrelevant**, but goes hand in hand with PUBH1108 to evidence based practice for future career practice
- The **lectures and tutorials can be draggy** as some of the contents overlap with PUBH1108

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Be on top of your assessments** as they are quite large and can't be done overnight
- **Learn to read scientific studies**, there are techniques to approach a scientific article that can save hours of time going through reports. IE, read the summary, conclusion and discussion first, then selectively read introduction and method.
- **Utilise the tutorials and check in sessions to refine your assessment topics** before jumping straight into it
- Make sure include **critical thinking** in your assessment, don't just use superficial information

SECaTs Review

Not Available



PUBH1110

Exploring Wicked Problems in Health

HEALTH SCIENCES

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: N/A

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 1 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=PUBH1110

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the importance of integrative thinking in the field of public health. Integrative thinking is the ability to comprehend the multitude of ways of perceiving a particular public health issue. Instead of choosing one perspective, discipline or training at the expense of another, an effective resolution often draws from a range of useful perspectives. This integrative approach is particularly important for responding to 'wicked' public health problems - ones which are highly resistant to resolution due to incomplete, contradictory, and/or changing requirements. This course will focus on human health impacts from climate change, and address it through the perspectives from medicine and epidemiology, law and governance, and health and natural resource economics. The course will introduce applicable methods of integrative thinking, including systems thinking.

Advantages

- **Content is interesting and has a running theme of climate change** which is relevant.
- **Explains concepts that contribute to people's health** such as economics that you would normally not think of



- **Great course to broaden your perspective on health**, introduction integrative thinking tools which are incredibly valuable
- **Small in class quizzes that are easily passed that add up to 25%**
- **The lectures and tutorials are very engaging**
- **The assessments are relatively easy** with templates and clear instructions

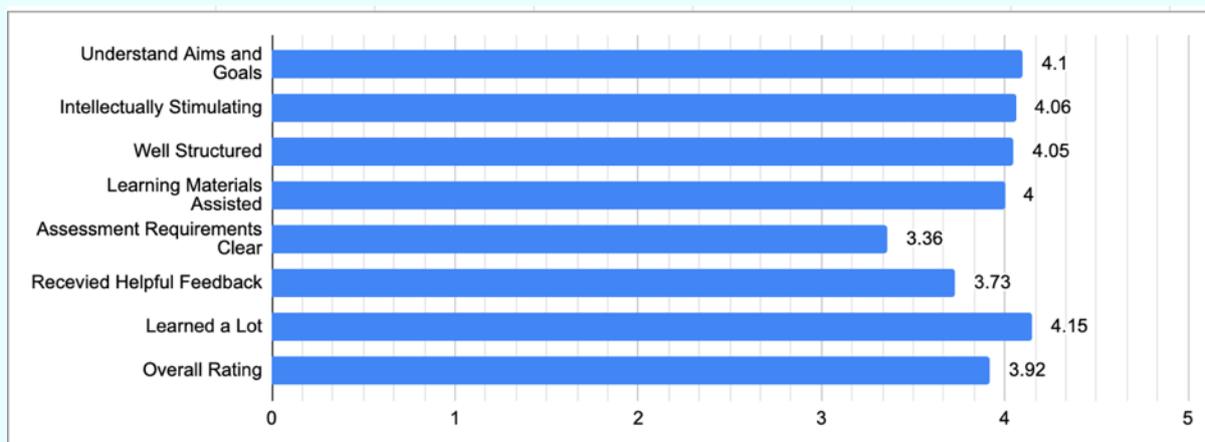
Disadvantages

- **Some content crosses over with other first year courses**
- An **Oral presentation assessment** worth 40% of the grade, so if public speaking isn't quite up your alley then make sure you put sometime in getting more comfortable with your speech

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Focus on the presentation style for your oral presentation**, the marker puts emphasis on that
- **Make sure you attend all tutorials to get the easy quiz marks**, especially the last one
- Make sure you **focus on integrative and critical thinking** in your assessments
- **Do your weekly reading** before the tutorials to get easy 5/5 every time, if you ever forget, make sure you focus in tutorial as the lecturer will mostly likely to go over the quiz answers as tutorial contents before the quiz

SECaTs Review





General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: MATH1040; or A grade of C or higher in Queensland Year 12 Mathematical Methods (Units 3 & 4) (or equivalent).

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 1 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=STAT1201

Course Description

Analysis of scientific data and experiments: Design of experiments and ethical research. Data modelling and management. Exploratory data analysis. Randomness and probability. Statistical analysis including linear regression, analysis of variance, logistic regression, categorical data analysis, and non-parametric methods.

Advantages

- **You can opt for the majority of assessment to be done in groups.** This lessens the overall workload making this course more manageable than others.
- **The exam is multiple choice and straightforward**
- This course is an **interesting introduction to statistics** and is **relevant for those hoping to pursue a career in the medical field**
- **Unlimited attempts at the weekly quiz** for the period it is open

Disadvantages

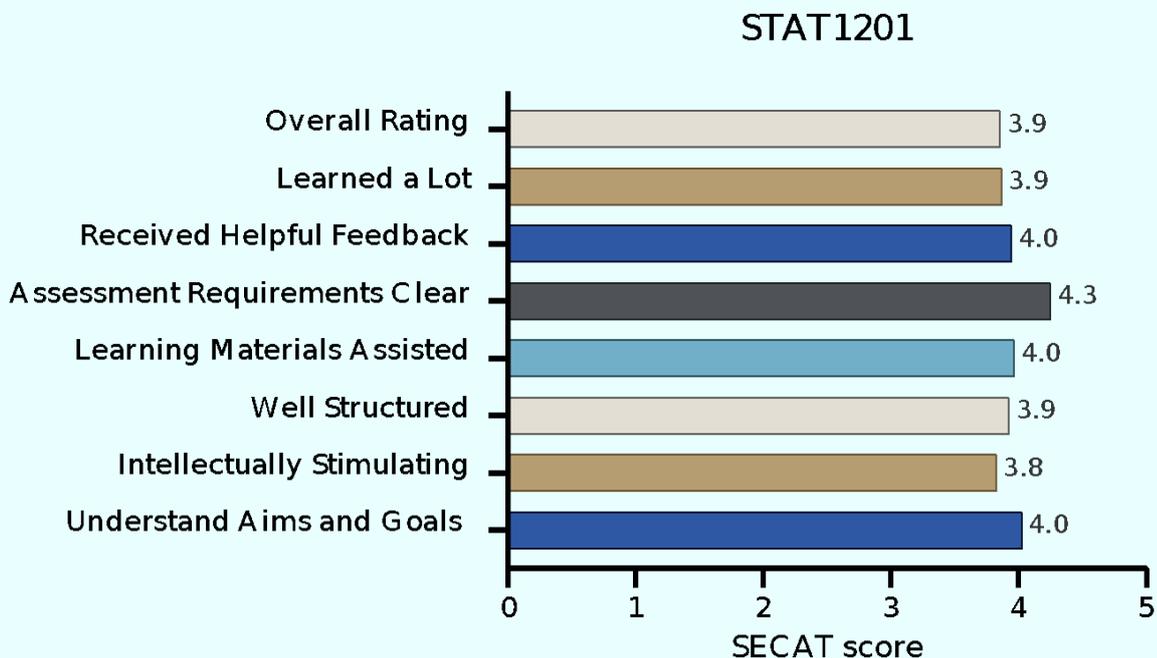


- This course is heavily maths based
- Requires learning basic R coding
- Content tested in the final exam was different from previous years
- Obtaining the statistical data for your research project can be tedious
- A majority of the lectures lacked structure

Tips & what we wish we knew

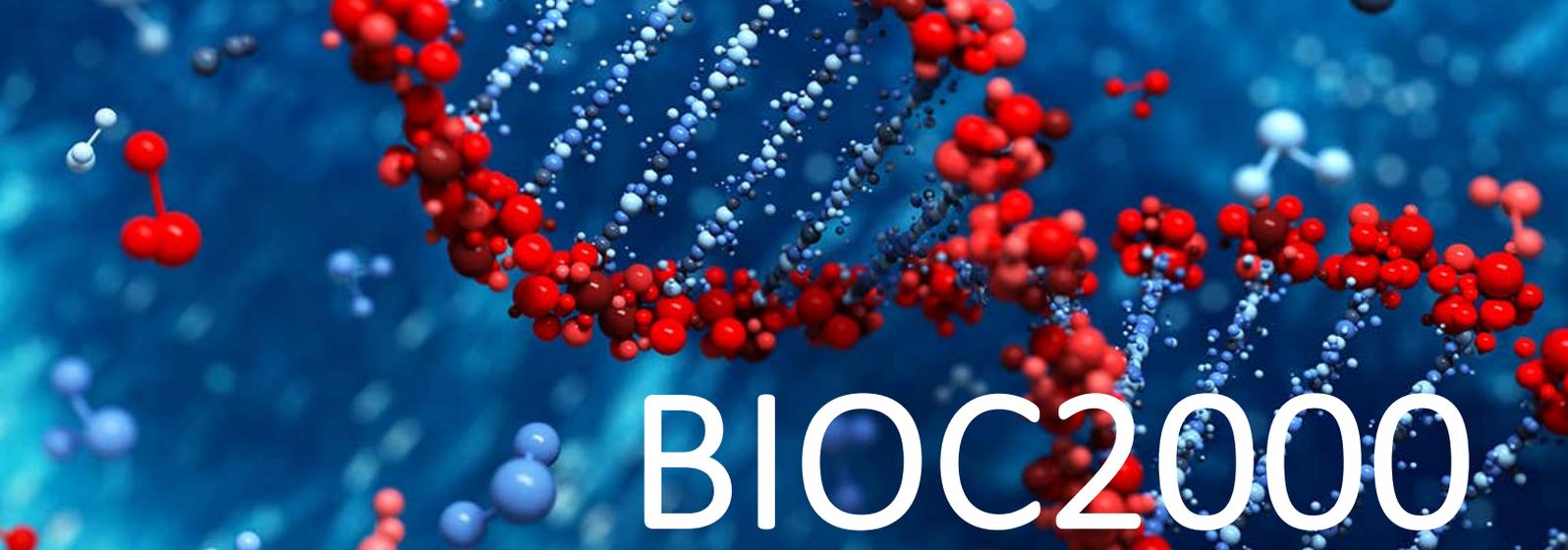
- The final exam caps your grade - super important !!
- The edX content alone is enough to pass with a good grade
- Use the R Studio summaries at the start of each weekly quiz
- Make a coding reference sheet
- **Attend the tutorials!** Great indication of the types of questions you'll be expected to know how to answer on the finals and a good summary of where you should be up to in course content. Don't be afraid to ask the tutors for help.
- **Try all the past papers** - they're very similar and great practice.

SECaTs Review





SECOND YEAR COURSES



BIOC2000

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: (BIOL1020 or BIOM1050 or BIOM1051 or CHEE1001 or BIOE1001) + (CHEM1100, CHEM1221, CHEM1222, CHEM1021, or CHEM1022)

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 1 Workshop, 3 Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOC2000

Course Description

This course will enable you to gain an understanding of the key concepts of biochemistry and molecular biology. At the end of the course you will have an understanding of how proteins can catalyse the chemical reactions that allow cells to function. To get to this point you will gain an understanding of: the nature of chemical reactions in biological systems; how genetic information is used to direct protein synthesis; how the structure of proteins is determined; how structure determines function; and how we understand the properties of enzymes. You will be able to reinforce and apply these concepts in laboratory practical where you will purify and characterise a protein.

Advantages

- **Open book exams** (20% mid-sem and 30% final) are open book. **Questions are often very similar to past papers** so exams are straightforward to study for!



- Some lecturers held lectures in the first two lecture times then a workshop in the third slot which was a great way to break up the content and a great opportunity to ask questions.
- **Participation in practical is 15%** of the grade!
- **Data analysis super simple and easy marks**
- More about **understanding concepts** and more biology than chemistry

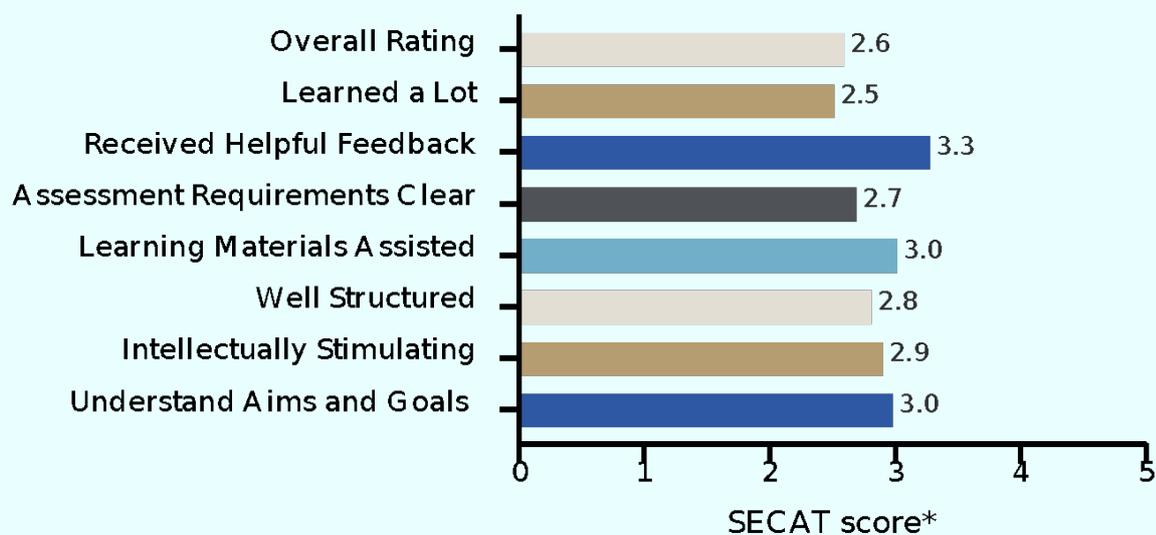
Disadvantages

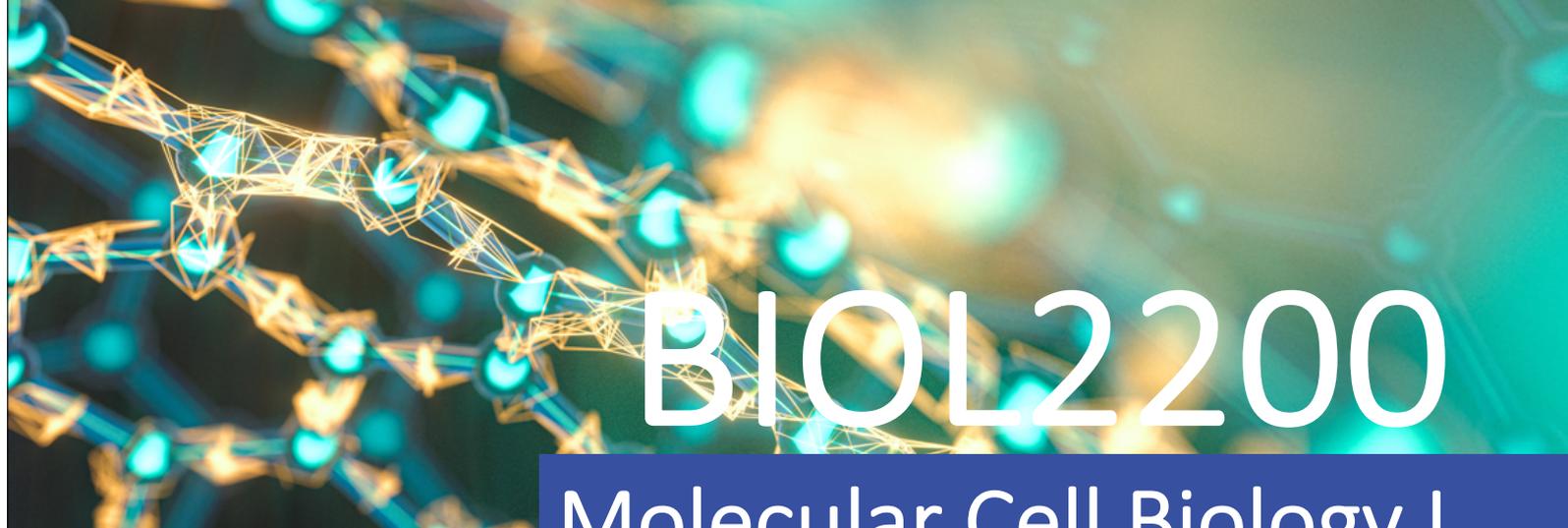
- Content can be very **dry and tedious** to work through - hard to find motivation and keep up to date
- There are **calculations and formulas** that you need to be comfortable using

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Each lecturer covers a different topic which makes modules stand-alone.** This makes study easier as content does not need to be understood in the context of other modules.
- **Read all blackboard answers relevant to the assignment** - they are very helpful
- **Tutorial attendance is helpful if you are not comfortable with data analysis/maths.**
- **Complete majority of the data analysis reports as soon as possible/tutorials** this will save you so much time when completing the reports.

SECaTs Review





BIOL2200

Molecular Cell Biology I

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOL1020

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL2200

Course Description

Cell Structure and Function entails the study of the molecular mechanisms that regulate cell function. This course will provide students with an understanding of the molecules & complexes that make up cells and mediate cell activities such as proliferation, secretion, motility and cell death. Knowledge of the processes that regulate these activities is an essential requirement for the study of normal cellular physiology, and for the development of new drugs and improved treatments for many disorders such as cancer, diabetes and metabolic diseases.

Advantages

- Very useful in understanding what **signal transduction actually entails**, along with lectures being (mostly) **passionate**.
- Very helpful in **understanding laboratory techniques** like GFP.
- **Modules are arranged by cellular machinery** (nucleus, ER, Golgi, mitochondria) which is very helpful for GAMSAT and general biology knowledge.



- **Mid-semester content is not re-assessed in the final**, and many questions have been repeated or at least similar concepts; hence, fairly straightforward exam.
- If you had a **good tutor in the internal practical**, you may basically be given the answers to the practical quiz questions = **free marks**.

Disadvantages

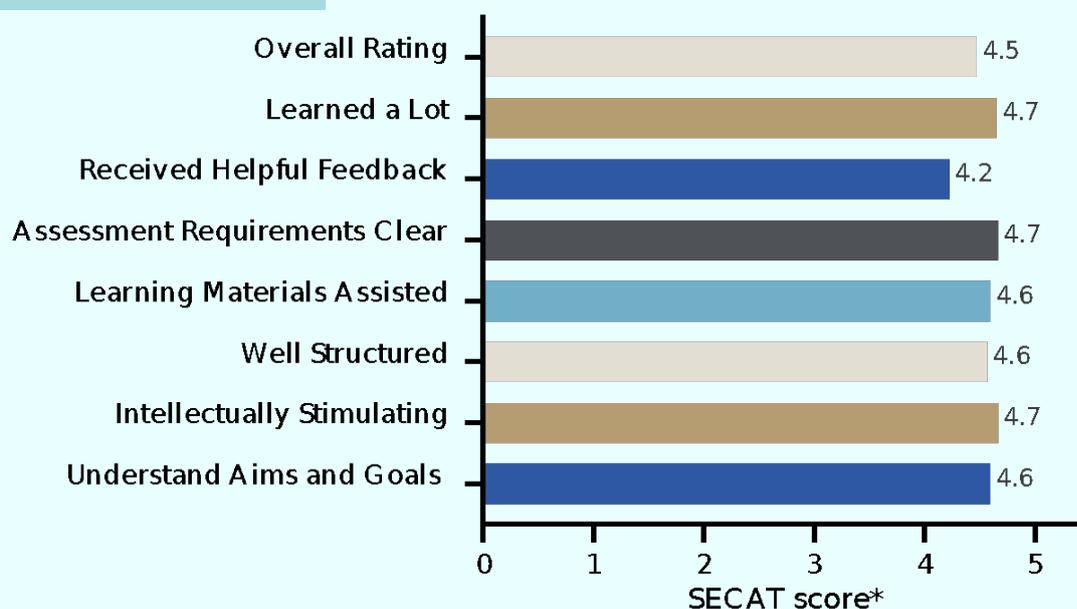
- **Content is complex as pathways have multiple steps along with jargon** (e.g. K48-linked); sometimes confusing on the depth you are supposed to learn.
- **If you are not interested in specific cellular activity, this course may quickly become disengaging, especially if some lectures are not very engaging.**
- Two-course coordinators have miscommunicated, leading to some confusion such as in the essay/report assignments for external students.
- **The exam takes quite heavy weight, hence time should be dedicated to studying the concepts examined (which are often summarised in each lecture).**

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **In 2021, the external and internal models had different assessments**; the former had two essays while the internal had two practical quizzes. Depending on the type of person you are (prefers quizzes or written assignments), the mode may be advantageous or disadvantageous to you.
- **Asking many questions and writing notes during practical** is important as practical content is quizzed.

SECaTs Review

BIOL2200





BIOL2202

Genetics

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOL1020 or CHEE1001

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Practical or Laboratory

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL2202

Course Description

The discipline of Genetics has pioneered the core concepts underlying many diverse fields of biology - ranging from medicine, biochemistry and microbiology to ecology, evolution and environmental sciences. BIOL2202 Genetics is therefore a recommended second level subject for all students pursuing a biology-focused major. Employing a strong experimental component, BIOL2202 integrates classical concepts of inheritance, development and variation with modern molecular advances arising from the post-genomic era.

Advantages

- **A fairly in-depth look at genetics across a variety of fields**, from medicine to agriculture. There should be something here to interest most people.
- There is an **interesting blend of theoretical genetics** (e.g. the neutral theory of molecular evolution) and **practical genetics** (e.g. selective breeding programs).
- **Some overlap with courses like MICR2000 and BIOL1020**, which makes revising some modules easier.
- **The video assignment** (genetic basis of stuff and things) allows you to really **think outside the box and incorporate your scientific knowledge with personal flair**. The tutors and James Fraser himself reward creativity, and it is quite easy to obtain full marks.



- Interesting practicals that tie into one another and don't require a lab report after.

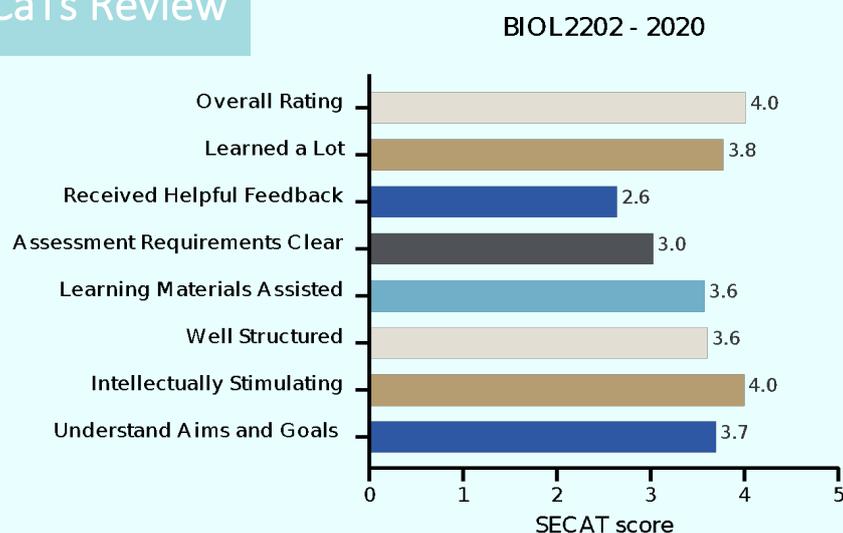
Disadvantages

- **Module 5 in particular seems to frustrate people as it gets dense and extremely theoretical, and the lecturer prefers to draw diagrams on a whiteboard rather than use lecture slides. There are times when it becomes quite hard to follow.**
- If you're taking this course in preparation for medicine, **be prepared for much of the content to have little to no application within the medical field.**
- **Content heavy with much memorisation required** (though you will often need a deeper understanding of contents rather than just pure memorisation).
- **The video assignment is time-consuming and may become frustrating**, as you have to create all of the visual assets yourself.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- You probably won't need the majority of the semester to complete the video assignment (what James Fraser recommends), **but you really can't leave it until the night before.** Take the time to think about how you'll approach your article, what software you will use to animate and what creative touches you'll put in.
- **Most people use PowerPoint (simple yet effective) or adobe creative cloud, but stop-motion and video game footage also seem to work well.**
- Aside from the **40% video assignment**, there are **two exams each weighted at 30%**. Try to nail the first exam and get full marks on the assignment; you won't need to stress as much on the (harder) final exam and you won't need a high mark to achieve a 7.
- **Thoroughly read through the three articles for the video assignment BEFORE choosing** and do basic research online and see if their relevance and if they are of interest to you.
- **Using the textbooks and diagrams are handy for a clearer understanding of different processes.**

SECaTs Review





BIOM2011

Integrative Cell & Tissue Biology

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOL1040

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM2011

Course Description

Students will develop an understanding of how cells associate & interact to fulfil their normal functions in tissues & organs of the human body. This will include the basic principles of integration & regulation that underpin normal tissue biology.

Advantages

- **Very good overview** on hormone actions, epithelium, muscle cells, etc. i.e. wide range of topics. **These concepts are SUPER important in later courses and just general life knowledge.**
- **Builds on (and repeats some) BIOL1040 content.**
- **A lot of immunology content overlapped with MICR2000** so a bit less study was needed there; very extensive coverage of immunology.
- **All content was on EdX:** didn't need to consult any extra textbook readings.
- **Lots of diagrams, hence engaging for a visual learner**



- **Practical tutors are very helpful**, so ask them plenty of questions to do well in the practical report (which its split into two, where the second 'attempt' is a chance to fix your previous mistakes)
- From 2022, BIOM2011 and BIOM2012 will be compulsory prerequisites for entry for UQ Medicine

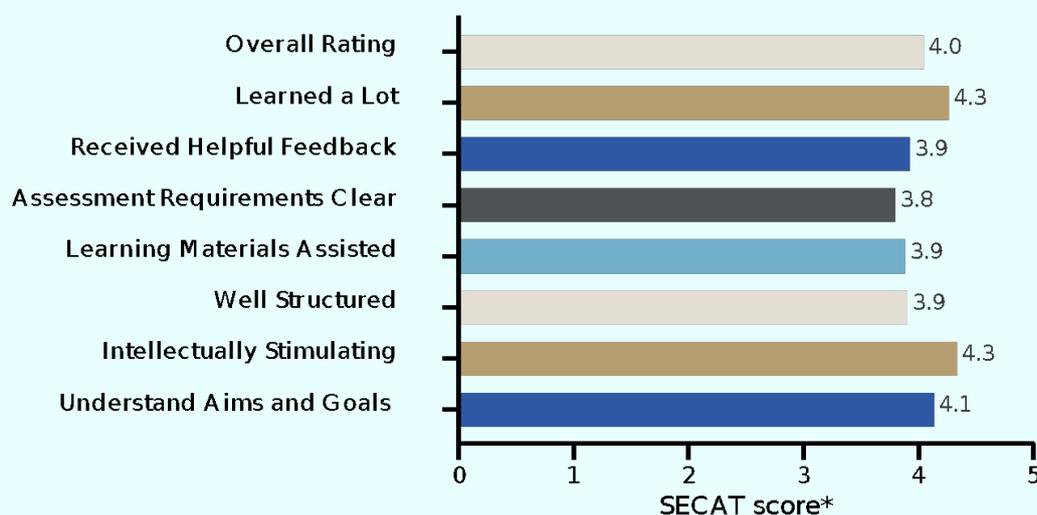
Disadvantages

- Some very boring topics (i.e. sensory modules)
- Lab reports were very big and a lot of journal readings were needed.
- Crazy amount of content if you do this course at the same time as BIOM2020 and BIOL2200.
- Most difficult SAQs in the second year in terms of figuring out what they're actually looking for in a response.
- Online learning was a complete mess. Modules vary wildly in quality (there was a lack of effort seen by lecturers in certain modules). Some entire topics were completely nonsensical. Hence, you must dedicate at least 4 hours to understanding the content, especially when it is difficult to digest; **it can be easy to fall behind due to no motivation. Prepare yourselves.**

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Do all the online quizzes as they can give you a decent amount of marks; many questions are past MCQ
- Keep on top of the content, and start the practical report early.
- For the practical report, **don't try to overcomplicate the design of the experiment** — look for papers that discuss your chosen topic, and make sure there are enough that mention toads/amphibians as the **tutors prefer that you do not refer to mammals**
- **Ask your tutor for guidance**, since they will be marking your report as it varies from tutor to tutor.
- Be acquainted with the overall picture, but also the finer smaller details

SECaTs Review





BIOM2012

Systems Physiology

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOM2011

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM2012

Course Description

Students will develop an understanding of how the major organ systems of the body perform their normal functions & how these are regulated & integrated in order to maintain homeostasis.

Advantages

- **Cardiovascular modules are not easy**, but a lot of content revisits past content so it isn't as hard the second time around; **content extends from and is much more interconnected and organised compared to BIOM2011.**
- **Quizzes, Meta-Learning and practical group tasks are opportunities to get good marks before the Final Exam.** Practical themselves are also quite chill compared to your quintessential Biomed practical.
- If you are **self-motivated and enjoyed EdX in the past, this course is for you**; you can go ahead with content so there is less to catch up later especially when you are writing the practical report and other assignments.



- For the practical report, you are spoon-fed (almost) how to analyse and arrange your data; you can use the slides on GraphPad from BIOM2011 to make your life A LOT easier. Depending on which practical your class decides to complete for your assignment, the test subject may have the opportunity to get their weekly cardio in via the bike or step boxes.
- From 2022, BIOM2011 and BIOM2012 will be compulsory prerequisites for entry for UQ Medicine

Disadvantages

- YouTube is now officially your professor. Good luck!
- Large amounts of content and modules can often feel disconnected. Learning feels self-guided since a lot of the content is delivered via EdX; hence, it may be difficult to maintain the motivation and not leave it all to the last minute
- EdX learning objectives often can't be satisfied by the limited content actually presented on the EdX (i.e. they ask for a 'discussion' of the concept but provide one line identifying this concept).
- Many complaints about practical not properly addressing people's questions/confusion.
- If your class chose a practical assignment that unfortunately happens to have a lack of academic articles to investigate the associated physiology, the report will be very difficult to write as most results will end up being insignificant statistically

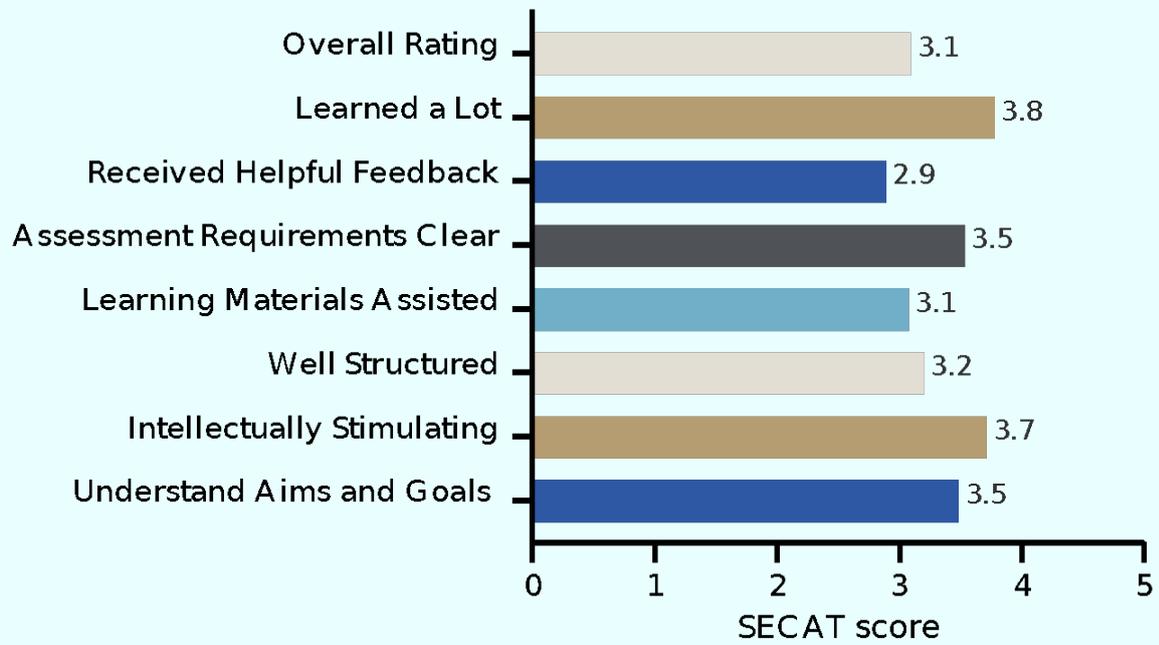
Tips & what we wish we knew

- The last few modules were a lot lighter content-wise, so keeping up with the first half of the content makes life a lot easier around the second half.
- Don't bother watching the lectures unless there is a specific concept you are confused about (in which case you should just watch that section). However, it is high-yield to take the time to quickly read through the slides, just in case there's anything you've missed. The lecturers shouldn't be including any new content (at least, any examinable new content), but in 2020 there was an SAQ hinging on some terminology that you'd only know if you looked at the electoral slides (or did additional reading), which was quite an unpleasant surprise.
- Do NOT overcomplicate the experimental design for the practical assignments. You WILL suffer and you WILL get bad marks despite your suffering. An experimental design that has a lot of academic articles to back it up IS GOLD. Favour lots of evidence over a cool/interesting/unique investigation.
- If you go to the practical and ask the tutors very nicely, they will provide a lot of guidance for the report.
- Past MCQs and SAQs have been repeated and some also in the quizzes, hence past EOS are quite valuable resources



SECaTs Review

BIOM2012





BIOM2020

Human Anatomy

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOL1040 or (BIOM1070 + BIOM1071)

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Laboratory or Practical

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM2020

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to human gross anatomy. Students will learn macroscopic structure of human organ systems including the musculoskeletal, nervous and visceral systems. This course is pertinent to higher level studies in the biological sciences, and is a prerequisite for 3rd year dissection and research courses in human anatomy.

Advantages

- Provides a great and solid introduction to anatomy basics, with a good overview of most organ systems. **Will be very relevant for anyone looking to go into medicine.**
- The course is **well-structured, and interesting**
- One of the only second-year courses that allows you into the **GAF**, giving you the opportunity to familiarise yourself with the specimens and revise the content you have learnt with real models.
- The tutors at each practical session are very **passionate and knowledgeable**, giving you ample opportunity to ask questions.



- There are **weekly quizzes with unlimited attempts - free 30%** as well as revision.

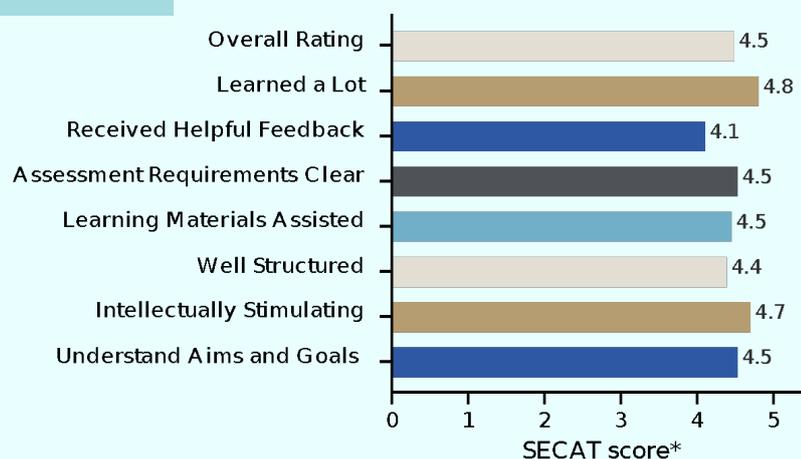
Disadvantages

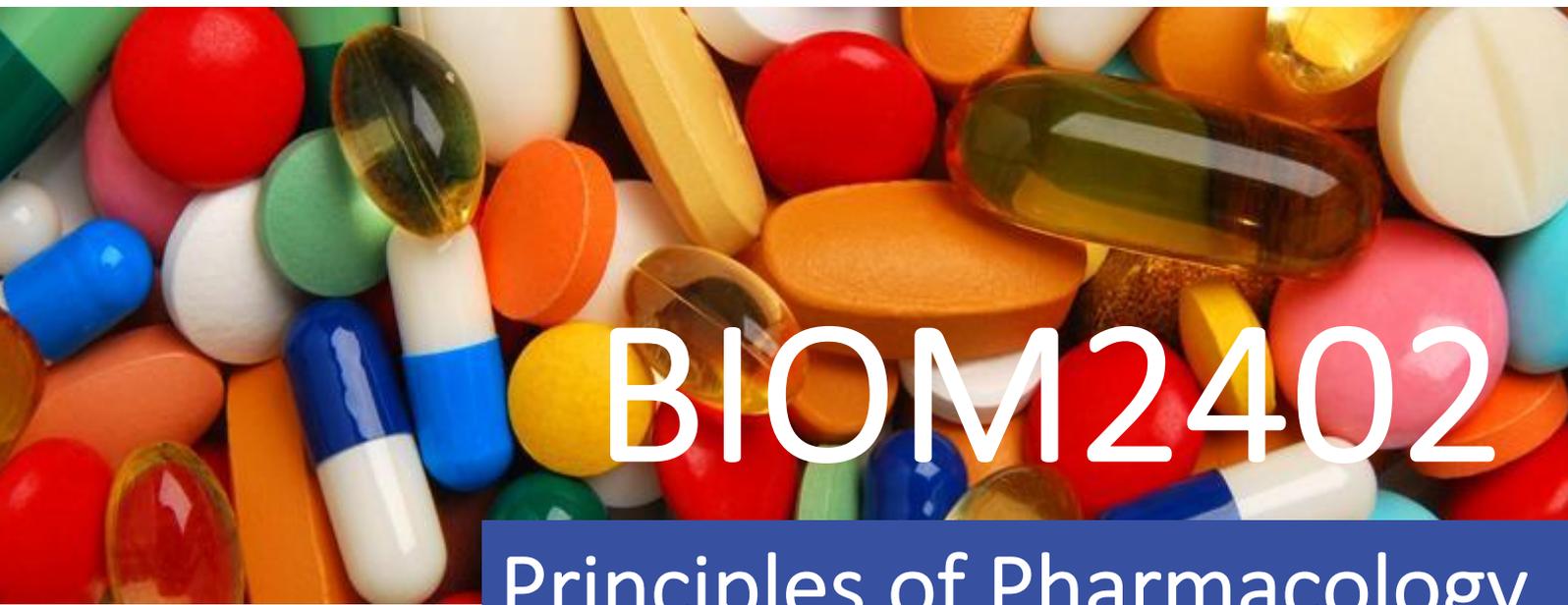
- This is a **very content-heavy course**, and may be spending the most time on this course. There will be a lot of rote learning, and you cannot skip any details. If they were covered in the lecture, they can come up in the exam.
- There is a **large focus on remembering muscle names, their origins and insertions**, and their actions. This can become very tedious, and making all this information stick is hard.
- **Much harder to learn online** when you can't enter the GAF and view the cadavers in person.
- The final exam includes the entire semester's content, so it is very difficult to predict.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Use the textbook** - many of the practical questions are directly from the textbook. Focus on the diagrams and the origin/insertion tables.
- **Attend EVERY practical session** and complete the **practical manuals** BEFORE the session, internal or external. **Most students find the practical to be the greatest opportunity for learning the content.** Without prior preparation, you will be lost in the practical and waste time, as the practical are quite fast-paced.
- **Take initiative to ask the tutors questions**, they are here to help and they love helping.
- **View things in 3D if possible** - anatomy apps such as Complete Anatomy, preparing adequately for practical, doing practice spotters with photos from different perspectives.
- **Keep on top of lectures, this is not a course you can cram (just don't).**
- **One of the most effective methods of studying for this course is through flashcards** (time to get familiar with Anki). Visual learning and constant revision is very important in this course.
- **Take note of which structures are pinned during the GAF sessions**, as these are the most accurate indicator of what may come upon the **spotter exam**.

SECaTs Review





BIOM2402

Principles of Pharmacology

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOL2200 or BIOC2000

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM2402

Course Description

Principles of Pharmacology is designed to introduce students to fundamental concepts in drug action and drug disposition at the molecular and cellular level. Topics include the binding of drugs to receptors, receptor activation and inhibition, effect of drugs on cell signalling, drug absorption and metabolism, genetic determinants of drug action and drug toxicity. Along with basic concepts of pharmacology, students are introduced to experimental approaches to study drug effects.

Advantages

- This course provides a **very deep insight into drug mechanisms and their interactions with the body**, covering a very wide range of bases. For the vast majority of second year students, this is the first course to delve into such topics, making it **very interesting for many as well as relevant**.



- Content is **definitely useful for medicine**. Some lecturers will give the same lecture in your first year of medicine.
- Course content overlaps with a few other popular courses, such as BIOM2011/2012, BIOL2200, and BIOC2000.
- Lecturers are very clear with what you need to know. Some will directly label the drug names you need to memorise or note slides that will not be tested.
- **practical were well-structured with extremely detailed criteria**. The tutors provide you with lots of support, although it is up to you to ask questions.

Disadvantages

- **Some lecturers were very dry and unengaging**.
- Drug side effects/mechanisms do not make sense, are poorly explained, or are not explained at all. **A lot of the time you just have to memorise it**. It is mostly not worth doing the extra work by yourself to find the actual reasons for why things are like that.
- **It is difficult to know how much in depth to go with the theory for the organ bath report**. Also, there was a **big focus on coming up with explanations for non-perfect data** compared to other practical reports. However, this may have been exacerbated by everyone getting the same data sets because of COVID.

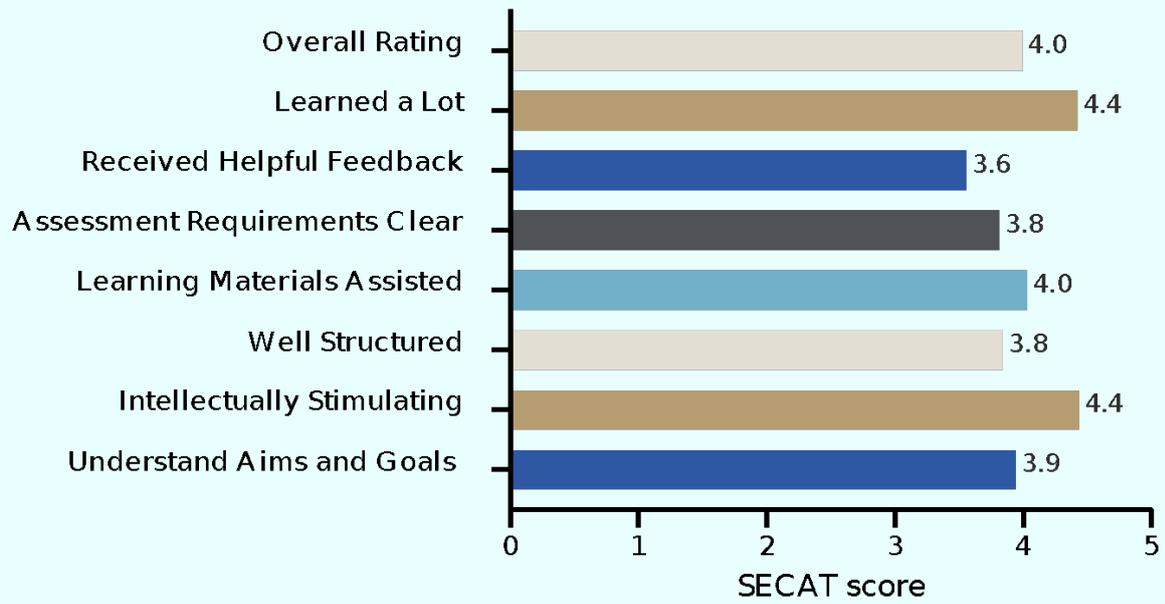
Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Use the past papers**. Many questions are repeated or very similar, and the questions give you an idea on the amount of detail you are expected to know.
- **A giant table with the names of drugs, their mechanisms of actions (MOAs), ADME, use, and side-effects can be very useful**, as a lot of the MOAs are similar and can get very confusing. This also makes revising for the final much less daunting.
- **Take note of the real-world examples elaborated on in the lectures**, as they can come up on the exam
- **Do not neglect toxicology and serial dilutions!** They normally include a big question in the final exam to catch students off guard.
- **Listen to tips from practical coordinators for the practical reports**, and make sure to apply your feedback from your first practical report to the second. **Reports are worth a fair bit and markers can be quite harsh**. **Do not leave the lab report to the last minute** as it requires more work than you'd expect!
- Given the amount you need to know, **flashcards are extremely useful**.



SECaTs Review

BIOM 2402





CHEM2050

Intermediate Chemistry 1

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: (CHEM1100 or CHEM1020) + (CHEM1200, CHEM1030 or CHEM1010)

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Tutorial, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=CHEM2050

Course Description

This course contains theory for both inorganic, organic chemistry as well as chemical kinetics that a student will need to advance to third level chemistry. Topics covered will include: Synthesis & mechanism in organic chemistry; Transition Metal Chemistry; Bonding and Molecular Orbital Theory; Chemical Kinetics; Molecular Modelling; Stereochemistry; Strategies for complex syntheses.

Advantages

- If you enjoyed CHEM1200 and want to know more about **organic and inorganic bonding and reactions**, then this is the course for you.
- The **small class sizes in this course can be very useful** where lectures can be tailored towards the questions you ask. There are also plenty of **opportunities to have one-on-one time** with lecturers.
- **The course is very helpful for GAMSAT preparation.**



- **Assessment is quite heavily weighted towards in-class quizzes.** This can be annoying during the semester, but there is a lot less pressure for the final.

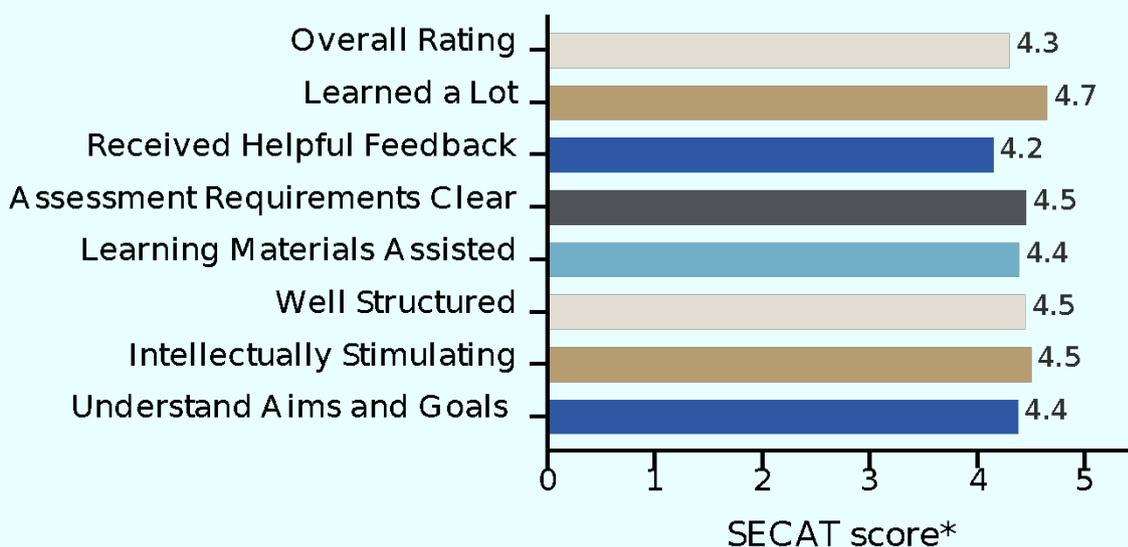
Disadvantages

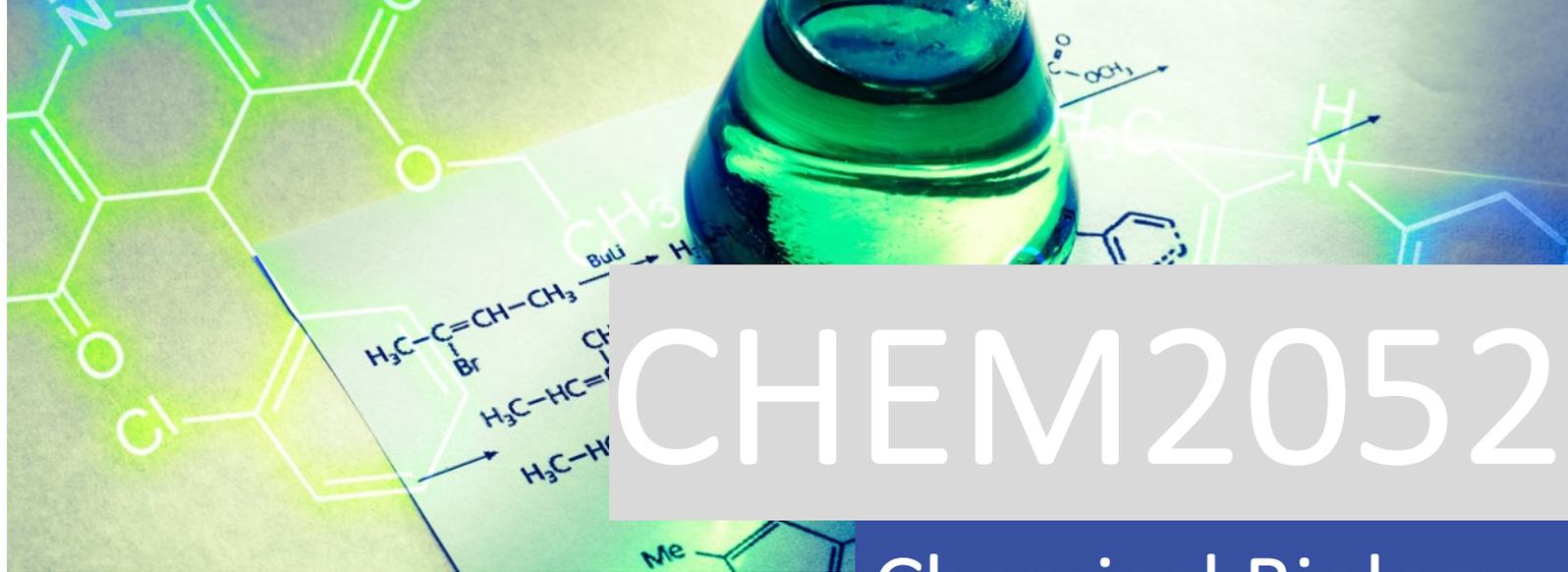
- **Memorising all the organic reactions can become a little tedious.**
- The **in-class quizzes** keep you on your toes for revision. While helpful, it is a little stressful at times.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Because of the in-class quizzes, **it's very helpful to keep on top of the content throughout the semester.**
- **Go to workshops!** They will set you up for the final and there is plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

SECaTs Review





CHEM2052

Chemical Biology

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: CHEM1200, CHEM1010 or CHEM1030(CHEM1100 or CHEM1020) + (CHEM1200, CHEM1030 or CHEM1010)

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=CHEM2052

Course Description

This course focuses on the application of principles of inorganic & organic chemistry to the understanding of biological function at the molecular level. Topics covered will include functional group chemistry in a biological setting, mechanistic enzymology, chemistry of coenzymes & vitamins, chemistry of biosynthetic pathways, computational & spectroscopic methods in chemical biology, metal ion acquisition & speciation in biological systems, metallo-proteins, role of metal ions in disease states. This is a key course for those undertaking the Chemical Biology stream of the Chemical Sciences dual major & for students wishing to continue with Chemistry that is relevant to Biological & Biomedical Sciences.

Advantages

- **A fun course that examines the role of chemistry in biology.** You will learn a lot more about the details of biological reactions than you may have covered in previous courses.



- Targeted at extending the chemistry knowledge of people who are studying a major in the biological/biomedical field, and may be useful for GAMSAT preparation.
- Quite a small class size, meaning that there is time to engage with lecturers directly.

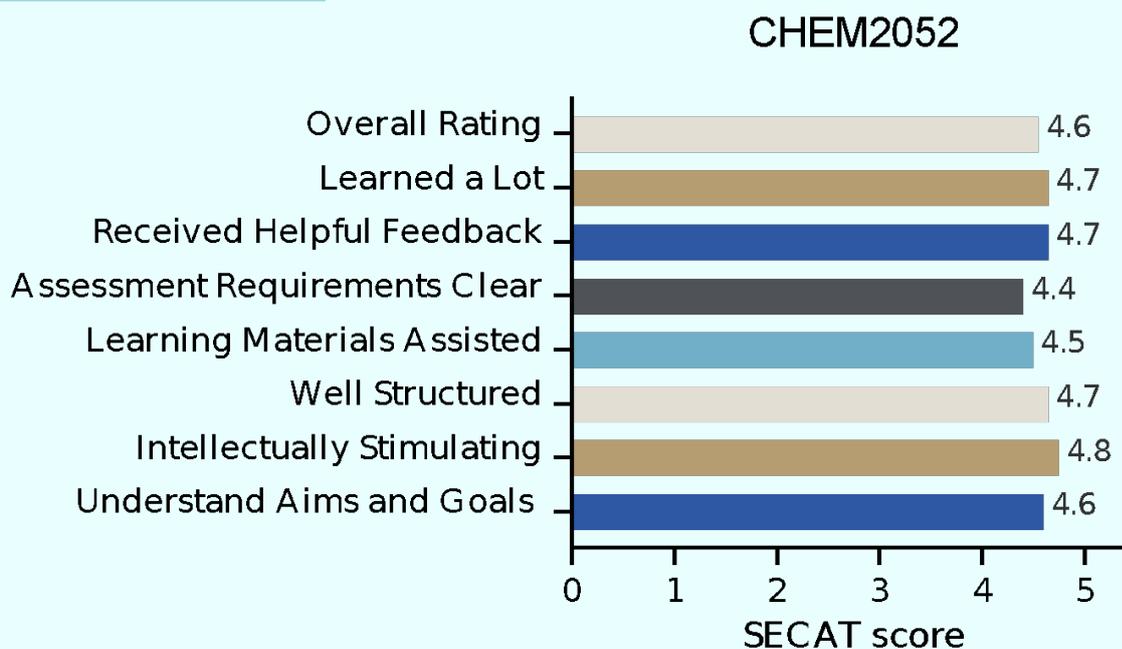
Disadvantages

- The video assignment is very time consuming.
- A lot of the content overlaps with other courses (CHEM2050, BIOC2000) and can feel a little basic, especially if you have done some university-level chemistry before taking this course.
- The mid sem is quite heavily weighted, which can be stressful. But it does mean that the final is a bit smaller.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Don't leave the assignments too late- they will take more time than you think.
- This course assumes quite a bit of first-year chemistry knowledge. It would be helpful to revise this early in the semester.
- The bioinorganic chemistry module at the end is very interesting but quite challenging. Don't wait until SWOTVAC to learn it.

SECaTs Review





ERTH2002

Paleobiology

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Recommended Prerequisites: BIOL1030 or ERTH1000

Contact hours: 5 Contact + Fieldtrip

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=ERTH2002

Course Description

This course will explore the history of Earth's life, from the dawn of the planet some 4.5 billion years ago, to the present. In ERTH2002: we will: examine the processes that can lead to the preservation of organic remains over geological time periods; explore key evolutionary and extinction events that have shaped the world around us; and investigate many of the ways in which we can make inferences about biological processes from the limited, often biased information preserved in the fossil record. Most importantly, you will gain a thorough understanding of the application of the fossil record to contemporary problems in the Earth and Biological Sciences. Content will be delivered in the form of 'contacts' where classes will include both theoretical and practical components. There are additional costs for the field trip.

Advantages

- **The excursion where you look for fossils was fun**, despite being restricted to a smaller area due to COVID.



- Zoom sessions are long (2-hour sessions twice a week) but are engaging – a lot of it is listening to others' presentations and discussing concepts. Also, they don't usually run for the full 2 hours.

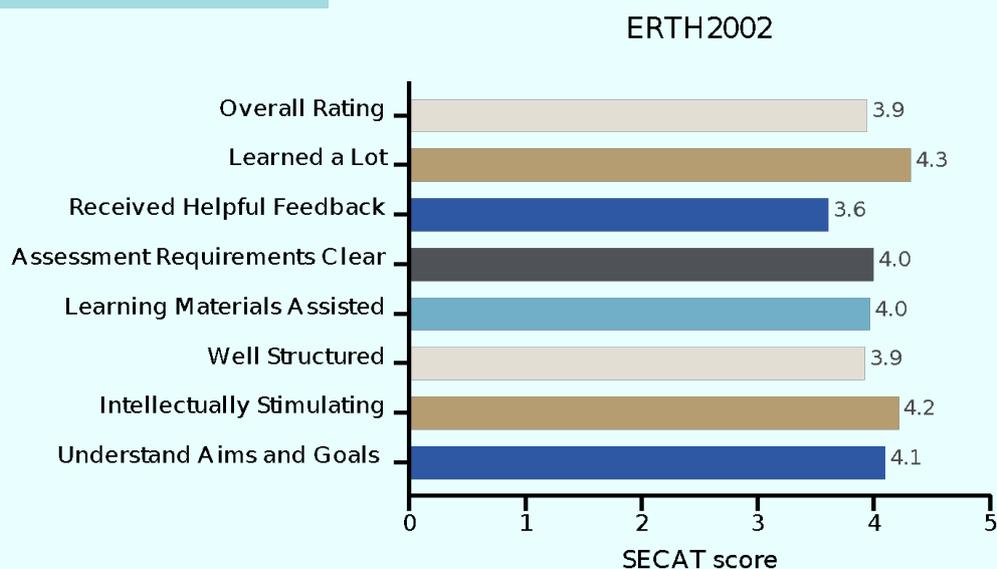
Disadvantages

- Long assignments and practical sheets.
- Not much teaching about dinosaurs.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Practical quizzes are challenging and closed-book so make sure to complete practical exercises and revise before the quizzes.
- Mid-sem and final exams were relatively easy, but they are fairly long, so focus on pacing yourself.
- Each week there are practical exercises that are based on online/in-person fossil specimens - these are very long but make sure to read text info that goes along with it.
- Not much is taught about dinosaurs, so don't do the course for that reason. Nevertheless, you gain a good understanding of evolution, past life forms and extinction events

SECaTs Review





MICR2000

Microbiology & Immunology

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOL1020

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Practical or Laboratory

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=MICR2000

Course Description

This course explores the diversity of microorganisms, their cellular biology, growth & nutrition, metabolism, & basic genetics. The role of microorganism in disease, as well as their ecology & applications in biotechnology is also examined. Students will gain an insight into the immune response to infection by studying the innate, humoral & cellular immune systems & their functions in health & disease. The practical component of the course will include laboratory experiments to demonstrate principles learned in the lectures, where students will gain practical skills in safely handling microbial cultures for isolation & identification. The course provides the fundamental knowledge & skills needed to proceed further in microbiology, but also for all courses or disciplines involving molecular biology & biotechnology.

Advantages

- MICR2000 covers a wide range of topics at a **surface level** and doesn't require in depth understanding - except for the immunology module



- The **course coordinator Jack Wang** creates **high quality lectures** that are often capped at 30 minutes
- The **mid-semester and EOS exams** are both **open book and non-invigilated**
- **Copious amounts of practise questions** provided to engage students and aid learning

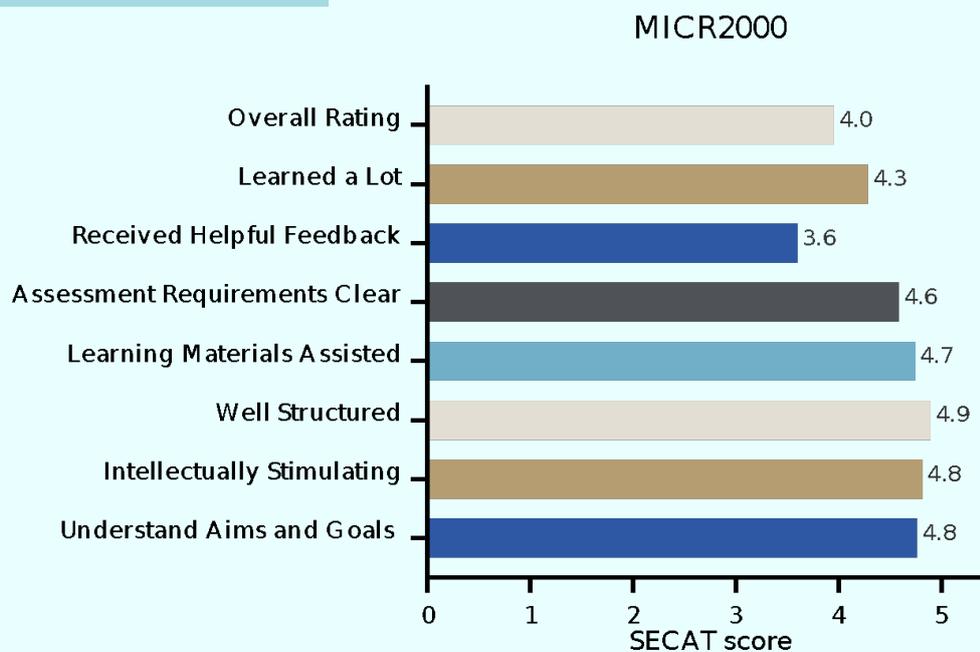
Disadvantages

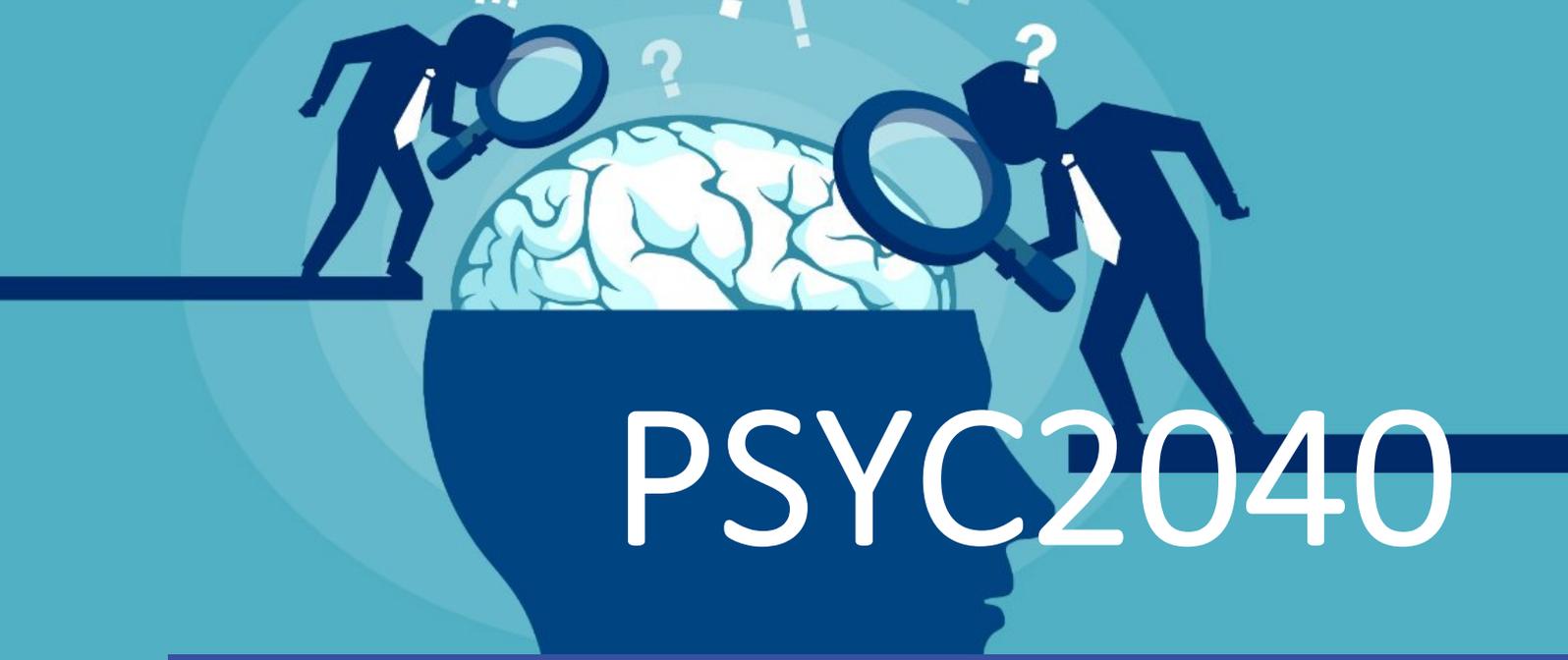
- Since it covers such a **large range of microbiology** there will be topics that you may consider boring
- There is a **large volume of lectures** making it easy to fall behind without a well-planned schedule
- **Easy to lose marks on arbitrary things** such as not formatting your answer correctly

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Just because the exam is open book doesn't mean it's easy
- **Attend the contact sessions** to revise
- **Content heavy**
- **Annotating the lecture slides** is helpful for the immunology module

SECaTs Review





PSYC2040

Social & Organizational Psychology

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia & External

Recommended Prerequisites: PSYC1020 or PSYC1030

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 3 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=PSYC2040

Course Description

How are your feelings and actions influenced by other people? This course explores how the social environment affects behaviour, thinking and attitudes of individuals and groups. Topics include love and hate, conformity and individuality, group processes, communication and psychology in the work environment.

Advantages

- **The lecturer was very friendly and approachable.** Strongly encouraged audience participation with **lollies** during lectures throughout the semester. The course provided an explanation of the first-year social psych course PSYC1030, and also covered quite a bit of material on **organisational psychology**, something which most people don't realise is vital to many aspects of society.



- The course is **very interesting and provides a welcome change** from the 'hard science' that biomedical sciences are mostly comprised of. **There are many real-world applications.**
- **The assignment, where you design, collect and report your own social experiment,** is also very **interesting.** This provides an opportunity to develop scientific skills and experience real-world research.

Disadvantages

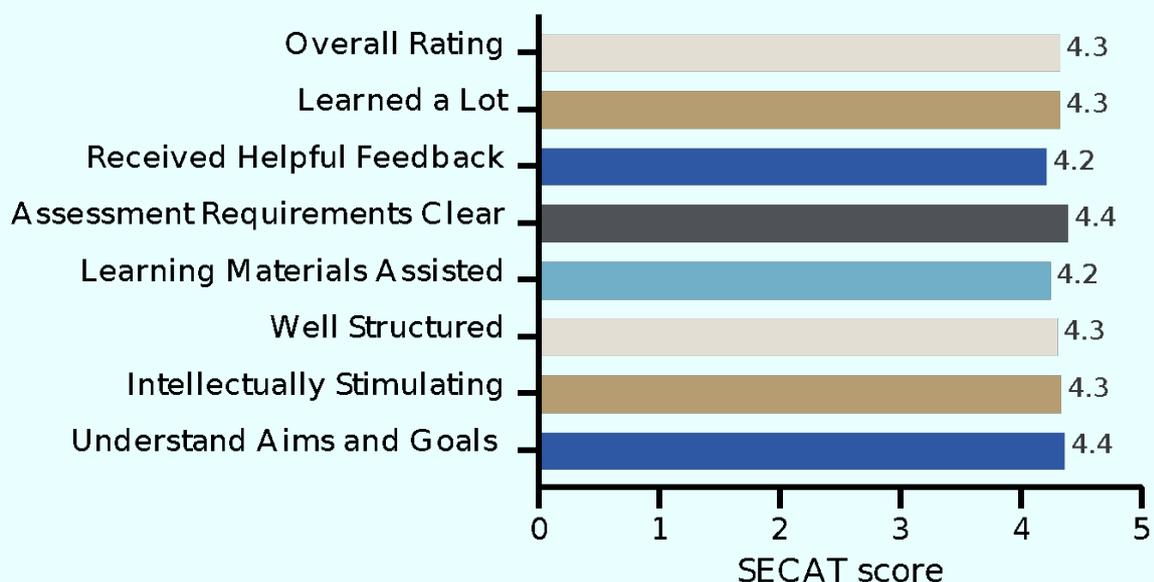
- For premedical students, this course has little relevance to biomedical science nor to medicine in general.
- Unlike many of the other psychology courses, **attending these tutorials is more or less compulsory due to the group orientated nature of the assignment.** Failure to attend severely hampers your ability to complete the assignment to the strict timeline and also lets your assigned group down.
- **The assignment also requires quite a bit of your own time in gathering data** (usually from the general UQ community).

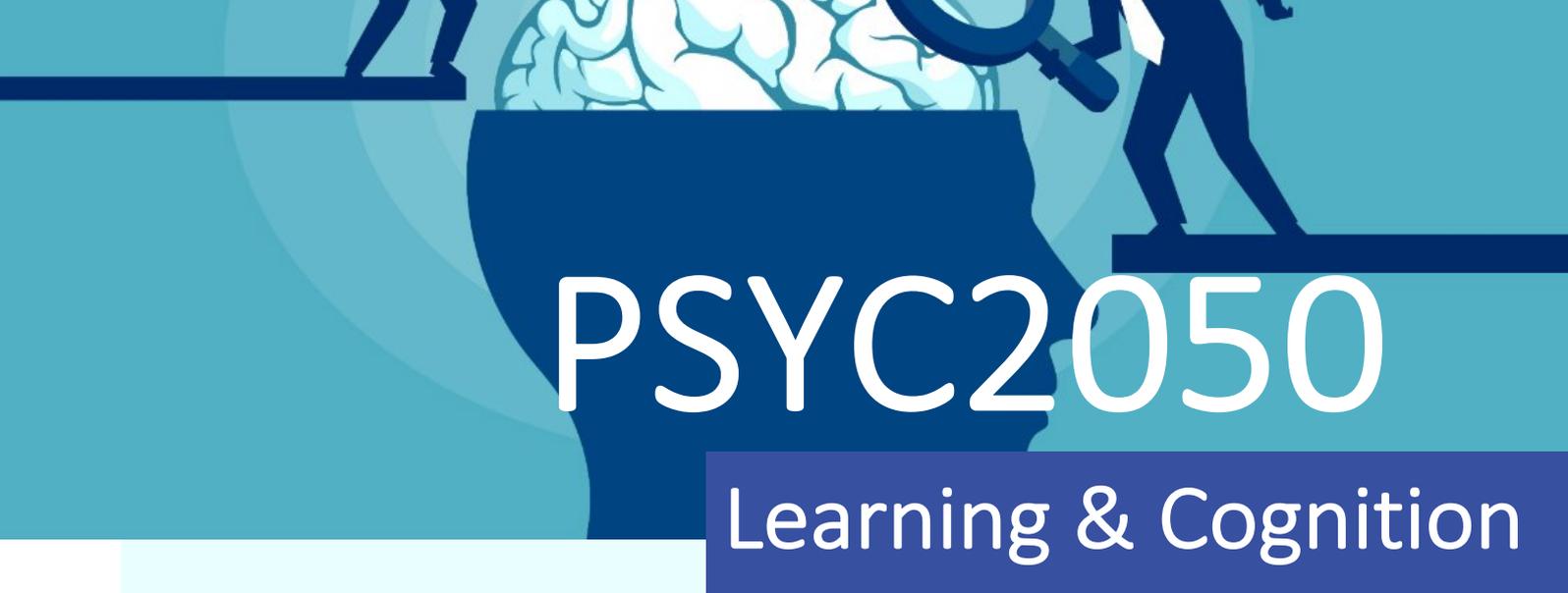
Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Good course to choose if you are interested in social and organisational psychology** and want to do something different to biomedical science.
- **Pay attention and write notes during the lectures or recordings,** as the lecturer will often have a single point on the slides, **but only elaborate on it verbally.** Everything she says is examinable, **so notes are very important.**

SECaTs Review

PSYC2040





PSYC2050

Learning & Cognition

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 & 2 at St Lucia & External
Recommended Prerequisites: PSYC1020
Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 2 Practical/Laboratory
Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=PSYC2050

Course Description

This course is concerned with how the mind works. Cognitive topics include memory, imagery, language, intelligence and comparative psychology. The course also focuses on learning including the experimental analysis of behaviour as derived from principles of associative learning. Laboratory sessions will focus on training of skills including gathering, analysing and presenting information, and in providing feedback.

Advantages

- This course is a more in-depth look into **the behavioural and cognitive psychology** introduced in the first-year course PSYC1020.
- The course is **well-structured, being split into three main sections**.
- The **assignment is a report on a self-designed, self-participant experiment**. It's quite flexible in what topic you can choose to research, and provides valuable experience and practice in writing scientific articles.

Disadvantages

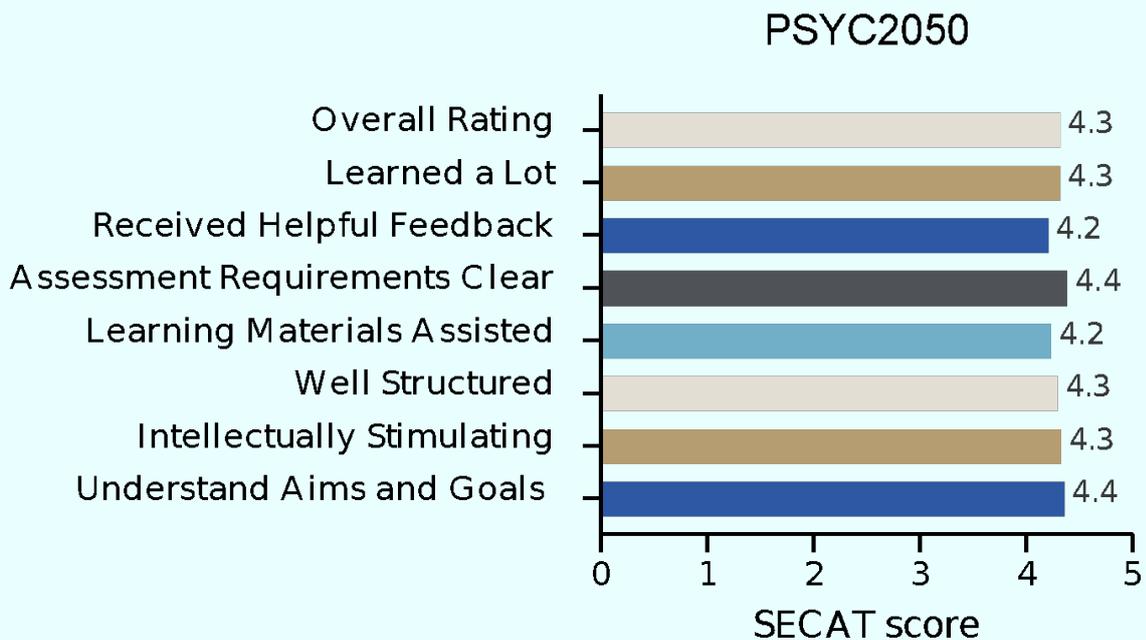


- Most lectures are spent on historical research and results, which are often not examined.
- There are many lectures which are not particularly interesting and tend to be on the drier side.

Tips & what we wish we knew

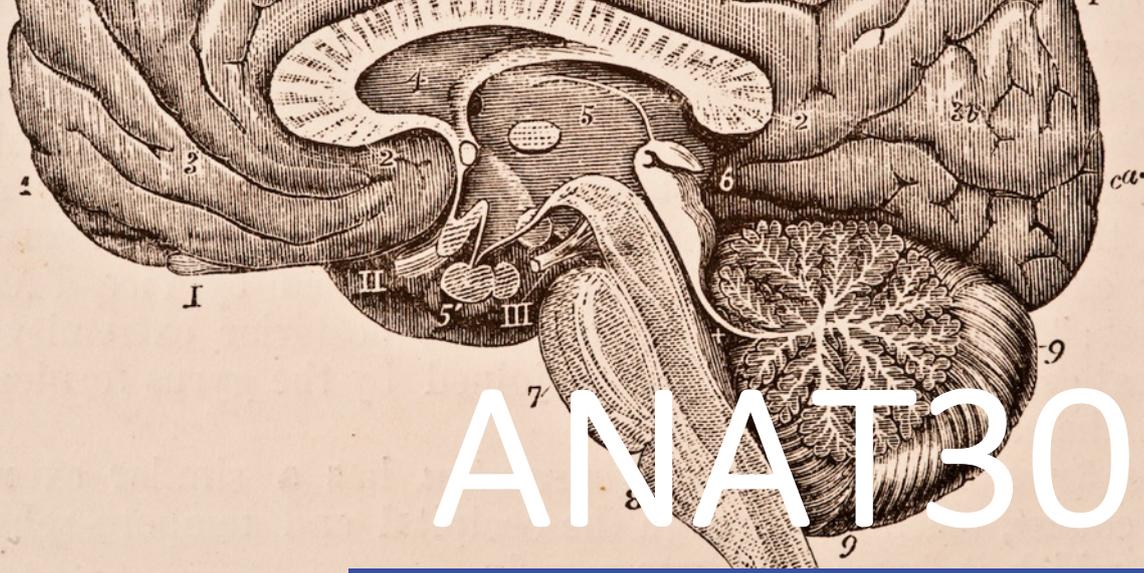
- **Start thinking of an experiment to do as soon as the assignment is introduced in the tutorials.** It is extremely difficult to find something relevant to yourself as well as the lecture topic, while also having enough journal articles to provide background.
- **Do not miss tutorials** - the experiments are interesting, and provide excellent practice for writing your assignment as you write an easy example section based on each week's experiment. It's also worth easy marks.

SECaTs Review





THIRD YEAR COURSES



ANAT3022

Functional Neuroanatomy

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia

Prerequisites: BIOM2020 or NEUR2020 or PSYC2020

Contact hours: 4 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=ANAT3022

Course Description

Up-to-date concepts & notions of human brain & behaviour for science and psychology students. Emphasis on factors which define brain structures & functions & cognitive functions. Practical classes based on histology and macroscopic anatomy.

Advantages

- **Fantastic course for learning the anatomical and functional aspects** of the human brain. The content is **diverse and links neurological function with its current medical and disease associated context.**
- **Lecturers are active researchers and have great enthusiasm and insight** for students interested in future neurological research.



- This course is one of the only in the world to allow undergraduate students to dissect a **human brain**, and is only one of few biomedical courses at UQ which permits dissections of human specimens.
- The practical are very helpful and a large range of pathology specimens are provided, making practical very engaging.
- Content prior to the mid-semester exam is explained clearly, useful, and no longer tested in the final exam, making it much easier to study for the finals.

Disadvantages

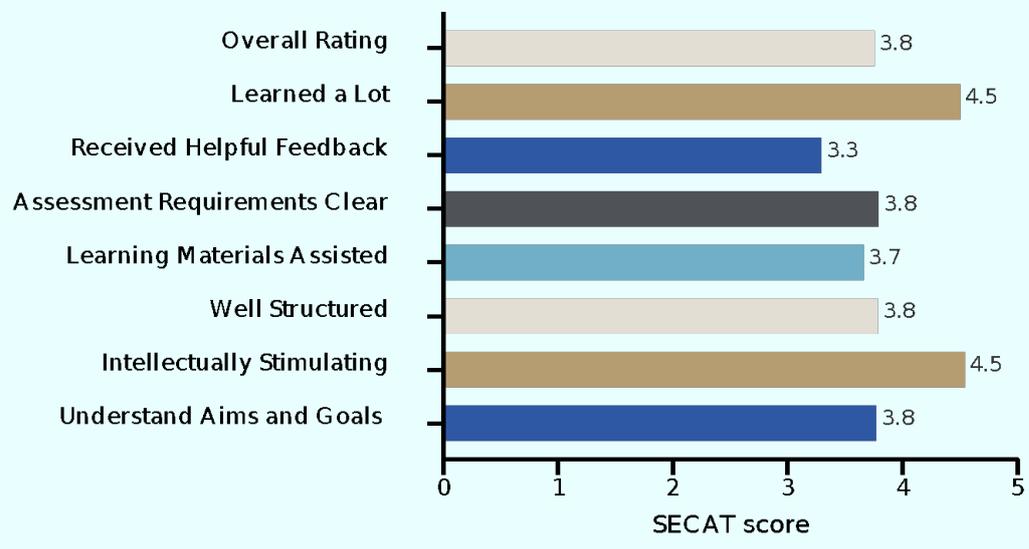
- As expected, **this course is quite content dense and requires constant revision and active learning to achieve good marks.**
- **The practical exam goes beyond plain recognition**, it also requires you to be able to **connect the structure to its function**, which tracts are involved, etc. Doing well requires a thorough **understanding of the content.**
- **The content after the mid-sem is much less organised**, and it can be difficult to know exactly what can be tested. **Some lecturers present very vague and confusing** concepts that could have been taught much more concisely.
- **The dissection presentations are very informal and the instructions for the report are unclear**, so it can be difficult to fulfil the criteria with the small word count.
- **The group dissection may be less hands-on than expected depending on course size** as there are limited specimens available.

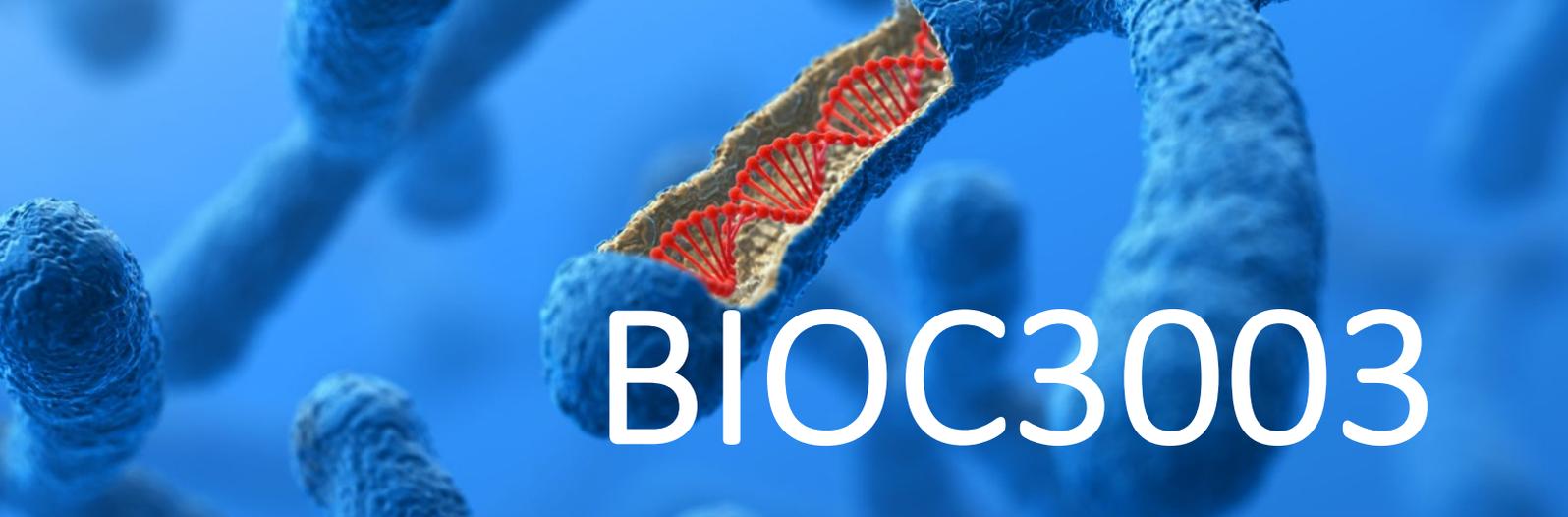
Tips & what we wish we knew

- Much like BIOM2020, it is crucial to **attend all of the practical sessions** and to complete the practical manuals beforehand if you want to get the most out of the course.
- **Diagrams and visual learning are important so take the time to draw things out.** Notable diagrams in the past included the Circle of Willis, the DCML and AL pathway, cerebellar pathways and basal ganglia.
- As the practical component of the course is purely focused on the **anatomy of the brain, the level of detail and understanding required for individual structures is extensive.** Make sure to **take full advantage of your demonstrators** as most of them have taken the course before and can give you valuable insight on what to learn and how to do it effectively.
- **Flashcards will help with content for the mid-semester exam**, however **content after the mid-semester exam may be easier to study with drawn-out flow charts, discussing with friends, and tables instead.**



SECaTs Review





BIOC3003

Human Molecular Genetics in Health & Disease

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOL2202 or BIOL2902

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1.5 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOC23003

Course Description

BIOC3003 is an advanced research-informed course on the molecular genetics of human disease. Topics include: single gene disorders, multifactorial disorders; cancer genetics; birth defects; epigenetics; identification and analysis of human disease genes. The course content is designed to provide students with a contemporary overview of human genetic disorders, genetic variation and on how mutations are identified and assessed for their contribution to phenotype. In addition, the course covers some aspects of clinical management of genetic diseases and information on the genetic tools used for their diagnosis, prognosis and treatment.

Advantages

- This was a **very interesting course which consisted of various modules conducted by different professors, all of whom were very skilled**. Hence, if you're interested in learning about different aspects of **molecular genetics and diseases** then this is the course for you!
- **Some modules in the course had a strong focus on experimental design and findings from past research**. Sometimes this helps to understand how a conclusion about a specific concept



was reached, but it can also distract as the **content seems flooded with experiment after experiment.**

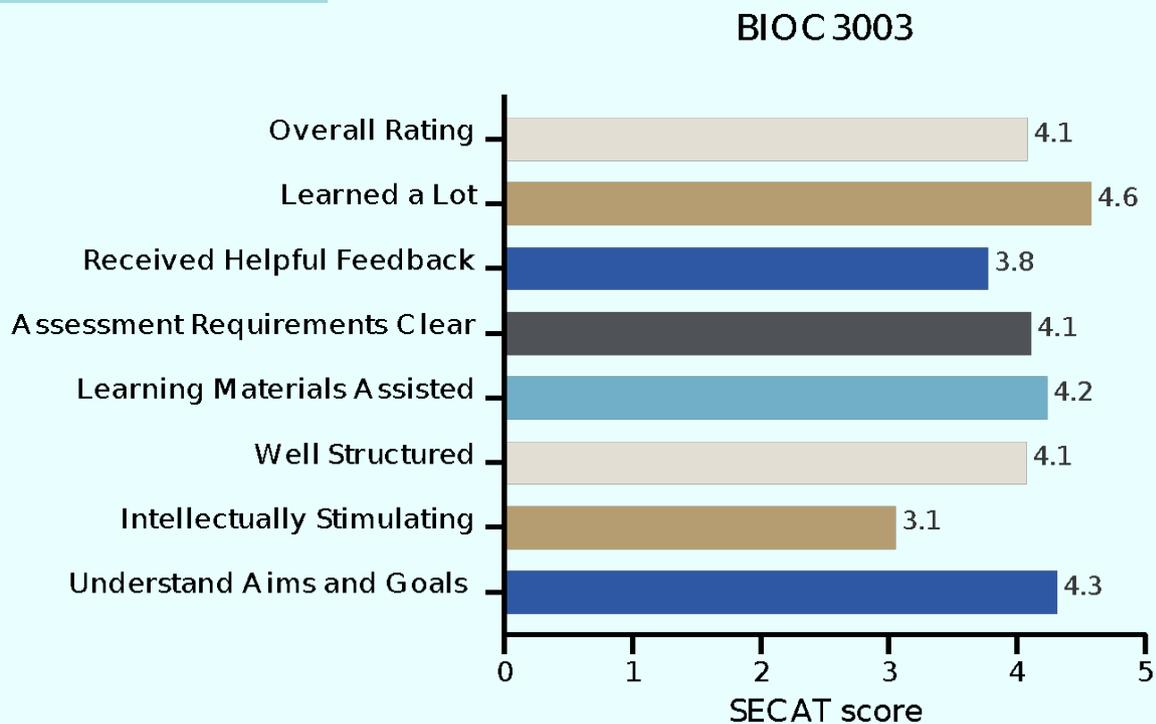
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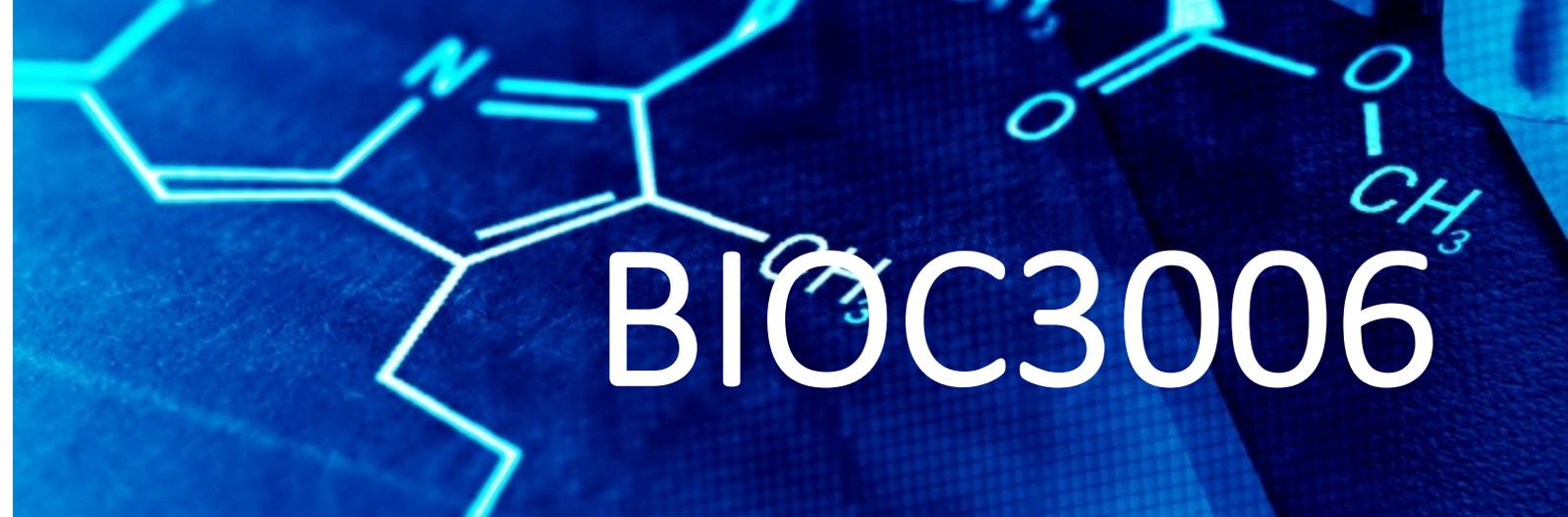
- Although the lectures were interesting, the **practical component of the course was not super engaging.** There was only a Q and A session for the practical and a lab report, with no scheduled practical zoom sessions with tutors for the external students.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- This course had a lot of self-directed online learning exercises, so don't forget to keep an eye out on the deadline for the quizzes that are due!
- **Make sure to engage in the PBLs,** as there are marks awarded for participation.
- **Prepare for PBL quizzes early!** The revision questions are normally the PBL quiz questions (sometimes with slight alterations), so if you write up some responses early, you can ask your tutor to take a quick look through before your PBL quiz

SECaTs Review





BIOC3006

Biochemistry of Metabolism in Health & Disease

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOC2000 or CHEM1222

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Practical or Laboratory

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOC3006

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to metabolism at the molecular level. The content will be presented in the context of the normal, exercise and disease states. Applications and examples drawn from current research areas with an emphasis on the metabolic syndrome. The course will build on and extend knowledge gained in the second level course BIOC2000 and will include the modern discipline areas of metabolomics and nutrigenomics. Core topics include aspects of carbohydrate, lipid, protein and amino acid metabolism built around the theme of obesity and the metabolic syndrome as an exemplar of the application of modern knowledge gained through our understanding of the genome and metabolome. The course will show how knowledge from these disciplines aids in our understanding of this health problem affecting many world-wide. The course is designed for those students who are interested or planning careers in the biomedical area, including health science, exercise science, nutrition/dietetics, food science and the biological sciences more broadly.

Advantages

- This course was not too reliant on its prerequisites (BIOC2000 or CHEM1222) or the other recommended prerequisites (BIOL1020 and BIOL1040), **so don't be afraid to choose it if you're interested in it.**



- The end of the semester test was actually quite engaging in that it tested you on problem solving skills, rather than your memorisation of the contents.

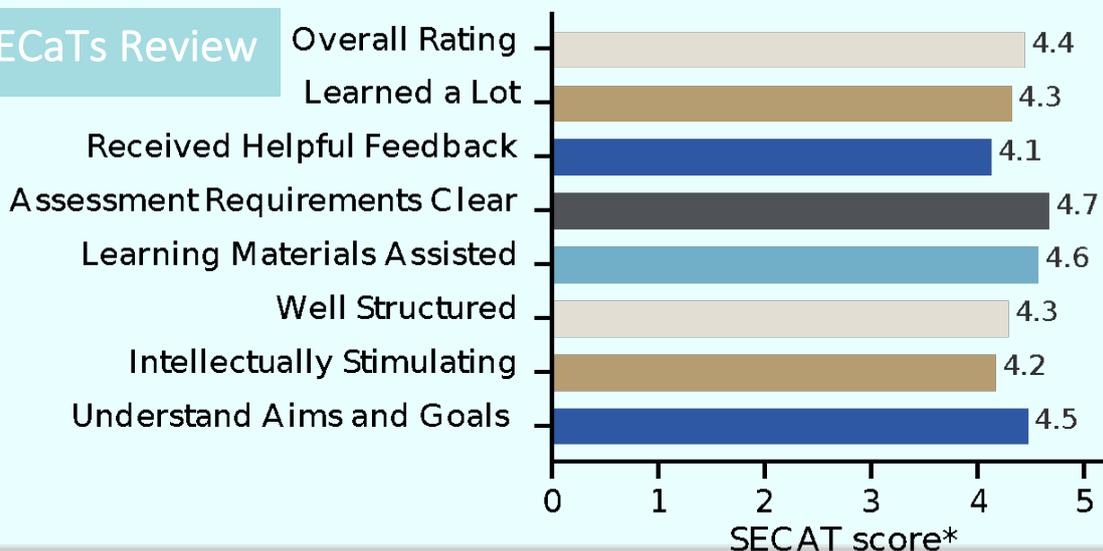
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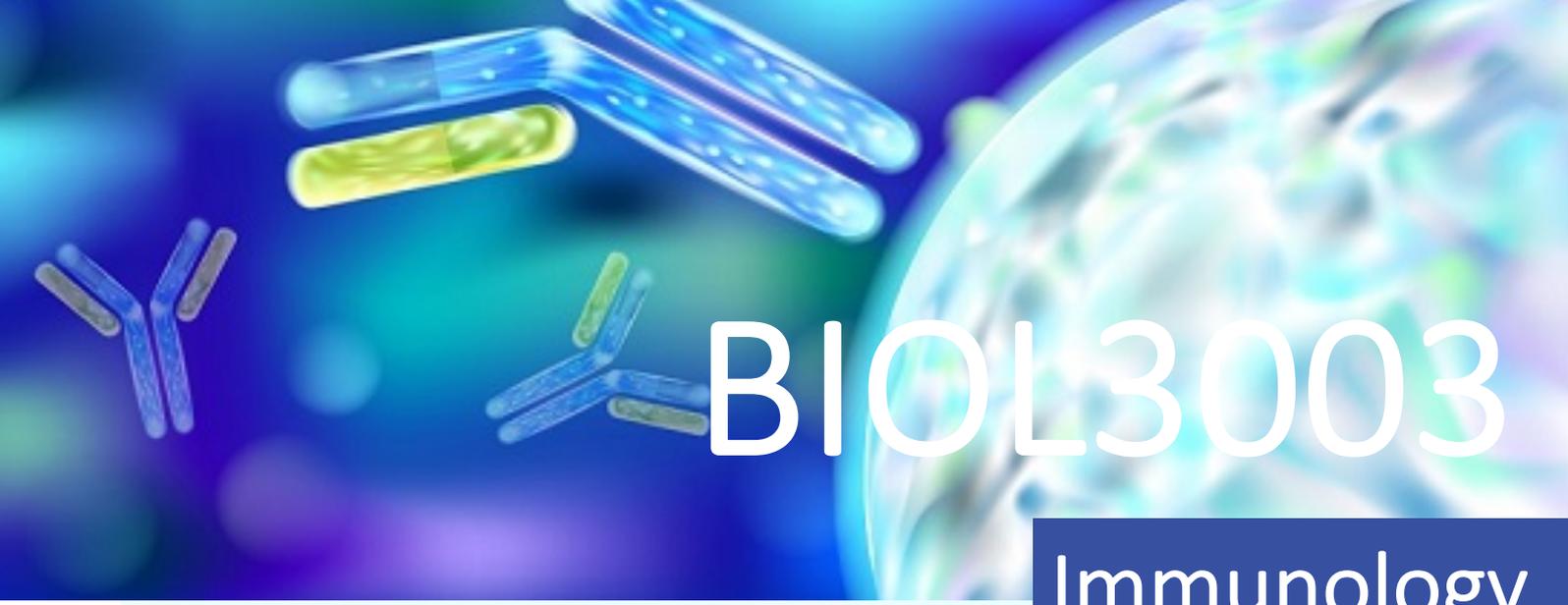
- Requires a strong grasp and deep understanding of the contents.
- Considering that there's quite a few modules and no mid-sem exam, this is still a very content heavy course

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Diagrams and visual learning are important so take the time to draw things out.
- Flashcards, drawing out flow charts, discussing with friends, and tables will help when studying for this course.
- The exam is all SAQ, but most lecturers have broken down their questions very well so you can understand how marks are allocated.
- Many lecturers tend to reuse their questions so **definitely check out the past exams** (don't use this as your only revision method though).
- The group presentation on Research Approaches is very easy as long as you hit all the points on the criteria. The PowerPoint goes through exactly everything you need beforehand.
- PBLs are very easy as long as you engage and make sure to clarify any confusions with your tutors.
- The best method of revising for this course was generally to find a really big whiteboard and draw out molecular processes over and over. It is also really good to get in a group and test each other on this! If your exam is an online proctored exam, you won't be able to actually draw the diagram on your computer, but going through the process of visualising it helps a lot for describing it in words.

SECaTs Review





BIOL3003

Immunology

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: MICR2000 or BIOM2011

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL3003

Course Description

This course covers advanced topics in immunology and is suited to students with some background knowledge of immunology. Topics covered include the molecular basis of immune recognition, regulation of the immune response, mechanisms of host response against infectious pathogenic agents, transplantation, vaccine design, immunodeficiency and other immune disorders. Oral and poster presentation tasks are designed to reinforce the lecture material.

Advantages

- **Engaging lecturers who provide lots of practice questions** for the mid-semester and EOS exams
- **Conceptually BIOL3003 is an easy course** to understand in comparison to other 2nd and 3rd-year courses
- **Relevant for individuals planning to go into immunological research or progress on to medical school**
- **The content is well structures and flows in a logical way**



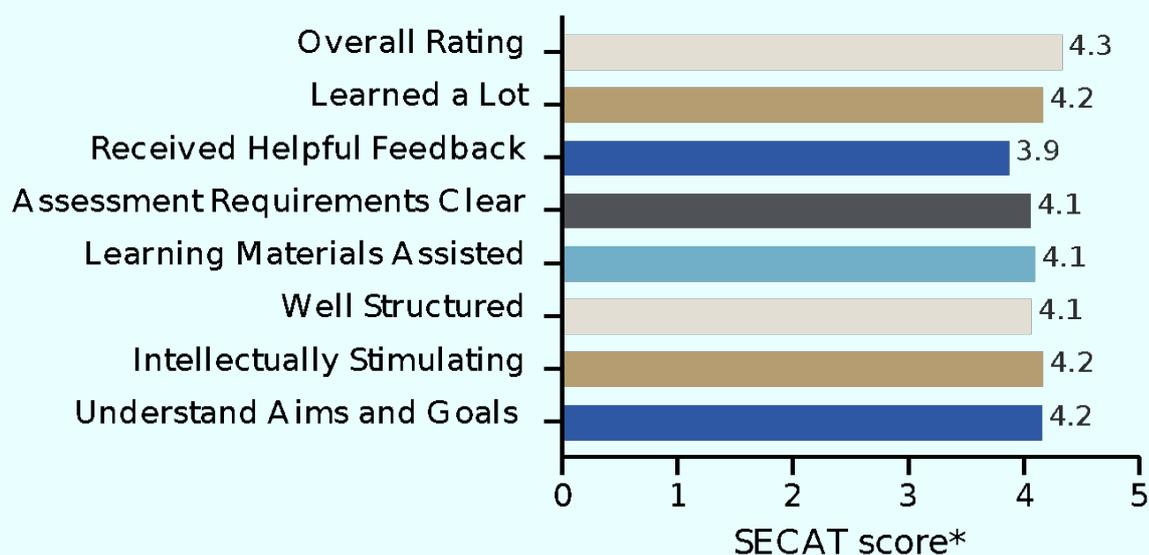
Disadvantages

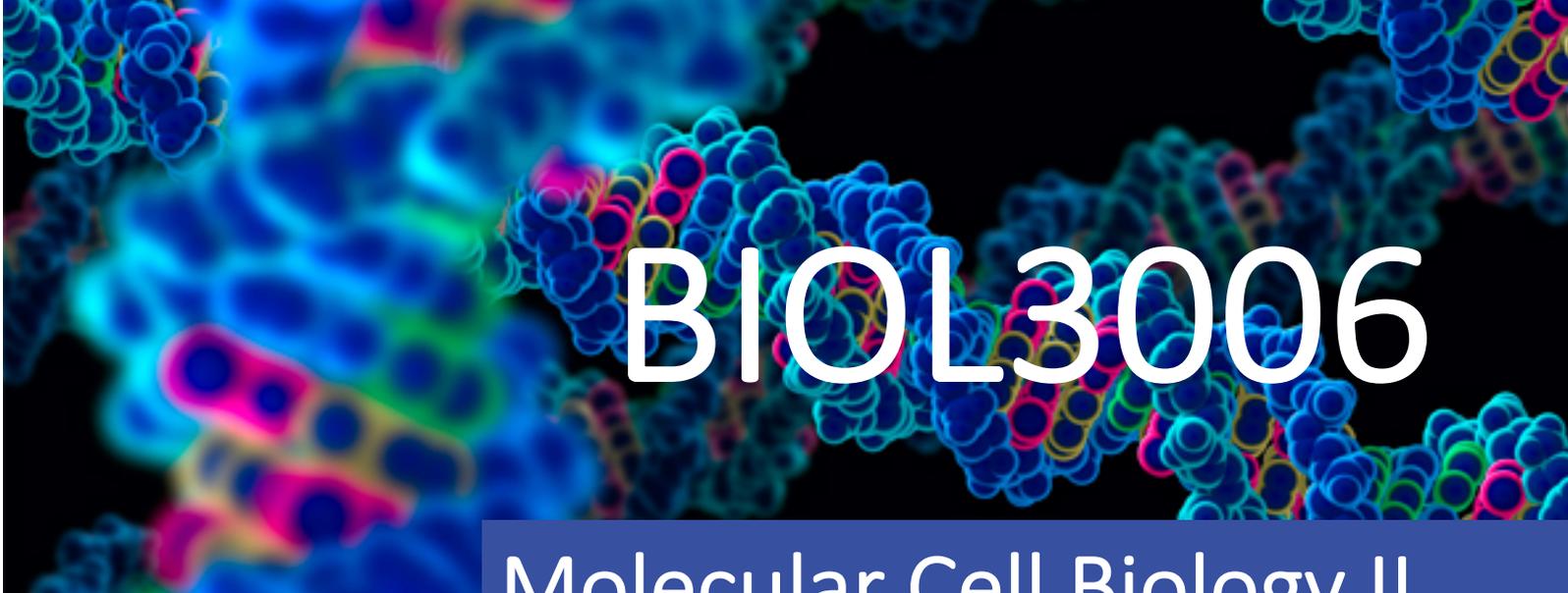
- **Need to be interested in immunology otherwise content will be tedious**
- Lectures delivered by **guest speakers feel disintegrated** from the rest of the course
- Since it covers such a **large range of immunology there will be topics that you may consider boring**

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Just because the exam is open book doesn't mean it's easy**
- **Labs are worth 5%** so making sure you understand the content is the key to easy points
- **Exam questions are specific and require in depth explanations**
- When studying, try **finding the main functions and effects of the cytokines and factors and linking** that to what each cell wants to do. This reduces the amount of ROTE learning that needs to be done.
- Do the **research on the presentation and posters early and find a general direction**. Follow the topic instructions exactly (i.e. target every word in that sentence and make sure everything is covered).
- **Practice presenting and explaining your poster – appearing confident on the day is vital**. Also, learn the figures you have used and their conducted assays, as some questions will target them and you can show you have really done the work instead of copy-pasting figures.
- **The textbook is very helpful if you can obtain one**; many of the diagrams used by lecturers are directly from the textbook (which has the accompanying text).

SECaTs Review





BIOL3006

Molecular Cell Biology II

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOL2200

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 2 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOL3006

Course Description

This course examines cellular structure & function at the molecular level and integrates the disciplines of biochemistry, molecular biology, structural biology, and molecular genetics. This is an advanced course that utilizes current published research as the medium to instruct on topics such as methods in molecular cell biology, cell architecture, cell interactions, the nucleus, cell differentiation and cellular dynamics. The final topic discusses the role of molecular cell biology in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Advantages

- **It is not hard to do well in this course**, especially because most of its content is rehashing BIOL2200 (with a few additions).
- **Two lecturers preferred to work using the projector rather than PowerPoint slides.** While unconventional, this method can actually be more digestible, as they were stepping through their content slowly as they drew diagrams. **Both lecturers provided typed notes on Blackboard which were great summaries of their modules**



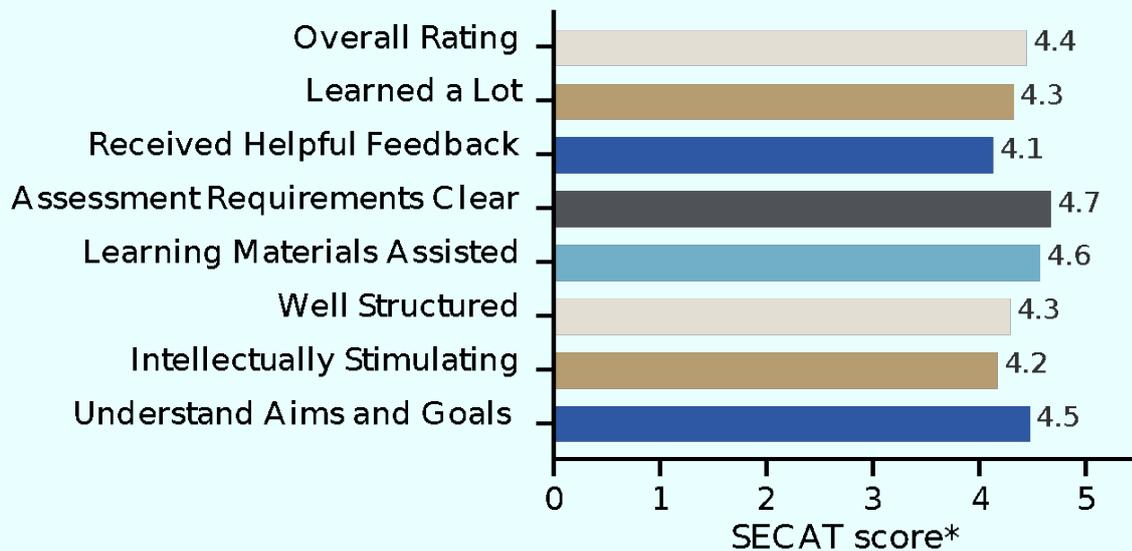
Disadvantages

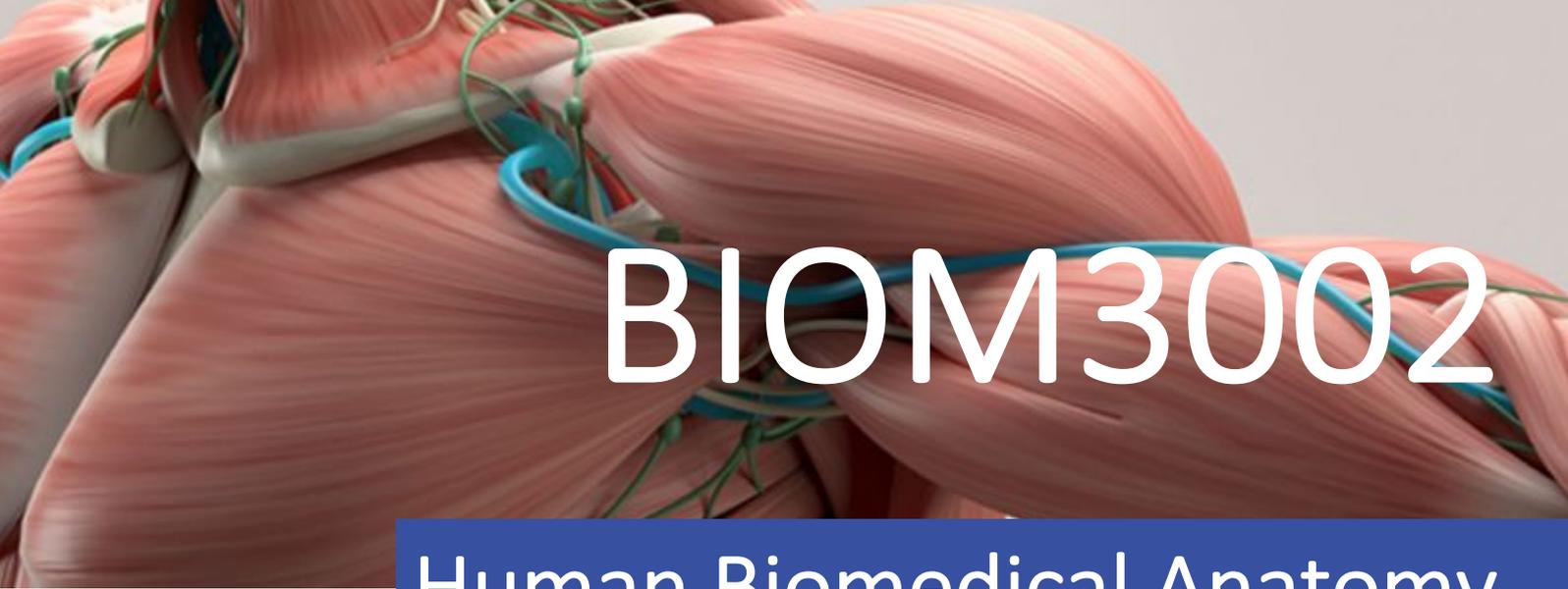
- Has some ROTE learning involved (especially names of molecules and proteins).

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Many lecturers tend to reuse their questions so definitely check out the past exams (don't use this as your only revision method though).
- PBLs are very easy as long as you engage and make sure to clarify any confusions with your tutors.
- The best method of revising for this course **was generally to find a really big whiteboard and draw out molecular processes over and over**. It is also **really good to get in a group and test each other on this!**

SECaTs Review





BIOM3002

Human Biomedical Anatomy

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia

Prerequisites: Completion of #24 in the program including BIOM2020

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Practical or Laboratory

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM3002

Course Description

Gross morphology, structural inter-relationships & the functional anatomy of the human viscera as revealed by cadaveric dissection, with focussed topics addressing anatomical variations, pathology and histology of given organ systems.

Advantages

- **Dissections help to significantly boost understanding of anatomy** outside of just textbooks. They provide a more three dimensional and improved understanding of the locations of organs in relation to one another.
- **Course staff are very helpful and they always point out important and unique variations in cadavers.**
- **Lectures are ordered by focusing on anatomical systems.**



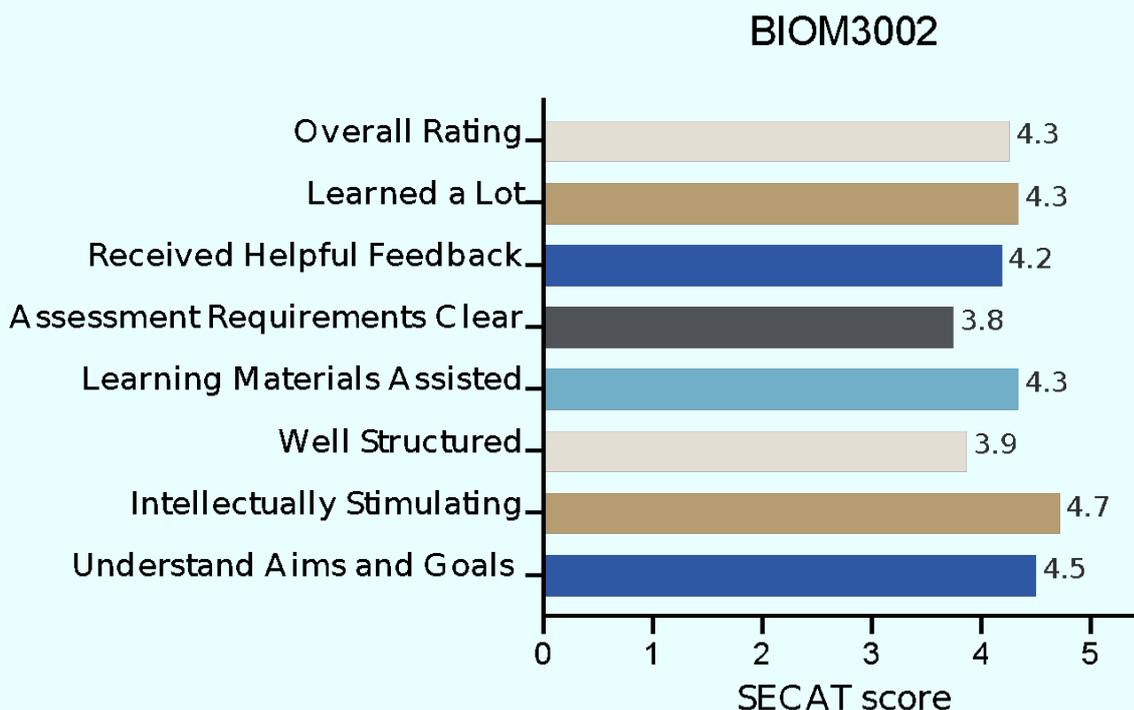
Disadvantages

- The **amount of content can be overwhelming**.
- Heavily **memory focused content**.
- **Can be confronting** if this is your first anatomy course.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Very content heavy** – having in person classes is critical for dissection courses otherwise you miss out on so much.
- **Flashcards are your friend (like Anki)**. This is especially true if the practical exam is online, as the 2020 course was based on the Anatomy Atlas referenced in the course resources.
- **It's really good if you are able to stay ahead of the content or at least be up-to-date**, as the demonstrators will be focussing their sessions on the lectures for that week. It can feel really scary and like you have no idea what's happening if you've fallen behind.
- **Although it is tempting to focus on just identification of anatomical features when revising for the practical exam, it is best to go over all the content all together**, as some questions will probe further into the function or related pathologies.
- **The theory exam can sometimes ask questions that seem like obscure details mentioned on a single slide.**

SECaTs Review





BIOM3003

Functional Musculoskeletal Anatomy

GAMSAT RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia

Prerequisites: BIOM2020

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM3003

Course Description

Recent advances in research are used to explain and highlight the interplay between orthopaedic biomechanics, muscle function and neuromuscular control in human posture and locomotion. Experimental components are integrated with theoretical knowledge.

Advantages

- **Get the opportunity to perform dissections** giving practical knowledge and can provide an enjoyable alternative form of learning.
- **An excellent course for improving your functional anatomy knowledge.** Also provides a great way to improve your functional anatomy and physics. This can be **especially valuable if you are planning on sitting the GAMSAT.**
- The information **being taught has very practical application.**



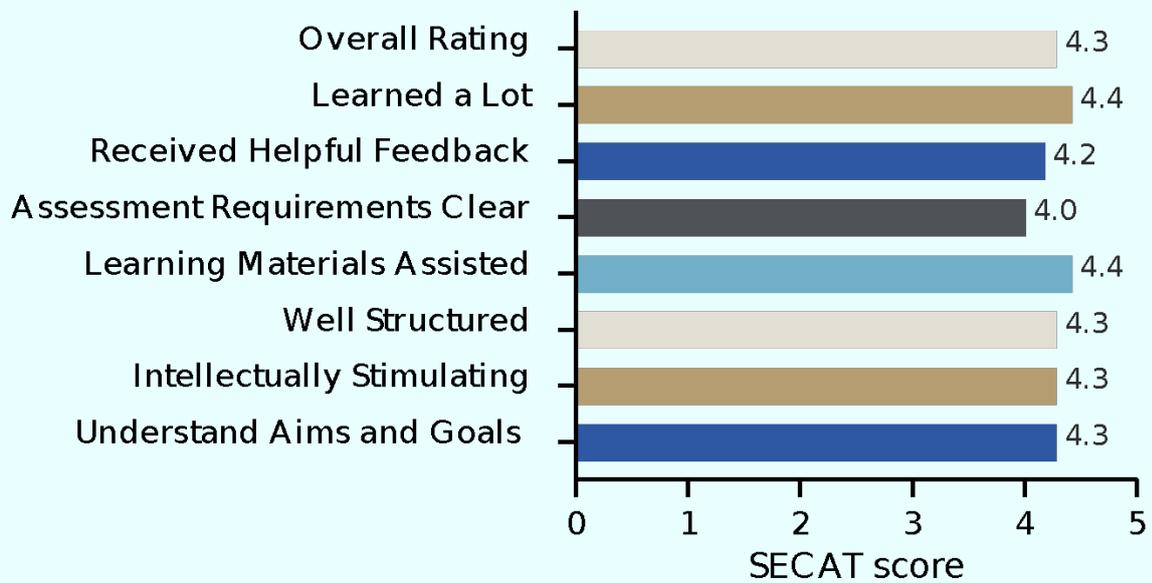
Disadvantages

- Topics can be difficult and boring for people who are lacking in physics knowledge.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- The prerequisite knowledge is very important for this course.
- It is also important to keep in close contact with the course coordinators for any questions or problems that you encounter during the course.

SECaTs Review





BIOM3014

Molecular & Cellular Physiology

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia

Prerequisites: BIOM2012 or BIOL2200

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM3014

Course Description

Students will examine core systems in molecular & cellular physiology & develop an understanding of how they maintain homeostasis & how the failure of these systems translate into disease.

Advantages

- Interesting if you like **physiology and cell function**, especially the content from **BIOL2200**. The course **covers more complex research techniques and goes into detail about all the topics** in 2nd year that you were told to brush over.
- **Prepares you for BIOM3015 (pathophysiology)** which is a really **good course for medicine**.
- Generally, **modules are conceptually simple**.
- **Very clearly structured**.
- **Assessment expectations are communicated very clearly**.
- **Lecturers are very competent and interesting**. They explain very comprehensively and integrate new research to enrich your learning.
- **Practical sessions are very informative and interesting**.



Disadvantages

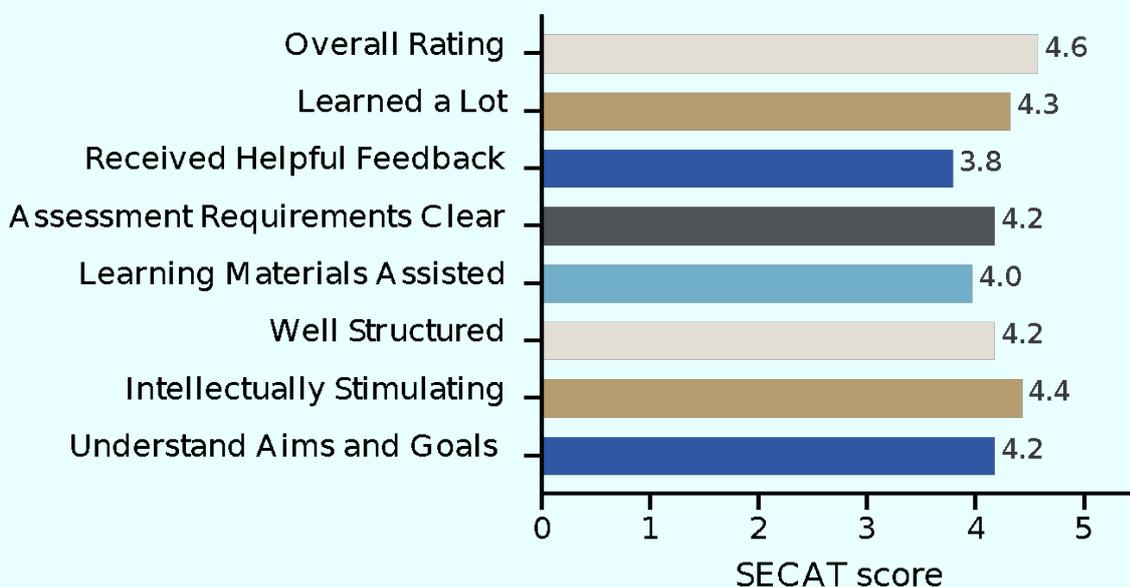
- This course is very memorisation heavy and often does not teach understanding (like the names of specific proteins/factors/molecules which are made up of obscure names made up of letters and numbers)
- There is a new cancer module with very limited exam material to revise with.
- The new mid-semester exam is quite rushed for time as it fits three modules' worth of content into just over an hour.
- MCQs can be worded ambiguously and make life difficult in exams.
- There is a terrible prac report (3000+ words) that is not enjoyable.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- A study tip is to summarise concepts on a handwritten A4 sheet (1 page per lecture) and memorise by rereading/writing which may work better than flashcards for this course.
- Watch the exam review/summary lectures. Some go through model answers/past MCQ answers and are a great resource.
- For the Journal Article Presentation (second assignment), you will get the option to submit a draft PowerPoint. While you are not marked down for avoiding it, it is a very good opportunity to better understand the marking criteria and avoid any misunderstandings.
- It is very important to understand the concepts and mechanisms from this course for written exam questions. It is relatively easy to get full marks as they are generally straight forwards. Multiple choice is much harder, covering a broader range of niche questions that you will need to have memorised specifically.

SECaTs Review

BIOM3014





BIOM3015

Integrative Physiology & Pathophysiology

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOM2012

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM3015

Course Description

Students will examine how physiological systems maintain health throughout life & how these systems change with ageing & disease. Pathophysiology will be introduced as a basis for understanding the consequences of disease.

Advantages

- Really interesting and practical information for those going into pathology/medicine.
- The lecturers can be really really good: **engaging, intellectual, and timely**. The lectures are usually based on research and can be summarised in a short paragraph or page, rather than the massively long lecture slides it sometimes takes to explain things.
- The **assessments are fair and there are no midsems**. The oral presentation is so much fun if you are lucky enough to pick a topic you are passionate about. It's great hearing from people



who are acting as experts, as well as the thought process of the tutors (who can seem a bit daunting).

Disadvantages

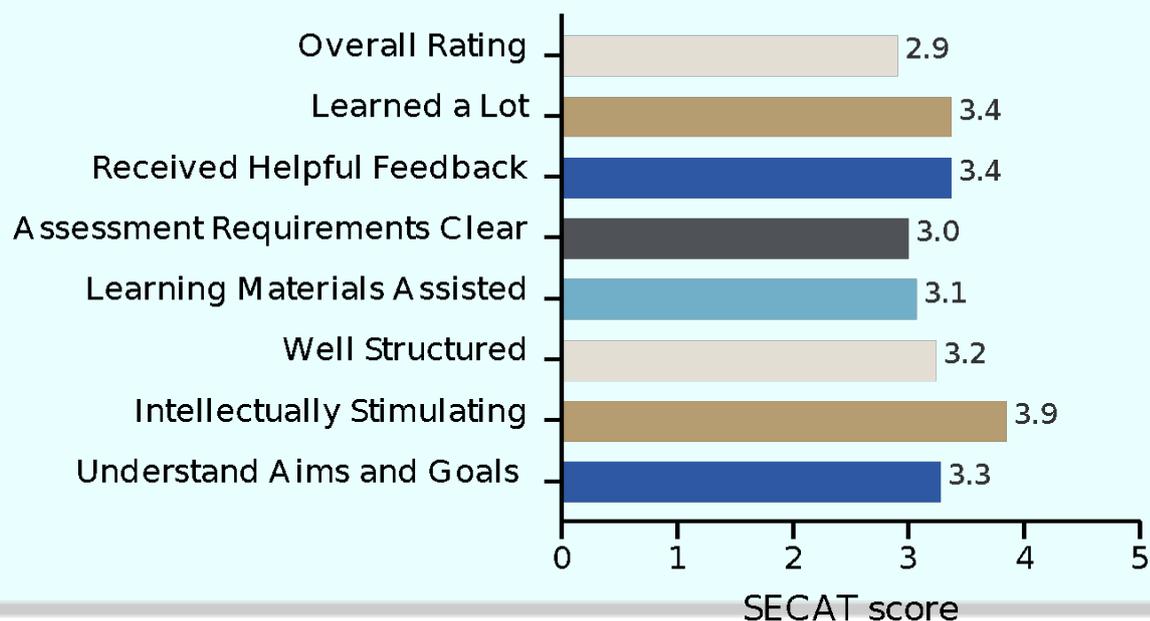
- **Have to stay on top of your work as the workload is quite high.**
- **The lectures can be a bit boring, depending on the lecturer,** and again, they are focused on **research**, so can be quite long and seem not concise. The small fortnightly assignments can be marked very differently, **and vary due to each lecturer having their own formatting and style of communication.**
- **Depth and difficulty of the content varies between the lecturers.** This leads to a lack of cohesion between the modules, although often they talked about literally the same processes.

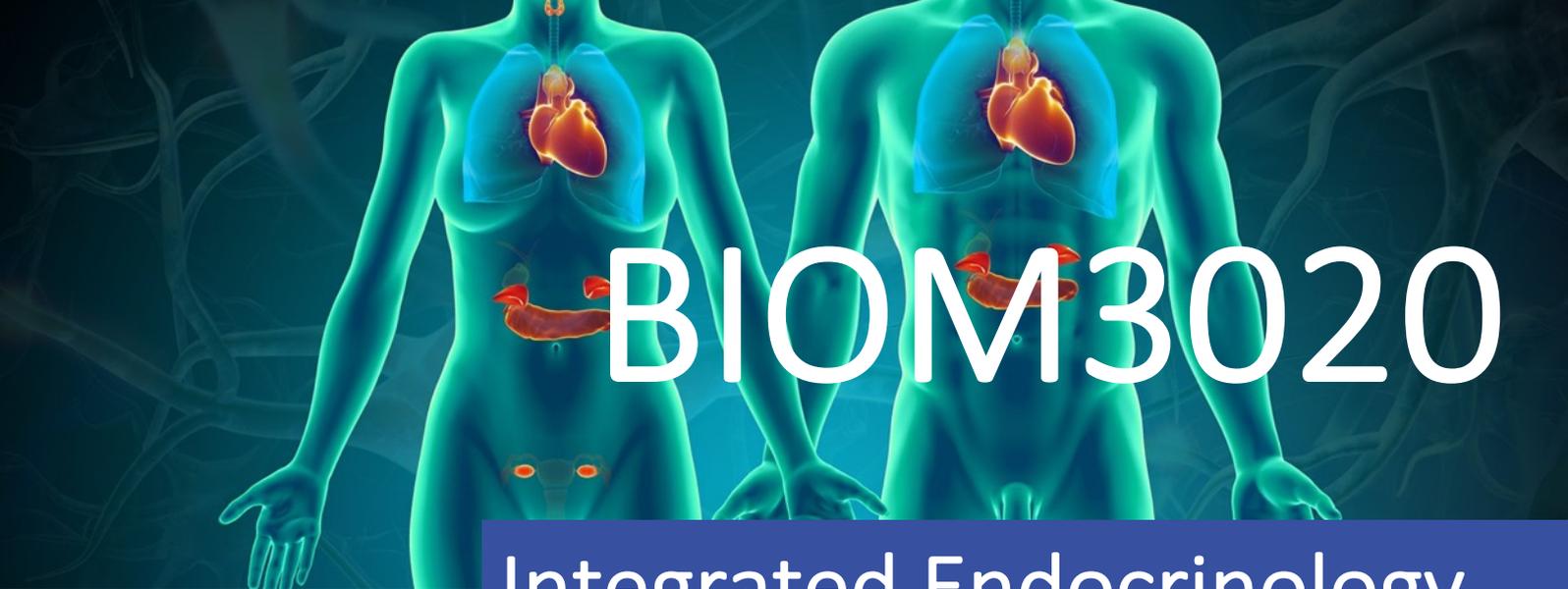
Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Really need to stay on top of all your topics weekly to be ready for this course,** since different kinds of pathology are explored each week.
- **The course is very heavily based on research findings and current/recent knowledge advancements,** so don't be surprised if you end up looking up research articles more than textbooks for this course.
- **Case studies are free marks but actually put some effort into them and always write way more than you think** because there's no word limit or criteria for conciseness and it's really easy to lose marks on stupid details.

SECaTs Review

BIOM 3015





BIOM3020

Integrated Endocrinology

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOM2012

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM3020

Course Description

An advanced course providing an integrated approach to the biochemistry, molecular biology, physiology, pathology and pharmacology of the endocrine system. Secretion & physiological roles of blood-borne & local hormonal mediators. Molecular signalling systems and other mechanisms used by hormones to regulate cell growth, metabolism, reproduction and other functions. Consequences of and treatments for defects in the endocrine system illustrated with clinical disorders that affect many people world-wide, such as those arising from obesity.

Advantages

- **Main modules (reproduction, cardiovascular) are very interesting** to learn about and form a **solid foundation for later pathophysiology knowledge**. Would highly recommend this course if you're planning to do **Medicine**.



- **The course coordinator is very responsive and helpful**, and reports are marked quickly with feedback always provided. This makes difficult assignments much easier with assistance readily available.
- **Some assignments (the three hot topics) are relatively enjoyable and everything is marked fairly.**
- **This course provides new prac opportunities** like interpreting microscopic slides which provide an interesting new perspective.

Disadvantages

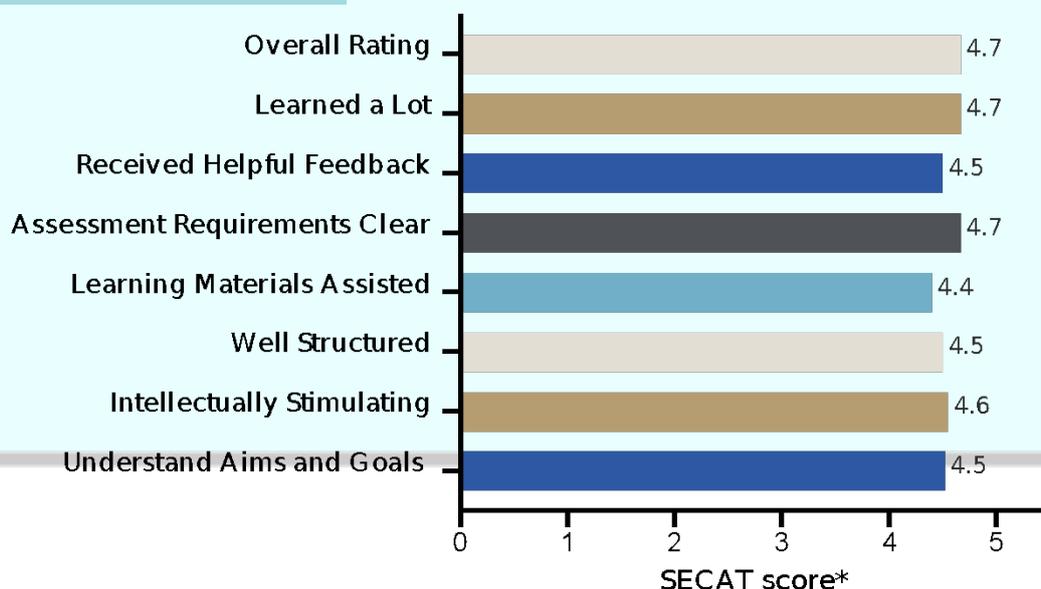
- **The reports take forever to complete!**
- The **quality of lectures can vary** and you may have to use your own initiative to understand the content.
- **Some modules are very specific** with their research details and this can make them boring.
- The EOS exam was **very difficult and harsh in the breadth and depth of content included.**

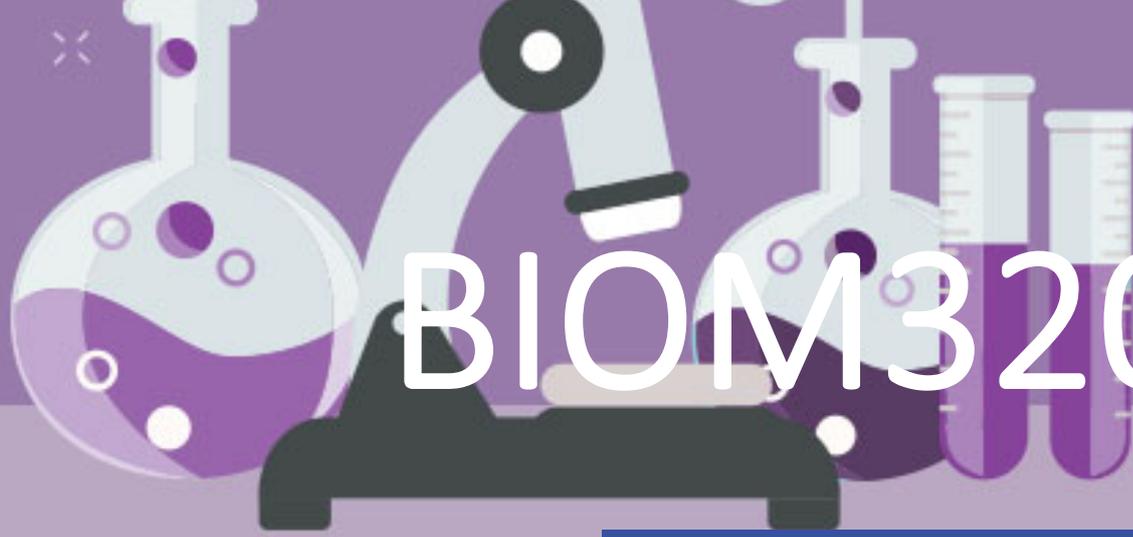
Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Attend the zoom (or future in-person) sessions and pay attention, as well as reading the documents they give you.** They provide so much information that is of value to completing very difficult reports.
- **Start all the reports as early as possible** as they tend to drag along for a while. Specifically for the metabolic report, you should start researching the material as soon as you receive the assignment to save yourself time when the report conflicts with other coursework.
- **Memorise the details and specific facts covered prior to the EOS exam.** These tiny details (e.g. specific gene translation in pregnant asthmatic women) may seem too irrelevant to assess, but they can end up on the exam and can easily change your grade by a whole mark. It's worth the extra effort.

SECaTs Review

BIOM3020





BIOM3200

Biomedical Science

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia

Prerequisites: N/A, MATH1040; or A grade of C or higher in Queensland Year 12 Mathematical Methods (Units 3 & 4) (or equivalent).

Contact hours: 2 Lecture, 1 Tutorial, Practicals

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM3200

Course Description

Students majoring in biomedical sciences will gain an appreciation of 1) the contribution of their specialisation to contemporary biomedical science & the potential benefits to the community 2) the importance of scientific ethics & 3) the importance of statistical and/or computational skills in analysis & interpretation of data.

Advantages

- **No exams**
- **The course splits into research and clinical stream** in the second half of the semester, so premed students can fine-tune their focus onto clinical papers/research.
- **Covers interesting topics** such as promoting students to look in depth and assess the reliability of articles
- **Strong focus on translating and communicating scientific information** to different audiences (namely other peers and a general audience), which is an **important skill** to have in the future, whether as researchers or medical professionals.



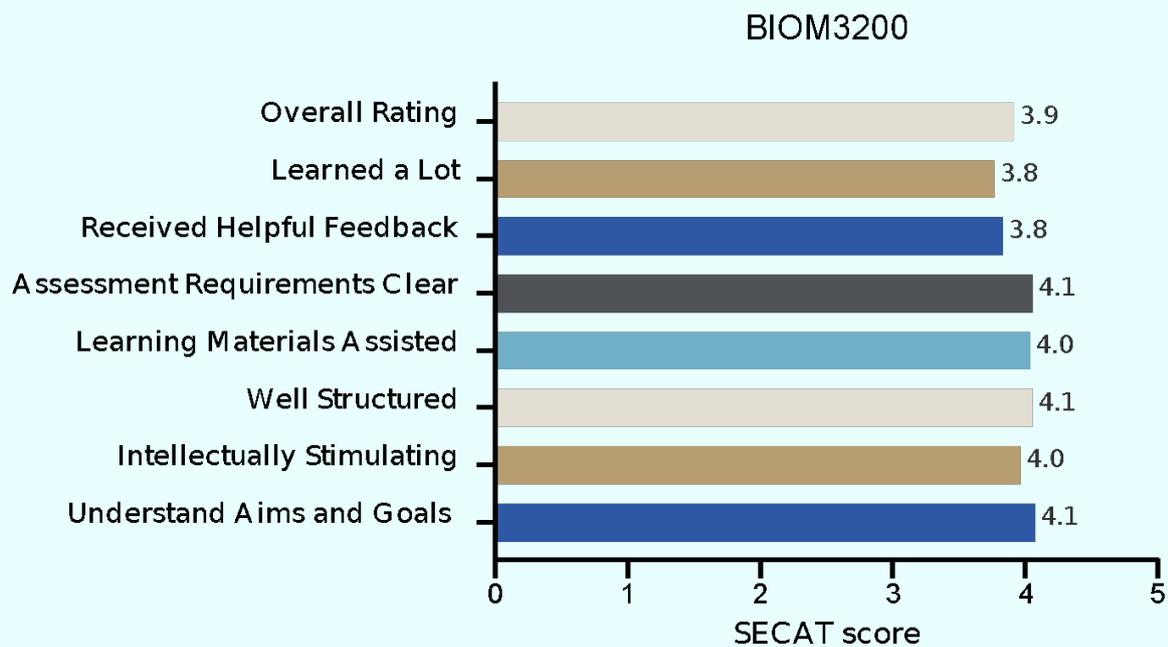
Disadvantages

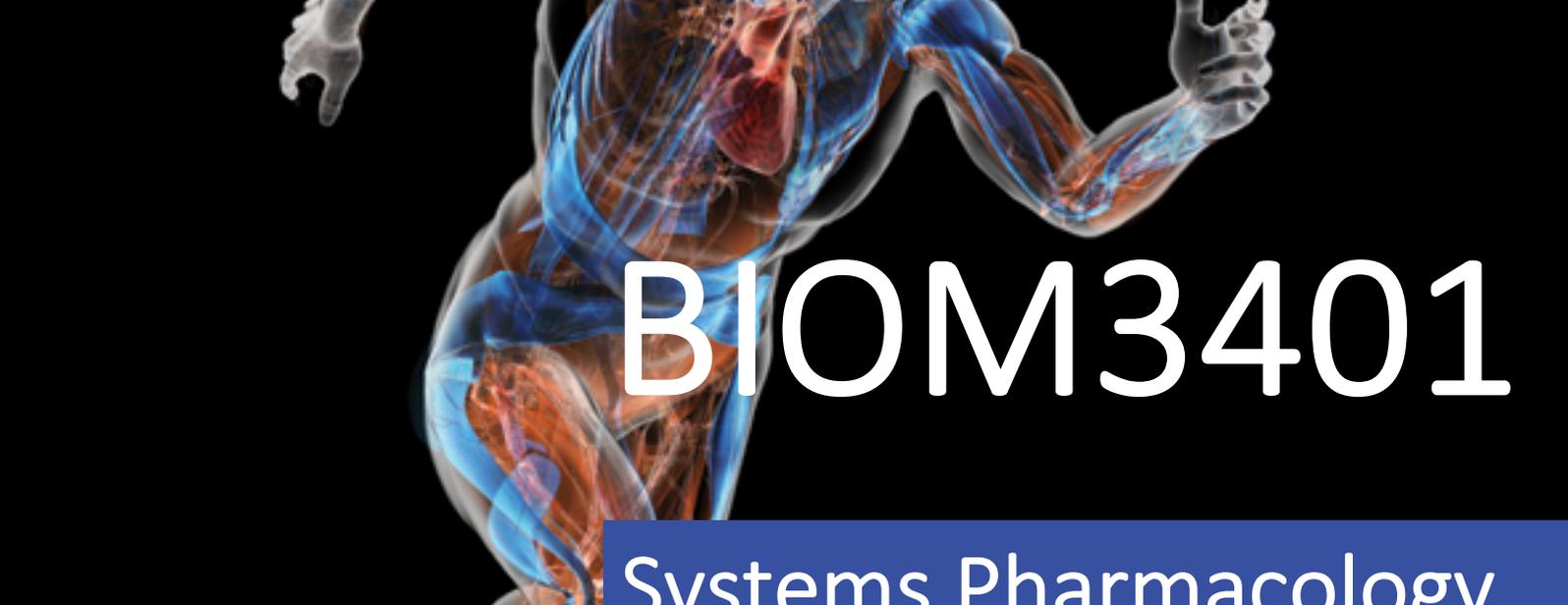
- Harsh marking
- **Group assignments** - short time frames making collaborating with other students hard to manage
- **The large volume of assessment** that can be tedious to complete
- The **instructions/criteria can seem vague**, especially as there is no set formula for writing a paper for a general audience in an 'engaging and concise manner'

Tips & what we wish we knew

- Choose established topics and avoid covid when completing the ethics module
- Refer to the rubric when completing assignments
- Discrepancies between tutors in answers and marking

SECaTs Review





BIOM3401

Systems Pharmacology

MD RECOMMENDATION

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOM2402

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 3 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=BIOM3401

Course Description

Systems Pharmacology introduces students to the action of drugs on whole systems and provides an integrated approach to how drugs affect human physiology. Students will learn the effect of drugs on major physiological systems and how these effects can be beneficial or detrimental. Experimental experience is expanded to develop practical skills in core pharmacology methodology, drug measurements and drug effects.

Advantages

- Material is **clinically and pathologically centred**, making the course interesting and relatable to everyday diseases such as psychological disorders, CVD, GIT drugs, cancer, anti-inflammatories and infectious diseases. You are likely to know some of this from BIOM2402 already.



- The **course has open-book exams which assess your understanding** of the content **rather than expecting you to rote-learn and memorise**, which can make studying for the exam less stressful.
- Lecture content and course structure is **consistent, understandable**, and similar to BIOM2402. If you enjoyed that, BIOM3401 will also be enjoyable.
- **practical are similar to BIOM2402 but involve more individual experimental designs** (like BIOM2011/BIOM2012), which may be interesting and/or challenging.
- The **alcohol practical involves drinking vodka** - many find this practical very engaging.

Disadvantages

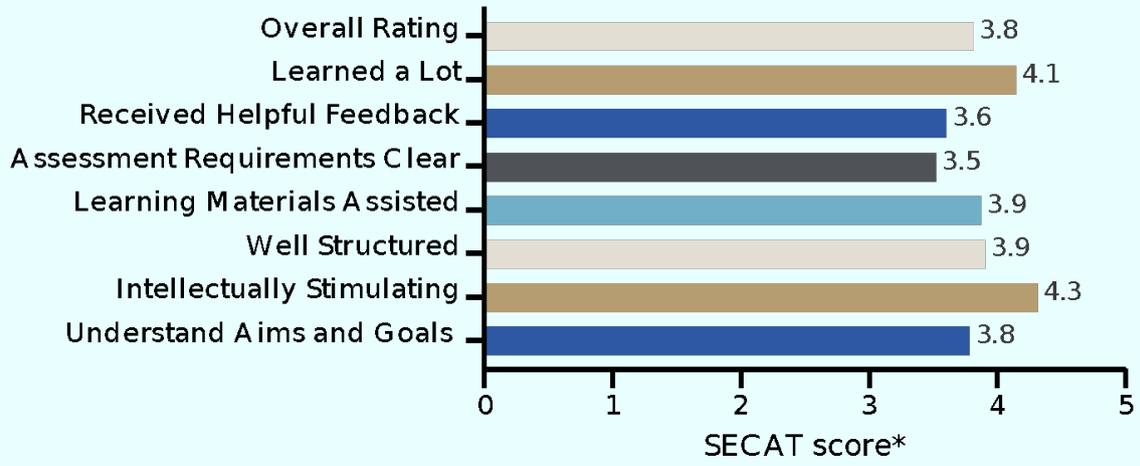
- **Open-book nature of the exam lends itself more towards problem solving and integrating knowledge from all modules.** Can be difficult on the spot especially with short time pressure and huge questions (30-mark essays).
- **Designing your own experiment can be different and confusing if you are used to a straightforward practical.** It requires a lot of knowledge retained from BIOM2402.
- The **huge amounts of drugs covered** means that lectures are very long and packed with content. Many drugs are just listed and not covered in depth.
- There are **3 reports to write throughout the semester and the due dates for these reports may overlap.**

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Do not underestimate open-book exams**, as the questions in the exam will mostly not be simple reciting or memorising. Check questions from past-exams and make sure that you have a good understanding of the answers to all of the questions, even the ones that may not seem relevant.
- **Don't neglect the calculation questions**, and pay attention to how the lecturer solves them.
- It is **important to make useful, comprehensive but understandable notes.** Entire drug lists with easy to reference tabs and multiple types of indices to find drugs will save a lot of time in the exam. Borrowing a library textbook or bringing your own as a last resort to find a drug can be helpful.
- **Most of the work for the practical is in the preparation and design of your method.** Discuss and plan in advance to gain the most out of your practical session.
- **Start early on the reports and ask the tutors lots of questions**, they expect just as much detail as BIOM2402 reports.



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DEVB3002

Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOM2208

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=DEVB3002

Course Description

Leading expert scientists in biomedicine discuss the foundational principles, state-of-the-art technologies and medical applications in the burgeoning fields of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine. This course is relevant for students progressing into future careers in science and medicine.

Advantages

- A course to definitely consider if you enjoy **research**.
- **No practical so not as many contact hours**, something which is **really appreciated if you are doing a more time intensive course, or you just need some extra time to work on GAMSAT/med applications**.
- **Interesting and engaging content**. Sometimes lecturers also include the experiments involved and that makes concepts more understandable and logical.



- **Improve public speaking/presentation skills through journal club.** Easy to do well if you are passionate about the topic (you get to choose the focus at the start of the semester) and enjoy public speaking.
- **Quizzes every 3-4 weeks keep you accountable** for your learning and they are easy to do well in as long as you are up to date with course content.

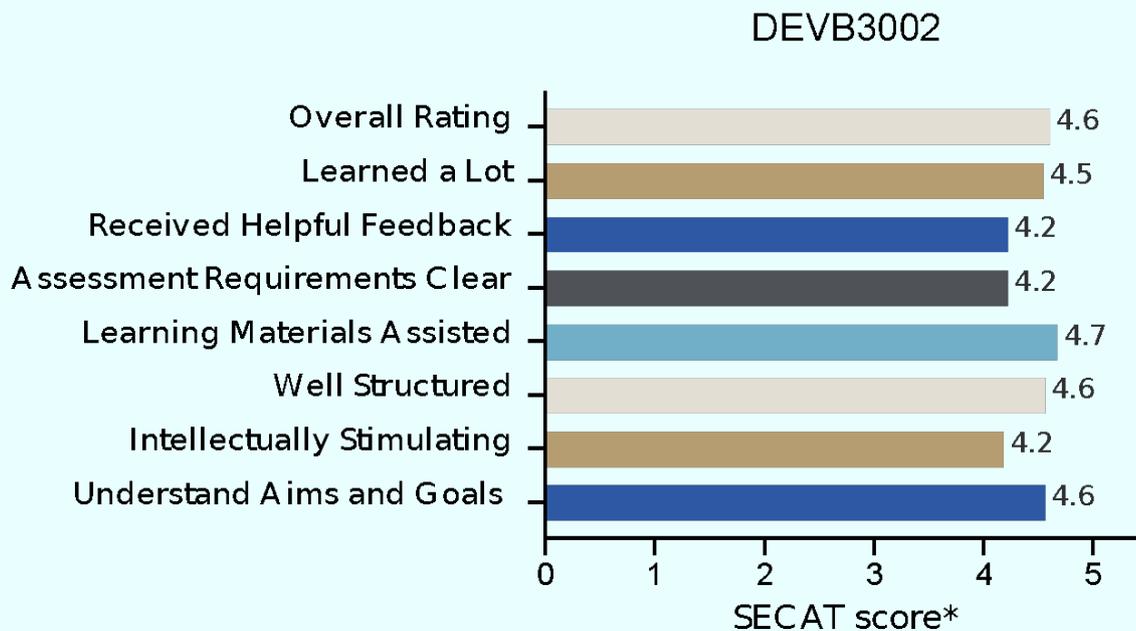
Disadvantages

- **A lot of content to review if you leave it last minute**, and some content can be very dry.
- It is not as popular of a course, so it can be lonely if you enjoy group study.

Tips & what we wish we knew

- **Stay on top of the content each week** because there are small quizzes every few weeks and they can make and break your final grade.
- **Use past exams to focus your study and prepare for the intra-semester quizzes.**
- Form a Journal Club group with others that are interested in the topic to maximise your chances of getting better marks.

SECaTs Review





NEUR3001

Molecular & Cellular Neuroscience

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 1 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOM2011

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Contact

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=NEUR3001

Course Description

Introduces aspects of molecular & cellular neuroscience through lectures tutorials, presentations & SDLs. Part 1 will provide the basic information & Part 2 will place this information in the context of current developments in molecular neuroscience & neurochemistry.

Advantages

- **The subject matter in this course was particularly interesting** and built well on BIOL2200 and BIOM2011. Learning about the **synapse on the molecular level and neuronal organisation** fed well into the more applied part of the course investigating particular diseases of the nervous system.
- **The journal club was arguably the best part of the course, enabling you to research and present the findings of a paper and interact with the presentations of others on similar topics.**



It also allowed you to get to know one of the lecturers on a more personal basis which was primarily helpful in getting advice on their module.

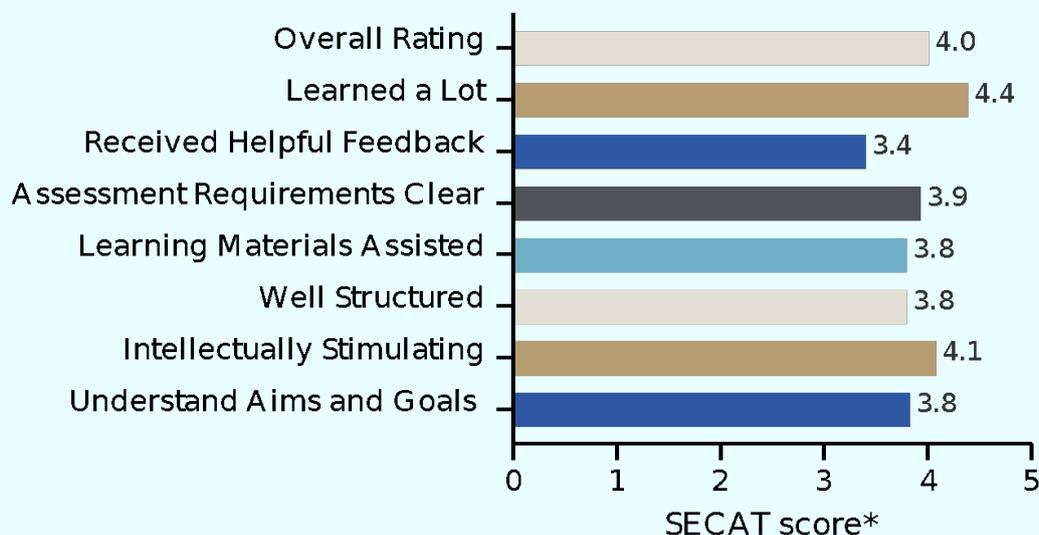
Disadvantages

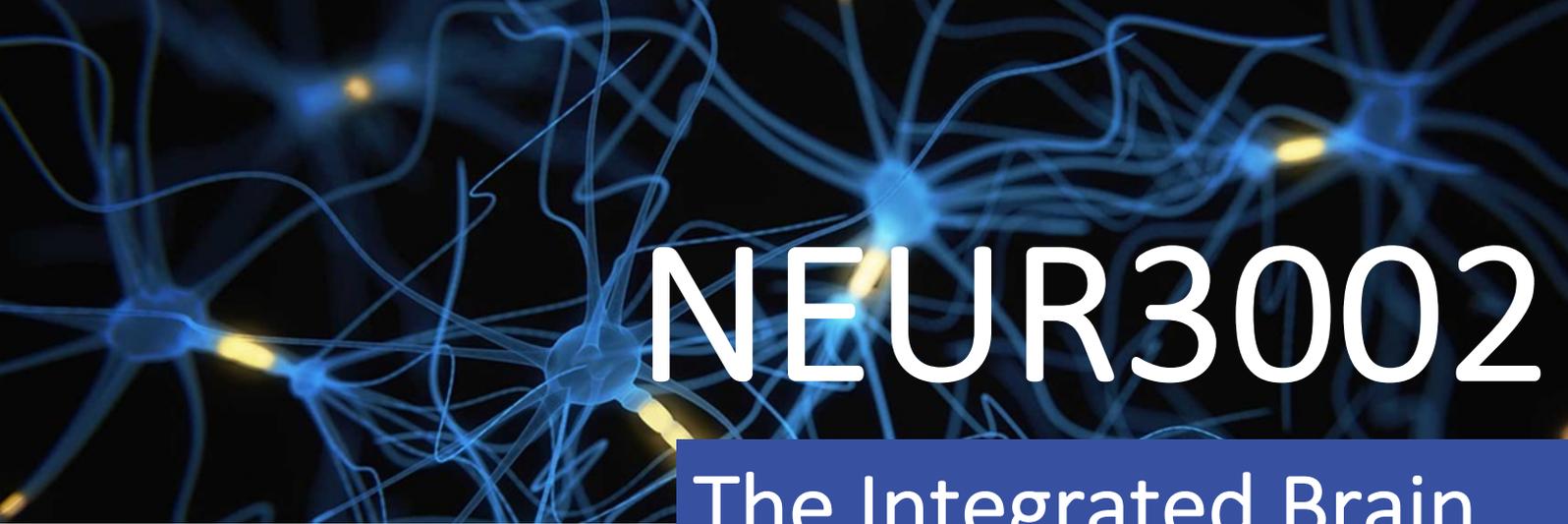
- The course was probably balanced in its advantages and disadvantages. The main problem was the lack of integration of some of the modules, especially given the course coordinator didn't even know how it linked together holistically.
- Assessment-wise, there were some vague questions in the final exam where the model answers didn't really relate to what was asked so in that sense, it is easy to do poorly even with sufficient study.
- Having guest lecturers for each disease/topic present only three lectures also made it slightly disjointed. However, some of these lecturers were not as good as our lecturers, so sometimes, having them for only three lectures was a bonus!

Tips & what we wish we knew

- If you're going to do this course, you need to **stay on top of the work as a lot of the detail is assessable.**
- The textbook is not really that necessary.
- Try and get yourself a good journal club partner, and set aside quite a bit of time as it can be quite stressful to prepare a presentation a week.
- The practice exams provide quite a good idea of what the lecturers might ask in the midsem/final.
- Watch timing in the exams.

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NEUR3002

The Integrated Brain

General Course Information

Semesters offered: Semesters 2 at St Lucia & External

Prerequisites: BIOM2011

Contact hours: 3 Lecture, 1 Tutorial

Electronic course profile: https://my.uq.edu.au/programs-courses/course.html?course_code=NEUR3002

Course Description

Lectures & seminars illustrating how brain systems work in an integrated fashion to extract high level sensory information, plan & control movement, form memories, cope with emotional & physical stress, & adapt to drugs of addiction.

Advantages

- **Great at forming an introduction to concepts of the brain**, particularly focussing more towards the **psychological aspects**. Could be very useful to pair this with ANAT3022 for a more holistic understanding of the brain.
- **Final exam content covers a lot of content but it is possible to do well due to the straightforwardness of the exam** and the fact that the **assessed content is made clear**.
- The **course overlaps a lot with other second-level subjects**. In particular, there is overlap with BIOM2402 in regards to the addictive drugs as well as BIOM2012 with Nick Lavidis' lectures. In addition to this, NEUR3002 builds on the basic knowledge gained from PSYC1020/NEUR1020.
- **The wide range of content being covered means that it is very likely that you will find at least one content you find interesting**, ensuring you remain motivated throughout the semester.



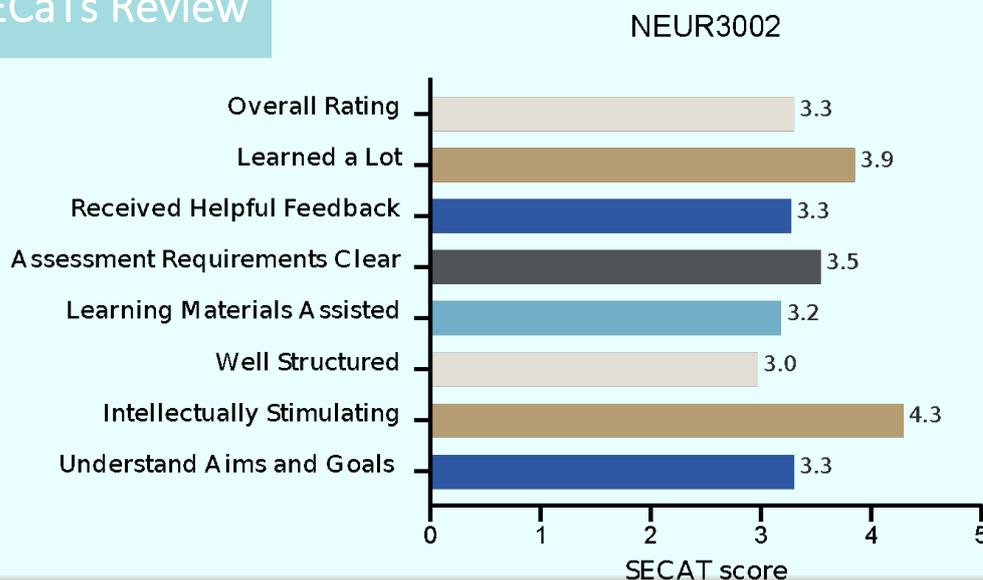
Disadvantages

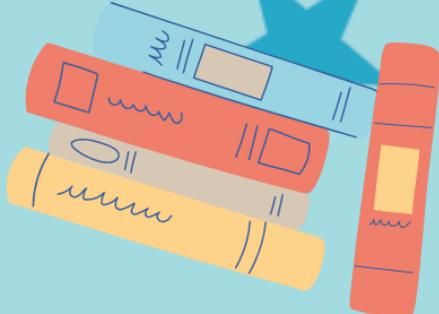
- Due to the fact that there is a **new topic every week**, it can result in many topics not being interlinked at all. This gives a very broad understanding of the topic, **with a lack of depth**.
- The **lab report can be frustrating to complete since there is a lack of assistance during the assessment**. This can make it particularly difficult to do this and reduce motivation throughout the process.
- The **course coordinator can be difficult to communicate with due to the fact that they are not very responsive to emails**. This can exacerbate the above point, making it much more challenging.
- **Some modules have quite dry content as they are presented in an engaging manner**. This can make certain modules not as interesting as others.

Tips & what we wish we knew

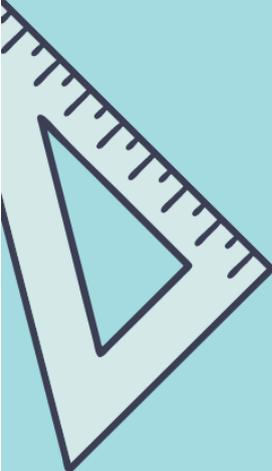
- **It is key that you remain on top of your workload and are able to learn independently**. This is due in part to the fact that communicating with certain lecturers can be very difficult and vague descriptions of assessment tasks.
- **NEUR3002 is very different to other courses since the field is poorly researched**. This results in lecture content **discussing current research paradigms and case studies**, as opposed to the presentation of facts.
- **Starting on the Wiki page assignment as soon as you get it is recommended since there is a lot of background reading required to complete it**.
- **Since each lecture gets 3 MCQs and 1 SAQ they will focus more on big concepts rather than specific details**. Thus, it can be more efficient to focus on **key concepts rather than on minute details**.

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UQ PREMEDICAL SOCIETY



COURSE GUIDE

-2022-

