

**University of Guelph**  
**College of Biological Science**  
**Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology**

**MBG\*2040**  
**Foundations in Molecular Biology and Genetics**  
**Fall 2015**

**Course Goals**

This course will provide an introduction to the disciplines of molecular biology and genetics. The first half will serve to develop an understanding of the fundamental concepts in genetics, including patterns of inheritance, allelic variation, gene interaction, linkage, recombination, gene mapping, DNA and chromosome structure and its variations. This will be followed by an introduction to the field of molecular biology and include the topics of DNA replication, transcription, translation, mutation and DNA repair, transposable elements and gene regulation. (0.5 credits, Prerequisite: BIOL\*1090)

**Teaching Team**

Instructor: Dr. Jim Uniacke (lectures 1-18), Office- SSC 2244, juniacke@uoguelph.ca , ext. 54739

Instructor: Dr. Mark Baker (lectures 19-36), Office – SSC 4453, mdbaker@uoguelph.ca , ext. 54788

Course Coordinator: Kim Kirby, Office- SCIE 3505, kkirby@uoguelph.ca , ext. 56583

Teaching Assistants: The teaching assistants are graduate students in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. Please do not contact them outside of your tutorial unless they have given you permission to do so.

**Lectures**

Section 01: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 – 11:20 am in War Memorial Hall Room 103

Section 02: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:30 – 2:20 pm in Rozanski Hall Room 104

**Tutorials**

Tutorials begin the week of Monday, September 14. Please refer to WebAdvisor for your scheduled tutorial day, time and room.

Students are responsible for all material given in lectures and tutorials.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

1. Understand and predict how single-gene traits can be tracked in multigenerational pedigrees.
2. Understand that phenotype is the result of interactions between genetic and environmental factors.
3. Explain how chromosome assortment and recombination result in gametes with new allele combinations.
4. Understand how polyploidy is common in plants and rare in animals.
5. Explain how chromosomal nondisjunction events can cause aneuploidy.
6. Describe and discuss how structural changes in chromosomes can have medical and evolutionary significance.

7. Understand and describe the processes of DNA replication, transcription and RNA processing, translation and the genetic code.
8. Explain factors that contribute to genetic mutations and describe repair mechanisms and recombination events.
9. Describe bacterial genetics, viruses and transposons.
10. Understand the basic principles of genetic regulation.

## **Course Resources**

### **Textbook**

Principles of Genetics by P. Snustad and M.J. Simmons, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2012. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. New York, NY.

The textbook is available on a 2 hour reserve in the library.

### **Course Web Page**

There is a CourseLink (D2L) site set up for this course. This will allow you to access the course material, post questions on the discussion board (see below), access useful websites, and check your grades. You can access this CourseLink from <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca>. Your username is your Central Login ID and your password is your university email password.

You are responsible for all information posted on the CourseLink page for MBG\*2040. Please check it regularly.

### **4 Steps to Getting Help in MBG\*2040**

Step 1: Read all posted instructions relevant to your question.

Step 2: Consult the discussion board on CourseLink.

The discussion board is an open forum to promote exchange of information between students. You are encouraged to post clear, concise questions and to try to answer other students' posts. When posting a question please use a subject line that clearly indicates the topic of your question, making it easy for other students to find topics they wish to discuss. The teaching team will monitor the discussion board and provide input when deemed appropriate. Please keep all questions and comments relevant to the course. Offensive postings will not be tolerated.

Step 3: Post your question to the relevant discussion board on CourseLink.

Step 4: If you are not satisfied by the responses to your questions, send your question to the instructor. Alternatively, see an instructor during office hours.

## **Course Structure**

### **Lectures**

Section 01: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 – 11:20 am in War Memorial Hall Room 103

Section 02: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:30 – 2:20 pm in Rozanski Hall Room 104

A provisional schedule of lecture topics and text chapter readings can be found below. Material given in the lectures is the responsibility of the student. Students are expected to attend all lectures and all tutorials. If you miss a lecture or tutorial, you should get the notes from another student in the course. Electronic recording of classes is expressly

forbidden without prior consent of the instructors. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized students and may not be reproduced or transmitted to others without the written consent of the instructors.

### Tentative Lecture Topic Outline

Lecture	Lecture Topic	Text Chapters
1-4	Extensions of Mendelism	4
5-6	Chromosomal Basis of Mendelism	5
7-9	Variation in Chromosome Number and Structure	6
10-13	Linkage and Recombination	7
14-15	Bacterial Genetics	8
16-18	DNA and the Molecular Structure of Chromosomes	9
	<b>Midterm Exam – covers lectures 1–18 Saturday, October 31, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Location to be announced</b>	
19-21	DNA Replication	10
22-24	Transcription and RNA Processing	11
25-27	Translation and the Genetic Code	12
28-30	Mutation, Repair and Recombination	13
31-33	Transposable Elements	17
34-36	Gene Regulation	18
	<b>Final Exam – covers lectures 1-36 Friday, December 11, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Location to be announced</b>	

### Tutorials

Tutorials begin the week of Monday, September 14. Please refer to WebAdvisor for your scheduled tutorial day, time, and room.

Genetics and molecular biology are different from many areas in the biological sciences because of the emphasis on analysis and problem solving. The MBG\*2040 tutorials are designed to improve problem-solving skills and reinforce concepts and terminology introduced in lectures. Tutorials will consist of: 1) An assignment that will be posted on CourseLink one week before it is due, and 2) In-class problem-solving questions. During the tutorial, Teaching Assistants will go over the solutions to the assignment and the in-class problems. You are responsible for ALL material covered in tutorials. There are 10 tutorial sessions and 8 tutorial assignments (best 6 assignments

worth 2% each). See the schedule below for assignment topics and due dates. There are two grades associated with the tutorial assignments: The first grade is associated with correctly answering the assignment questions, which are to be handed in to your Teaching Assistant within the first 5 minutes of your scheduled tutorial. The second grade is a participation mark associated with handing in your completed in-class problems at the end of your scheduled tutorial. Any dispute regarding your tutorial assignment grade must be brought to the attention of the Course Coordinator within one week after the grade has been posted on CourseLink.

Tutorial Assignments: 8 short assignments will be assigned to assess your understanding of concepts covered in lecture. The tutorial assignment grade will be calculated based on your best 6 assignments. If you miss more than 2 of the 8 tutorial assignments, the value of the missed assignment(s) will be transferred to the final exam provided acceptable documentation has been received. Acceptable documentation must be received before the last day of classes.

#### Tutorial Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignment
Week of Sept. 7	No tutorials scheduled	
Week of Sept. 14	Review questions on Mendelian principles	
Week of Sept. 21	Extensions of Mendelism	1
Week of Sept. 28	Chromosomal Basis of Mendelism	2
Week of Oct. 5	Variation in Chromosome Number and Structure	3
Week of Oct. 12	No tutorials scheduled	
Week of Oct. 19	Linkage and Recombination	4
Week of Oct. 26	Bacterial Genetics	
Week of Nov. 2	DNA Replication	5
Week of Nov. 9	Transcription	6
Week of Nov. 16	Translation	7
Week of Nov. 23	Mutation	8
Week of Nov. 30	No tutorials scheduled	

## Methods of Assessment

Assessment	Value (% of final grade)	Date	Learning Outcomes
Tutorial Assignments	12% (Best 6 out of 8)	In scheduled tutorials	1-10
Midterm Examination	35%	Saturday, October 31	1-6
Final exam	53%	Friday, December 11	1-10

Grades will be assigned according to the standards outlined in the U of G Undergraduate Calendar (p40H41).

**Midterm Examination:** The midterm exam is scheduled on Saturday, October 31 at 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. This exam will test you based on lectures 1-18. The midterm exam is compulsory and will count for 35% of your final grade. The format of this exam will be multiple choice. Alternate times will be set for midterm exams only if there is a direct conflict with another course or with a Gryphon Varsity event that is confirmed by the coach. No other reasons will be accepted (voluntary, medical, compassionate, or other reasons). **Conflicts must be reported to the instructor by September 25.** If a student does not write the midterm exam they will receive a grade of 0% unless proper documentation is provided to the instructor. In cases with proper documentation, the weight of the missed midterm exam will be added to the final exam.

**Final exam:** The final exam is scheduled on Friday, December 11 at 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. The final exam is a compulsory examination and will be cumulative. You will be assessed on your understanding of all lecture material presented to you in this course. The format of this exam will be multiple choice and short answer.

Academic Consideration: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08Hac.shtml>

## Important Dates

Sept. 11 First lecture  
Oct. 12 Thanksgiving – no lectures or tutorials scheduled  
Oct. 13 Study Break – no tutorials scheduled  
Oct. 31 Midterm exam  
Nov. 6 40<sup>th</sup> class day – Last day to drop courses  
Dec. 4 Last lecture  
Dec. 11 Final exam

## University Policies

### Undergraduate Calendar

The undergraduate calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

### Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing

disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email [csd@uoguelph.ca](mailto:csd@uoguelph.ca) or see the website: <http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

### **Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submission. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08Hamisconduct.shtml>

### **Email Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> email account regularly: email is the official route of communication between the University and its students. Also please note, email questions that can be easily answered by looking at the course outline information or material posted on CourseLink, will not be answered.

### **Drop Date**

The last date to drop one semester Fall 2015 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday November 6**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08Hdrop.shtml>

### **Copies of out-of-class-assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **Grading**

If you are absent from classes during the semester, you will be expected to make up missed lecture and tutorial material on your own.

### **Exam Procedure**

Do not bring laptops, phones or other electronic devices to exams. Leave your phone at home or in your knapsack. If it is in your knapsack, make sure it is turned off. Phones that ring during exams will be put outside of the examination room. You are expected to bring a calculator to every exam. We do not provide calculators nor do we allow students to share calculators. You will be required to provide photo ID during exams.

### **General Campus Resources**

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program:

- Make an appointment with a program counsellor in your degree program.

<http://www.bsc.uoguelph.ca/index.shtml> or <https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors>

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

- There are numerous academic resources offered by the Learning Commons including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills. You can also set up individualized appointments with a learning specialist. <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>
- SLGs are planned for MBG\*2040 students. Go to the SLG website (<http://slg.uoguelph.ca>) for more information.

If you are struggling with personal or health issues:

- Counselling services offers individualized appointments to help students work through personal struggles that may be impacting their academic performance. <https://www.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>
- Student Health Services is located on campus and is available to provide medical attention. <https://www.uoguelph.ca/studenthealthservices/clinic>
- For support related to stress and anxiety, training workshops and one-on-one sessions related to stress management and high performance situations. <http://www.selfregulationskills.ca/home/>

If you have a documented disability or think you may have a disability:

- The Student Accessibility Services (SAS) can provide services and support for students with a documented learning or physical disability. They can also provide information about how to be tested for a learning disability. For more information, including how to register with the centre please see: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/>