



Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology

MCB*6310 Advanced Topics in Developmental and Cellular Biology

Instructors:

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Course format: The theme of this course is the cell biology of aging and disease. The course will consist of a series of lectures (presented by faculty) and research paper presentations (presented by students). Each faculty member will assign two research papers that complement their lecture topic. Each student is required to read all of the assigned research papers and participate in each presentation. The format of the student presentations will be a description of each of the papers followed by a discussion. Each paper presentation should include (i) some background on the topic area, (ii) why the research was performed (what was not known), (iii) a description of the results (including how the experiments were performed), (iv) a description of the conclusions drawn from the experiments (include a description of the current model resulting from these studies), (v) and a description of the significance of the results. The discussion that follows the presentations should include all members of the class. This discussion should address (i) possible explanations for the differing results or conclusions relative to previously published papers and (ii) proposed experiments that might help to clarify the findings, (iii) any new findings that have been published since publication of the assigned paper.

There will be six in class presentations. Each student will present a portion of three of the assigned papers. The students not presenting a paper on a particular presentation day will be required to prepare questions in advance that incorporate elements of the discussion points listed above. These questions must be emailed to the course coordinator no later than 48 hours before the presentation. The students will ask these questions to the students giving the presentation during the discussion period.

Evaluation scheme:

All three faculty members will be present for each of the student presentations. A grade (out of 10) will be assigned to each student that reflects the contribution of the student to the class presentation and discussion. As well, each student will evaluate the contribution of the other students at the end of each student presentation day (mark out of 10). The final mark will be the average of faculty (weighted 75%) and student (weighted 25%) grades for the 6 class presentations.

Class schedule: Classes will tentatively be held on Thursdays from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM in SCIE4440.

September 10	First class meeting – course overview, assignment of presentation papers and finalization of class schedule
Week 1	Dr. Mosser – Proteostasis in Aging and Disease
Week 2	Student presentation #1
Week 3	Student presentation #2
Week 4	Dr. Vessey – RNA Regulation in Development and Disease
Week 5	Student presentation #3
Week 6	Student presentation #4
Week 7	Dr. Ryan – Modelling Human Aging and Disease
Week 8	Student presentation #5
Week 9	Student presentation #6

NOTE: You will need to pick up a projector before class for the lectures and presentations. A projector has been reserved for this course. Please see Ian Smith (SC1 Rm: 2309) before 4 PM on the day before your lecture or presentation.

University regulations regarding graduate courses:

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the graduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1400.shtml

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is DATE HERE. Two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. Refer to the Graduate Calendar for the schedule of dates:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/sched/sched-dates-f10.shtml>

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. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Graduate Calendar:

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1687.shtml

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Graduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations, which apply to graduate programs:

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