



# MBG\*3350 Laboratory Methods in Molecular Biology

Summer 2023

Section(s): 01

Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Credit Weight: 0.75

Version 1.00 - May 05, 2023

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## 1 Course Details

### 1.1 Calendar Description

This course involves laboratory based instruction in the basic methodologies of Molecular Biology. Students will have the opportunity to develop technical skills and practical knowledge sufficient to perform basic procedures independently, and to diagnose and analyze experimental results obtained with these techniques.

**Pre-Requisites:**

BIOC\*2580, MCB\*2050

**Restrictions:**

Registration in BSC.BIOC (major or minor), BIOC:C, BTOX, BTOX:C, BPCH, BPCH:C, MICR(major or minor), MICR:C, MBG (major or minor), PBTC, PLSC (major or minor), TOX, TOX:C

### 1.2 Course Description

This course offers laboratory-based instruction in the most important methods and techniques used in modern Molecular Biology, including the preparation and analysis of DNA, RNA, and protein; the use of cloning and expression vectors; and the theory and applications of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

The laboratory sessions are accompanied by classroom-based instruction.

Students will develop technical skills and practical knowledge sufficient to perform these procedures safely and independently, to analyze the experimental results obtained, and to trouble-shoot and solve laboratory problems.

### 1.3 Timetable

- Laboratory: Labs begin Wed. May 16th see 'Activities' for a complete schedule

Tuesday 1:30 p.m. – 5:20 PM, SSC 4108

Wednesday 1:30 p.m. – 5:20 PM, SSC 4108

- Lecture: Tuesday -1st lecture on May 16th; see 'Activities' for a complete schedule  
11:30 AM – 12:50 PM  
SSC 2315

## 1.4 Final Exam

This course has two term tests during the semester. There is no test scheduled during the final exam period.

Term Test #1: June 20, 2023

Term Test #2: July 25, 2023

## 2 Instructional Support

### 2.1 Instructional Support Team

<b>Instructor:</b>	Joseph Colasanti
<b>Email:</b>	jcolasan@uoguelph.ca
<b>Office:</b>	SSC 4467
<b>Office Hours:</b>	No set office hours. Please email to set a meeting time.
<b>Lab Co-ordinator:</b>	Elspeth Smith
<b>Email:</b>	elspeths@uoguelph.ca
<b>Telephone:</b>	519-825-4120 ex. 56583
<b>Office:</b>	SSC 3505
<b>Office Hours:</b>	During and after labs on Tues. and Wed., plus extra office hours scheduled throughout the semester for support with specific assignments (see Course Schedule on Courselink for details). Email to schedule an additional meeting.

## 3 Learning Resources

### 3.1 Required Resources

**Lab Manual (Lab Manual)**

MBG\*3350 Laboratory Manual: PDF posted on Courselink to be printed by students.

**Laboratory Notebook (Other)**

A bound Laboratory Notebook

**Lab Coat (Equipment)****Indelible (“Sharpie”) marker: ultra-fine point (Equipment)****Computer Software (Software)**

ImageLab (PC and Mac compatible) and CFX Manager (PC compatible): software provided by the lab demonstrator for download on your computer

**Courselink (Website)**

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca>

This course will use D2L (via Courselink). You are responsible for all information posted on the Courselink page for MBG\*3350. Please check it regularly.

### 3.2 Additional Resources

**Library Guide to MBG\*3350 (Website)**

<https://guides.lib.uoguelph.ca/MBG3350>

Links to online resources (PubMed, protocols, etc.)

For information only.

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## 4 Learning Outcomes

### 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Explain the fundamental principles of practical molecular biology.
2. Recognize and interpret experimental results.
3. Implement the theoretical principles and apply them in the execution of lab experiments.
4. Develop technical laboratory skills including but not limited to: Working in aseptic conditions, following lab protocols, micropipetting, bacterial culture techniques, recording and interpreting results, nucleotide and protein purifications, loading DNA and protein

- gels, setting up molecular reactions
5. Plan, design, monitor, troubleshoot, and optimize experiments.
  6. Use online tools to research a particular topic, and read primary research articles in molecular genetics.
  7. Identify skills gained in this course and describe how those skills can be applied in the workforce
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

### 5.1 Course Format

- Lecture: One lecture per week will provide context and theory for skills covered in lab.
- Laboratory: Two lab sessions per week. The lab work covers 3 separate projects which overlap at times.

Project 1: Cloning and Isolation of GFP

Project 2: Detection of Environmental *E. coli*

Project 3: Gene Expression Analysis in Arabidopsis

- Online Material: Some independent online work will be posted on Courselink to be completed according to the lab schedule. This material consist of videos and activities that complement the lab work; complete within the week each activity is scheduled to stay on track.
- Assignments:

Lab Assignments: During the course of the semester you will be required to complete and hand in 7 Laboratory Assignments (LA) (see "Assessment" for due dates). These assignments cover all of your lab work and incorporate the online material as well. They are meant to assist you in monitoring the outcomes of your experiments. They are also designed to have you analyze your results to assess your understanding of the concepts covered and so that your formal lab report is a compilation of results and work already analyzed.

Literature Review: Before research is conducted one should have a good grasp of what is currently known for the topic/area of study. As such, each student will be required to complete a literature review on Environmental *E. coli* and how we use molecular tools to detect it. Specific details will be presented in lab and on Courselink.

Formal Scientific Lab Report: You are required to write one formal lab report for this course, covering Project 2:Detection of Environmental *E. coli* only. Although the report will be written in the form of a scientific manuscript, you must remember that the purpose of a formal report and the audience for which it is

written is somewhat different from that of a scientific paper. The aim is to show that you understand the principles and significance of the experiments you performed.

More Information regarding all of these components can be found on Courselink and in the Lab Manual.

## 5.2 Schedule of Everything!

Please note this schedule is current as of May 5th 2023. This schedule is subject to change. Students will receive an email prior to the beginning of the semester with any updates in the schedule.

Week (Lab Week)/ Date	Lectures/Assignments	Laboratory schedule		Online Material/Assignments
		Day 1: Tues.	Day 2: Wed.	
<b>Week 0.5</b>  May 11 - 12	No Lecture	No Lab	No Lab	Create  Benchling  Account
<b>Week 1</b>  May 15 – 19	Lecture 1: Intro; <i>E.coli</i> , plasmids and vectors, recombinant DNA	Intro to Lab, Lab Safety, Molecular Biology Review; PubMed Search, Micropipetting; Plating; Inoculating	Purification of Plasmid DNA; pET-28a Quantification; RE Digestion of pET28a	Benchling RE  Digests
<b>Week 2</b>  May 23 – 26	Lecture 2: DNA cloning and restriction enzymes, DNA analysis	Agarose Gel Electrophoresis of DNA products; PCR of <i>gfp</i>	Analysis of PCR products; Purification of <i>gfp</i> PCR Product.	BLASTn  <b>LA#1: Fri. May 26, 5:00 pm</b>

<b>Week 3</b> May 29 – Jun 2	Lecture 3: Plasmid Analysis and PCR	Preparing pET28a and <i>gfp</i> for Ligation;  Ligation of <i>gfp</i> into pET28	Transformation of Ligation Reactions into <i>E. coli</i> DH5a.  qPCR Primer design	Benchmarking PCR Primer Design & Analysis  <b>LA#2: Fri. Jun 2,</b>  <b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>Week 4</b> Jun 5 – 9	Lecture 4: PCR and gene cloning	Inoculation to screen for insert; <i>E. coli</i> PCR Detection Exp. Design	Isolation of transformed plasmid; Restriction Enzyme Digest and gel	N/A  <b>Literature Review due June 9<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Jun 12 - 16	Lecture 5: Cloning PCR and qPCR	gDNA Isolation and quantification  <i>E. coli</i> PCR –optimization	<i>E. coli</i> Detection PCR –optimization – gel  <i>E. coli</i> Detection PCR	N/A  <b>LA#3: Fri. Jun 16,</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>Week 6</b> Jun 19 - 23	<b>Term Exam 1</b>  <b>June 20th</b>	<i>E. coli</i> Detection PCR – gel  qPCR for <i>E. coli</i> quantification	No Lab	qPCR Data Analysis  <b>LA#4: Fri. Jun 23,</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>Week 7</b> Jun 26 - 29	Lecture 6: RT-PCR; Protein expression and purification	qRT-PCR - RNA Isolation from <i>Arabidopsis</i> ;  cDNA synthesis	qRT-PCR - <i>Arabidopsis</i> Gene Expression Assay	Imidazole Gradient Research  <b>LA#5: Thur. Jun 29</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>

<b>6</b>	<b>Week 8</b> Jul 3 - 7	Lecture 7: Affinity tagging, SDS-PAGE analysis	His-GFP Purification Ni-NTA resin	SDS-PAGE and Coomassie Stain	N/A  <b>LA#6: Fri. Jul 7 5:00pm</b>
	<b>Week 9</b> Jul 10 - 14	Lecture 8: Antibodies, Western Blot Analysis	SDS-PAGE and Western Immunoblotting (D1)	Western (D2)  <b>Submit Lab books</b>	Science Beyond the Lab  <b>LA#7: Fri. Jul 14, 5:00 pm</b>
	<b>Week 10</b> Jul 17 - 21	Lecture 9: New Tech, Alternate Cloning, Gene synthesis and CRISPR	No Lab	No Lab	N/A
	<b>Week 11</b> Jul 24 -28	<b>Term Exam 2</b>  <b>July 25<sup>th</sup></b>	No Lab	No Lab	N/A  <b>Final Lab Report due Jul. 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm</b>
	<b>Week 12</b> Jul 31 - Aug 4	No Lecture	No Lab	No Lab	N/A

## Assessments

### 6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Please note these dates may change if their are pandemic related delays in the schedule. Students will be notified of any changes as soon as possible.

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Learning Outcome</b>
Literature Review	10%	June 9th 5:00 pm	1, 2, 6
Lab Assignments (7) 4 - 6% each	35%	Fridays* throughout semester, 5 pm	1 - 7
Term Exam 1	15%	June 20th in lecture	1,2,4,5
Term Exam 2	15%	July 25th in lecture	1,2,4,5
Final Lab Report	15%	July 28th, 5 pm	1 - 6
Lab Performance	10%	Lab books submitted in lab, July 12th	1 - 6

\* Excluding LA 5 which is due on Thur. Jun. 29 due to holiday scheduling.

## 6.2 Assessment Details

- Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day up to 50%. Submissions will not be accepted after five days late.
- Each student has one "48 hr Free Pass" which gives them a 48 hr extension on any one assignment. In order to use this, please leave a comment in the Dropbox when you submit your assignment. This is not valid for the Term Exams. Other than this, no extensions will be granted for any reason regardless of SAS status.
- Lab Assignments are submitted via Dropbox. We will do our best to return them before the next assignment is due. This is to provide you with immediate feedback as to whether your analysis, interpretation and conclusions of your experimental results are correct.
- The lab performance grade (10%) is determined by your performance in the lab. Of this, 5% is based on your actual results (success of your experiments). The other 5% is based on your day to day performance in the lab: punctuality, attendance, attitude, preparedness, independence and graded lab notebook.

## 6.3 Exams #1 & #2

Exams #1 and #2 will be held during regular lecture time; if you fail to write the Exam #1 a grade of 0% will be assigned unless an acceptable and documented cause such as illness or family emergency is documented. In the situation where academic consideration is given, Exam #2 will be adjusted to 30%. For missed Exam #2, an Incomplete grade will be submitted with a recommendation of 0% unless academic consideration is granted for a deferred exam.



## 6.4 Requirements for passing the course

- Students must pass the Lecture component on its own AND the Laboratory component on its own to pass the course as a whole (i.e. students need to achieve an overall grade of at least 15/30 for the 2 exams and a minimum of 35/70 for the progress reports, lab performance and assignments). This means that a high laboratory mark cannot be used to secure a pass if the lecture component is failed or vice versa.
- Students cannot miss more than 4 lab days to receive a passing grade for the laboratory component, regardless of the reason for absence. In cases where this standard is not achieved, the final grade assigned will either be the calculated grade or 47%, whichever is less.
- Student must submit the Final Lab Report within 5 days of the due date in order to pass this course.

## 6.5 Lab Exemptions

For students returning to MBG 3350 after failing to pass the Term Exams, a lab exemption may be granted under the following conditions:

- Student achieved a 60% or higher on the lab portion of the course; including the Lab Assignments, Literature review, Final Lab report and the Lab performance grade.
- Student submitted all lab assessments listed above.
- Student successfully completed the lab portion within one year of requesting an exemption.
- Did not miss more than 4 days of lab for any reason.

To confirm that you meet these criteria please contact Elspeth Smith (elspeths@uoguelph.ca). To register for MBG\*3350 Lecture with a lab exemption you must contact the CBS Academic Advising office and obtain approval from Elspeth.

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# 7 Course Statements

## 7.1 Covid Safety, Procedures and Policy

Please note that all dates and schedules are subject to change depending on the status of the pandemic in Ontario. Masks are mandatory in lectures and labs. Hand washing, social distancing and sanitization practices will be in place in all labs, full procedures will be sent out to students via email prior to the beginning of labs. **If you are feeling ill, have symptoms of Covid-19 or have been exposed to someone with a Covid-19 diagnosis do not come to lab**

**or lecture.** Please reach out to Elspeth at elspeths@uoguelph.ca for a lab exemption. Data will be provided for you to complete the associated progress report. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

## **7.2 You must come to lab prepared and ready to start working by 1:30 pm**

It is disrespectful to arrive late as this interrupts the TA and your fellow classmates. Additionally, you will miss out on specific announcements for the day that the TA is not obligated to repeat. If you miss specific safety announcements you may be asked to leave. During the course of the lab there may be times where you can get a coffee as you have a gel running. Feel free to do so, however, if any announcements or discussions take place during your absence you will be responsible for obtaining the information from a fellow classmate.

## **7.3 Lab Attendance is mandatory**

This is a lab based course where the majority of your final grade is assigned based on the laboratory component rather than the lecture component of the course. The nature of the lab exercises also build on one another. As such there is no opportunity for make-up labs. Lab absence is only acceptable for medical or compassionate reasons.

## **7.4 You must keep a lab notebook**

- Before coming to lab you must record in your lab notebook: What are you doing in lab today?
- What are the expected results? You must have completed all calculations that are required to carry out the experiments.
- In addition, you should record the variables of the experiment (reaction conditions), insert the actual results you obtained, in table format or gel image (labelled) and a statement of whether or not the experiment was successful. Your lab notebook will be graded for the PCR assignment.

## **7.5 All Assignments have to be completed**

ALL lab assignments are an important part of the course. You must analyze your data to fully grasp concepts taught.

## **7.6 Academic Misconduct**

It is the nature of undergraduate labs to complete experiments with a partner. Your results should be discussed with your partner as this is expected in all scientific research. However, ALL assignments must be completed INDEPENDENTLY.

## **7.7 Grading**

- All assignments are due at 1:30pm and are submitted electronically to Dropbox on Courselink.

- Students who wish to have their assignments re-graded must submit the request to the Lab Demonstrator within 5 class days of their return. The entire assignment will be re-graded so the mark may go up, down or remain unchanged.

## 7.8 Turnitin

- In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin, integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool, to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.
- All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.
- A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

# 8 Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology Statements

## 8.1 Academic Advisors

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

- Make an appointment with a program counsellor in your degree program. [B.Sc. Academic Advising](#) or [Program Counsellors](#)

## 8.2 Academic Support

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

- Learning Commons: 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/>
- Science Commons: Located in the library, the Science Commons provides support for

physics, mathematic/statistics, and chemistry. Details on their hours of operations can be found at: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/chemistry-physics-help> and <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/math-stats-help>

## 8.3 Wellness

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, besides Health Services and Counselling Services, Kathy Somers runs training workshops and one-on-one sessions related to stress management and high performance situations.  
<http://www.selfregulationskills.ca/>

## 8.4 Personal information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964), and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) <http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/index.html>. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes.

For more information regarding the Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information policies please see the Undergraduate Calendar.  
(<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/intro/index.shtml>)

## 8.5 Course Offering Information Disclaimer

Please note that course delivery format (face-to-face vs online) is subject to change up to the first-class day depending on requirements placed on the University and its employees by public health bodies, and local, provincial and federal governments. Any changes to course format prior to the first class will be posted on WebAdvisor/Student Planning as they become available.

# 9 University Statements

## 9.1 Email Communication

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

## 9.2 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 instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

### 9.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### 9.4 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.

### 9.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be

noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website  
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 9.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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 submitting it. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## 9.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

## 9.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

## 9.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

## 9.10 Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

## 9.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campusess/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campusess/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.

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