



MICR*2420 Introduction to Microbiology

Fall 2023

Section(s): C01

Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - August 31, 2023

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course will introduce students to the diversity of microorganisms, including, bacteria, viruses, and fungi, and the impact of microbes on everyday life. The interactions of microorganisms with the biotic and abiotic worlds will be discussed. Topics will include the roles of microorganisms in host-pathogen interactions in disease, the beneficial aspects of microorganisms in bioremediation and food production, and their application in biotechnology.

Pre-Requisites:

4.00 credits including (1 of BIOL*1070, BIOL*1080, BIOL*1090, CHEM*1040)

Restrictions:

This is a Priority Access Course. Enrolment may be restricted to particular programs, specializations or semester levels during certain periods. Please see the departmental website for more information.

1.2 Course Description

This course will introduce students to the diversity of microorganisms, including, bacteria, viruses, and fungi, and the impact of microbes on everyday life. The interactions of microorganisms with the biotic and abiotic worlds will be discussed. Topics will include the roles of microorganisms in host-pathogen interactions in disease, the beneficial aspects of microorganisms in bioremediation and food production, and their application in biotechnology.

MICR2420 is a restricted course in fall 2023.

Students that wish to register for MICR2420 in fall 2023 but are not permitted to self-enroll via Web Advisor need to contact the BSc academic counsellors (bscweb@uoguelph.ca call 519-824-4120 Ext. 53788) and inquire about a waiting list.

Please do not contact a member of the MICR2420 teaching team, the counsellors will handle enrollment.

1.3 Timetable

Lectures are in person, and will be held Mon, Wed, Fri from 9:30 - 10:20 AM, in ROZH101.

Labs are in SSC4102 from 2:30 - 5:20 PM on Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs. Please see WebAdvisor for your scheduled lab time.

1.4 Final Exam

The final exam will be administered in person, on Dec. 13th at 11:30am, room TBD.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor: George Van der Merwe
Email: gvanderm@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: 5198244120 ex 54298
Office: SSC4443

Instructor: Emma Allen-Vercoe
Email: eav@uoguelph.ca
Telephone: 5198244120 ex 53366
Office: SSC3252

Lab Co-ordinator: Catrien Bouwman
Email: cbouwman@uoguelph.ca
Office: SSC 3504

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Microbiology- An Evolving Science (6th edition) (Textbook)

<https://wnorton.com/books/9781324033523>

Microbiology - An Evolving Science

Sixth Edition

by Joan L Slonczewski (Author, Kenyon College), John W Foster (Author, University of South Alabama), Erik R Zinser

Online subscriptions and hard copies are available through the Campus Bookstore.

This is a required text. We will discuss its use during the first week of class.

If you have an earlier edition of this text book, it should still serve you well.

3.2 Recommended Resources

A Student Handbook for Writing in Biology by Karin Knisely (Textbook)

Sixth Edition (earlier edition is fine)

Optional but highly recommended for students continuing in the Biological Sciences.

3.3 Campus Resources

The Academic Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index>

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. <https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance>

If you are struggling with personal or health issues:

The Department of Student Wellness provides support through Accessibility Services, Counselling Services, Health Services, Health & Performance Centre and Wellness Education & Promotion: <https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/sws/>

* 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.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers/>

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

* 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/accessibility>

4 Learning Outcomes

Course Goals

This course serves as the foundation of the Microbiology program. It is designed to capture your interest by introducing you to the relevance of Microbiology in everyday life, discussing the global impact of microbes, and by providing an opportunity for hands-on experience with microbes in a laboratory setting. The course learning outcomes and the specific conceptual details associated with those outcomes (in bullet point) are listed below. Specific LOs and concepts will be identified at the beginning of each lecture and collectively will be assessed through the various graded components of the course. The list may be updated periodically during the semester, through deletion or addition, depending upon the pace and depth of coverage of a given topic. Course readings, class discussions and group work will also further develop the broader MCB Program Learning Outcomes (MCB Learning Outcomes) and the University of Guelph learning outcomes (UofG Learning Outcomes).

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. By the end of the course, successful students will
 - Appreciate the roles of cells as the fundamental unit of life and the essential roles of the microbes in the biosphere, biotechnology, the food industry and health and disease
2. By the end of the course, successful students will
 - Demonstrate an understanding of how cells, organelles and all major metabolic

pathways evolved from early prokaryotic cells, the differences between the cellular microbes and the viruses and how the evolutionary history and relatedness of cellular life is depicted in the Universal tree of Life

3. By the end of the course, successful students will

- Demonstrate an understanding that the properties and metabolic diversity among eukaryotes, prokaryotes and viruses are a function of the chemical structures of their constituent macromolecules and how their evolutionary history relates to the greater metabolic diversity of the prokaryotes compared to the eukaryotes

4. By the end of the course, successful students will

- Demonstrate an understanding of the interactions of microbes with their environment, and specifically the macromolecular interactions that underlie cellular motility, biofilm formation, quorum sensing, antimicrobial therapy, immune recognition and response, and pathogenesis

5. By the end of the course, successful students will

- Demonstrate an understanding that mutations, recombination and horizontal gene transfer have selected for a huge diversity of microorganisms and the various factors that affect the frequency of genotypes and phenotypes in a population over time

6. By the end of the course, successful students will

- demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method, by describing or assessing the appropriate method of visualization and identification of example microbes, performing experiments using appropriate safety precautions, and microbiological techniques for the isolation, identification and enumeration of representative groups of bacteria using appropriate and accurate mathematical calculations for microbial enumeration and successfully interpreting and communicating scientific data. Successful students will also have learned key basic bioinformatic skills for the analysis and interpretation of generated data.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

This course has four main activities:

1. **In-person lectures** will cover specific topics and concepts as outlined in the tentative lecture schedule provided below. Lectures will NOT be recorded and no on-line options are available.
2. Labs exercises will introduce students to basic skills in Microbiology. Labs are offered in SSC4102 from 2:30 - 5:20 PM on Mon, Tues, Wed and Thurs. Please consult WebAdvisor for your scheduled lab time. The lab has a maximum capacity; please ensure that you attend the lab session you have been assigned (and NOT another).
3. Students will perform an independent project during the semester that will be examined in the final examination. Details will be provided in class and posted on CourseLink.
4. Assessments will be performed as outlined.

5.1 Lecture

Topics:

The approximate textbook sections are given as a reference to enhance your understanding of the lecture content. No readings from the textbook will be assigned. All information required for the midterms and final exams is taken directly from lectures. This schedule is subject to change.

Lecture	Date	General Topic
1	September 8	Course Introduction
2-3	September 11,13	Short history of Microbiology

4	September 15	Microscopy
5-6	September 18, 20	Cellular Structures and Functions of Microbes
7-10	September 22 - 29	Microbial Diversity
11-12	October 2, 4	Microbial Growth & Culture
13	October 6	No lecture; work on independent assignment
	October 9	No class (Thanksgiving)
14, 15	October 11, 13	Metabolic Diversity
16-17	October 16, 18	Microbes & Biotechnology
18	October 20	Midterm Exam (In class; Lectures up to and including "Metabolic Diversity")
19-21	October 23, 25, 27	Microbiomes
22-24	October 30, November 1, 3	Microbes and the Immune System
25	November 6	Bacterial pathogens of note I: Enterohemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i>
26	November 8	Bacterial pathogens of note II: <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>

27	November 10	Viral pathogens of note I: SARS-CoV2
28	November 13	Viral pathogens of note II: HIV
29	November 15	Fungal pathogens of note I: <i>Candida auris</i>
30	November 17	Fungal pathogens of note II: <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>
31-32	November 20, 22	Infection control, antimicrobials and the antimicrobial resistance crisis
33-34	November 24, 27	Vaccination
35-36	November 29, December 1	TBD

December 13th; Final exam (Comprehensive; covers ALL 11:30 AM -1:30 lecture materials AND the Independent PM; Room TBD. Assignment).

5.2 Lab

Topics: Course Undergraduate Research Experience

There are 5 weeks of lab, beginning the week of Sept. 11 (sections 0101,0102, 0103, and 0107), and week of Oct. 23 (sections 0104, 0105 and 0106). Bring your lab coat, notebook, and writing utensils. The lab manual and other lab resources are posted on CourseLink, along with a weekly Pre-Lab quiz (worth 1% each). A laptop will be required for Lab 5. Labs will focus on completing a short research project and will include techniques such as streak plating, spread plating, bacterial enumeration, microscopy, Gram staining, PCR, and sequence analysis. There are three Lab Reports to be completed and submitted to

Dropbox, which uses Turnitin plagiarism software. Due dates for Lab Reports are posted on CourseLink.

Labs may be subject to change in extenuating circumstances.

5.3 Method of Presentation

This course is designed to capture students' attention and interest; in the event of further lockdown measures online classroom teaching will be interactive wherever possible, and centered on microbiology as it pertains to everyday life, current affairs and news items.

In-person and Online Behaviour:

Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate behaviour include:

- Posting or stating inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students
- Using obscene or offensive language
- Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own
- Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references
- Buying or selling term papers or assignments
- Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites
- Having someone else complete your quiz or completing a quiz for/with another student
- Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions
- Threatening or harassing a student or instructor
- Discriminating against fellow students, instructors and/or TAs
- Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services
- Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system
- Sharing your user name and password
- Recording lectures without the permission of the instructor

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Guelph is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards and must abide by the applicable policies (see Section VIII of the Undergraduate Calendar on "Academic Misconduct").

Final Exam will be in person.

If Covid measures cause a shift to online learning, Respondus with Lockdown Browser and Monitor may be used for Exams in this course.

For educational purposes, instructors impose conditions on assignments that may limit students' permission to collaborate with others or to utilize external sources (including, but

not limited to, software, data, images, text, etc.). The use of **Chegg and such like websites is not allowed**. Any permitted utilization must be done with proper references. Instructors may use automated tools: such as **Turnitin** to detect possible cases of plagiarism.

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Name	Scheme A (%)
Midterm	30
Lab	25
Final Exam	45
Total	100

6.2 Assessment Details

Midterm (30%)

Date: Fri, Oct 20, 9:30 AM - 10:20 AM, In Person; ROZH 101

The midterm will be administered in person during class time (9:30 AM -10:20 AM) on October 20th and will be composed of multiple-choice questions.

Please note there will **be no make-up** midterms; it will not be possible to reschedule the midterm because of illness or any other absence. Should you miss the midterm for whatever reason, the midterm weighting will be moved to the final exam.

Lab (25%)

Date: , SSC 4102

5% - Pre-lab quizzes (5 quizzes worth 1% each)

5% - Lab report 1 (due 6 days after Lab 1)

6% - Lab report 2 (due 6 days after Lab 3)

9% - Lab report 3 (due one week after Lab 5)

Final Exam (45%)

Date: Wed, Dec 13, 11:30 AM - 1:30 AM, In Person

The final examination is compulsory and will be comprehensive thereby covering ALL lecture materials BEFORE & AFTER the midterm. Although some lecture and lab content overlaps, the final exam will focus on lecture material and exclude lab-specific content. In addition, an **independent course assignment will be provided during the first week of class**. This assignment will be examined during the final exam (details provided on CourseLink). There will not be options to reschedule or write the final exam on an alternative date; any requests will be processed as deferred exams.

Format examples include: Multiple Choice Questions, Fill-in-the-blank, True/False, and Matching.

7 Course Statements

7.1 Instructor Policies

Grading

1. Lab reports - submit via Dropbox before due dates indicated in CourseLink (as pdf or docx files - you are responsible for ensuring files are formatted correctly). All reports will be subjected to the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin. Reports are to be written independently, and without the use of AI, including ChatGPT. Requests for Lab report regrades must be submitted to the lab coordinator (Catrien Bouwman - cbouwman@uoguelph.ca) no later than one week after receiving your grade. The coordinator will regrade the report, and the grade may go up or down. For ALL reports, deductions for late submissions will be 10% per day (the weekend will cost a 20% grade reduction), up to a 30% deduction. After 3 days, the submission will not be accepted. Please see CourseLink for more details.

2. Pre-Lab quizzes to be completed online prior to each lab as per posted dates & instructions on CourseLink. Please contact the lab coordinator if you have valid grounds for being unable to complete one or more of these. See below for information on academic consideration.

E-mails

1. Please direct all emails related to lecture material to the relevant instructor. Include the

course number (MICR*2420) in the subject line and use proper email format in a clear and concise communication. Consider posting general questions to the Courselink discussion board, so that all students may benefit from the answer. Questions posted on Courselink will be given priority for answering over individual emails.

2. Student inquiries will **only** be answered during the working week. Please be courteous: before asking a question, check to see whether the answer you seek is easily available on Courselink/in the lab manual/other provided course information. Please also use relevant discussion boards as your peers may also be able to help.

Student responsibilities

1. Respectfulness: students are expected to treat classmates, the instructors and teaching staff with respect at all times.

2. Laboratory participation and completion of laboratory components is **mandatory**. If you cannot complete the online quizzes or Lab Report by the posted date please e-mail Catrien Bouwman asap (and before the due date) about making other arrangements.

3. Laboratory preparedness: you *must have read the relevant assigned laboratory exercise in advance of the lab*, and completed the associated online pre-lab quiz.

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 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).
