



BIOM*6300 Cancer Biology: Basic Concepts and Research Tools

Winter 2022

Section(s): 01

Department of Biomedical Sciences

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 05, 2022

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

Directed to students pursuing cancer research and based on two 1.5-hour lectures and a 2-hour tutorial per week, the general aim of this course is to familiarize students with general concepts in cancer biology and the most commonly used methodologies in cancer research. Apart from improving students' general understanding of cancer biology, the course seeks to enhance critical thinking, writing and oral presentation skills by means of a seminar presentation, weekly tutorial discussions and the preparation of two literature reviews. Offered in conjunction with BIOM*4150. Extra work is required for graduate students.

Restrictions: Credit may be obtained for only one of BIOM*4150 or BIOM*6300.

1.2 Course Description

This course is cross-listed with BIOM*4150. Students that took BIOM*4150 cannot take credit for BIOM*6300 or vice-versa.

Rationale:

Cancer is one of the major afflictions of mankind, and causes a significant number of deaths worldwide. In recent years, our knowledge about the origin of cancer and on how it progresses to become life threatening has significantly increased. Descriptive knowledge has been replaced with mechanistic understanding of cancer behavior at the molecular, cellular, organ and organism levels. Concomitant with the development of this extensive body of knowledge has been the development of scientists devoted to elucidate and solve problems in cancer biology. The aim of these scientists is to become allies with the clinical oncology sciences to improve cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment. The department of Biomedical Sciences wishes to participate in this worldwide initiative by offering students

the possibility of learning about cancer biology, thus increasing their interest in the field and the probability of forming professionals dedicated to the study of this discipline.

1.3 Timetable

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

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3 Learning Resources

3.1 Recommended Resources

Weinberg, RA (2014). *The Biology of Cancer*. Garland Science, New York, NY, USA (Textbook)

3.2 Additional Resources

Access to online journals in the cancer and biomedical sciences fields (Website)

Selected readings chosen from cancer research literature on line (Readings)

4 Learning Outcomes

The overall aim of this course is to familiarize students with general concepts in cancer biology and how these concepts apply to the clinical definition and management of the disease. By engaging students in the preparation of a seminar and a literature review on two cancer biology topics of current interest, and in the discussion of a variety of cancer biology and research subjects, this course will ultimately provide students with a critical overview of the present and future of cancer research, and with an understanding of the relevance of such research to the improvement of cancer prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment.

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Have a historical perspective on the most commonly studied topics in cancer biology.
 2. Know and understand the fundamentals of the most common methodologies currently used in cancer research.
 3. Link specific cancer biology topics with clinical aspects of the disease, including prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment.
 4. Provide critical assessments of the cancer biology literature, as a result of your independent research on two different cancer biology topics, and of your active participation in weekly tutorial discussions.
 5. Give logical and concise oral presentations.
 6. Write a critical scientific review.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Class location and meeting times:

Monday and Wednesday 2:30 pm - 3:50 pm, virtual classroom synchronous OR MCKN 237, if

authorized.

2-hour tutorial on Friday 9:30 am - 11:20 am , virtual classroom synchronous OR MCKN 237, if authorized.

Maximum class size: 10 students

Format and Procedures:

This is a lecture (two per week) and tutorial (one per week) based course. Students are expected to participate in tutorial discussions and to conduct themselves in a scholarly and respectful manner at all times.

The schedule below is organized by weekly units and includes the corresponding lectures and tutorials, unless otherwise specified.

5.1 Lecture

Mon, Jan 10 - Fri, Jan 14

Topics: The Nature and Hallmarks of Cancer

Instructor: Alicia Vilorio-Petit

No seminar-based tutorial on this specific unit. A lecture will be given during tutorial time instead.

Mon, Jan 17 - Fri, Jan 21

Topics: Growth Factors, Receptors and Cancer

Instructor: Roger Moorehead

Mon, Jan 24 - Fri, Jan 28

Topics: Control of Cell proliferation, Cell Cycle, and Cell Death

Instructor: Jim Petrik

Mon, Jan 31 - Fri, Feb 4

Topics: Cancer Virology

Instructor: Sarah Wootton

Mon, Feb 7 - Fri, Feb 11

Topics: Tumour Immunology

Instructor: Samuel Workenhe

Mon, Feb 14 - Fri, Feb 18

Topics: Tumour Angiogenesis

Instructor: Jim Petrik

Mon, Feb 28 - Wed, Mar 2

Topics: Tumour Invasion and Metastasis

Instructor: Alicia Vilorio-Petit

No seminar-based tutorial this week because of midterm exam on Friday March.
Seminars on metastasis will be presented together with seminars on cancer stem cells, next week.

Mon, Mar 7 - Fri, Mar 11

Topics: Cancer Stem Cells

Instructor: Alicia Vilorio-Petit

Mon, Mar 14 - Fri, Mar 18

Topics: Carcinogenesis, DNA Damage, and DNA Repair

Instructor: Anita Luu

Mon, Mar 21 - Fri, Mar 25

Topics: Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics

Instructor: Alicia Vilorio-Petit

Mon, Mar 28 - Fri, Apr 1

Topics: Cancer Metabolism

Instructor: Alicia Vilorio-Petit

Mon, Apr 4 - Wed, Apr 6**Topics:** Clinical Oncology

Instructor: Anthony Mutsaers

No seminar-based tutorial on this unit due to invited speaker on Friday April 8.**Mon, Apr 12, 2:30 PM****Topics:** Carcinogenesis

Invited Speaker: Dr. Linda Lara-Jacob

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Tutorial Participation (20%)

For every unit covered in the lectures, students will attend a 2-hour tutorial, where they will give oral presentations on the topic, and all the students will participate in discussions.

Due date: **Friday of each week**, except for the first week of class, holidays, and the day assigned to the midterm and invited speaker, respectively.

Midterm exam (15%)

Date: Fri, Mar 4, 9:30 AM - , 11:00 AM, virtual classroom OR MCKN 237, if authorized.

This will cover units 1 to 6. The exam will be written and will consist of a small multiple-choice component, in addition to a significantly larger component where the students will give short- to medium- length answers to specific questions.

Final Exam (15%)

Date: Sat, Apr 23, 7:00 PM - , 9:00 PM, virtual classroom OR Room at Guelph Campus (TBA), if authorized

This will cover units 7 to 12. The exam will be written and will consist of a small multiple-choice component, in addition to a larger component of short- to medium-length answers to specific questions.

One oral presentation on assigned topic (25%)

Students will be randomly assigned **a topic to give an oral presentation on.**

Topic must be completely unrelated to the student's subject of research.

Seminars will be on Friday, starting on January 21, 2022. Exact date for each student will depend on the topic and the number of students on the course.

Tutorial details and evaluation

1. Each seminar-based tutorial will consist of a maximum of 5 oral presentations and their corresponding discussion, involving presenter and attendant students.
2. The duration of the presentation is 12 minutes, followed by a discussion period of 5 to 10 minutes, depending on the number of students registered in the course.
3. During the discussion period, the attendants will ask questions to the presenters and/or provide comments, and this will be modulated and evaluated by the course coordinator.
4. Discussion participation will be evaluated by the course coordinator.

Seminar guidelines (see evaluation form)

1. It is strongly advised that students make an appointment with the instructor of the unit of the assigned topic, at least 5 days before their seminar presentation. An outline of their presentation should be ready for this appointment, which is intended to ensure that the student is approaching the topic as indicated by the title, and to suggest ideas to improve the presentation, as needed.
2. The duration of the seminar is 12 minutes, followed by a discussion period of 5-10 minutes.
3. Among the basic features, the power point presentation should:
 - Outline the points to be discussed, which should flow in a logic and cohesive manner.
 - Provide an introduction with the conceptual and/or historical basis of the topic.
 - Consist of clear, concise and easy to follow slides.

- This can be achieved by using slide formats with clean color contrasts, visible font sizes and guiding titles, and by avoiding excessive writing or excessive number of figures within a single slide.
 - Present supporting data from original research articles (cited in the same slide where the data is presented).
 - Include a summary or conclusion, and future directions.
4. For the actual oral presentation and to facilitate the transmission of information and fairness among speakers, it is encouraged to:
- Speak with adequate tone and pace of voice (loud enough to be heard by the whole room, and at a rate that allows your audience to understand what you are saying).
 - Use the pointer to guide the audience.
 - Stick to the time limit.
5. The presentation will be evaluated by 2 instructors: the course coordinator and another instructor with expertise in the subject area. The final grade will be calculated as follows:
- If the difference between the two grades is higher or equal to 5 marks, the final grade will be the average of the two independent grades.
 - If the difference between the two grades is less or equal to 4 marks, the final grade will be the higher of the two independent grades.

One literature review on a topic chosen by the student (25%)

Students will write a review on any subject of their choice within the topics covered by the 12 units of the course.

Topic must be completely unrelated to the student's subject of research.

Guidelines for preparation and evaluation of literature review (see evaluation form)

1. The literature review due date **is Friday, April 8, 2022 at 5 pm**. The student should contact the coordinator at least one month before this due date, to propose the review topic and discuss the content.
2. The penalty for late reviews is 2 marks per day (including weekends) for a

maximum period of one week. Reviews submitted later than a week after the due date **will not be accepted and will not be evaluated.**

3. The manuscript should be double-spaced, with 12-point characters, and a one-inch margin on each side of the document.
4. The manuscript should be at least 10 pages long and no more than 12 pages long. The last page should be a full page, and the title page will not be counted as part of the aforementioned page limit.
5. Any discussion of published findings; theories and hypotheses must be accompanied by a citation, regardless of whether or not you quote it directly. At least 10 original sources (references) must be cited. Sixty percent (60 %) of these references must be primary articles (i.e., the original study, not a literature review). The course textbook will not be included among the original sources. The reference page will not be counted as part of the 12-page limit.
6. Figures or tables are not necessary but can be included, if they truly improve the thesis of the manuscript. A maximum of 2 items (figures and/or tables) can be included. They should be placed after the main text but before the reference page, and **will not be included in the total page count.**
7. Citations should follow the rules from the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*; which are as follows:

“References should be cited in numerical order as they appear in text. Because tables and figures will be inserted in the text where first cited, references in these sections should be numbered accordingly. **Include the full title for each cited article.** Authors must translate foreign language titles into English, with a notation of the original language. All authors (unless there are more than 5) should be named in the citation. If there are more than 5, list the first author's name followed by et al. Provide inclusive page ranges for journal articles and book chapters. **Cite databases in the text or as footnotes.**

Journal articles are cited as follows:

10. Neuhaus J-M, Sitcher L, Meins F, Jr, Boller T (1991) A short C-terminal sequence is necessary and sufficient for the targeting of chitinases to the plant vacuole. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 88:10362-10366.

For correct abbreviations of journal titles refer to *Chemical Abstracts Service Source Index* (CASSI).

Articles or chapters in books are cited as follows:

14. Hill AVS (1991) in *Molecular Evolution of the Major Histocompatibility Complex*, eds Klein J, Klein D (Springer, Heidelberg), pp 403-420.”

6.2 Oral Presentation Evaluation Form

Student name:

Date:

Seminar title:

Evaluation system: a grade of 1 to 5 will be assigned to each of the specified rubrics.

1= Poor

2= Marginally adequate

3= Adequate

4= Good

5= Excellent

Final grade: /100

Insight and ideas	25%	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of the presentation	25%	1	2	3	4	5
Organization of the seminar	25%	1	2	3	4	5
Address of target audience	15%	1	2	3	4	5
Timing	10%	1	2	3	4	5

Note: Contribution of each rubric to the final mark is specified as percentage.

Comments:

6.3 Literature Review Evaluation Form

Student name:

Date:

Review title:

Evaluation system: a grade of 1 to 5 will be assigned to each of the specified rubrics.

1= Poor

2= Marginally adequate

3= Adequate

4= Good

5= Excellent

Final grade: /100

Insights and ideas	20%	1	2	3	4	5
Choice and use of evidence	20%	1	2	3	4	5
Integration of source material	20%	1	2	3	4	5
Use of presentation formats	20%	1	2	3	4	5
Address of target audience	10%	1	2	3	4	5

Grammar and style	10%	1	2	3	4	5
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Note: Contribution of each rubric to the final mark is specified as percentage.

Comments:

7 Course Statements

7.1 Course Evaluation

Students will be asked to complete a questionnaire on the instructors' teaching abilities. This information is required by the university to evaluate faculty performance for purposes of Tenure, Promotion and Selective Increases. Administered by a third party rather than the instructors, these evaluations will be delivered to the instructors only after the final grades have been submitted to the Registrar's Office. The numerical ratings from the form will be made available to the Chair for administrative purposes. If a student wishes the Chair to see his/her written comments in addition to the scores, he/she must include with those comments his/her name (legibly printed) and signature.

8 University Statements

8.1 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.

8.2 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>

8.3 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>

8.4 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.

8.5 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>

8.6 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>

8.7 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.

8.8 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>

8.9 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.

8.10 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).

8.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

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

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